

26TH ANNUAL

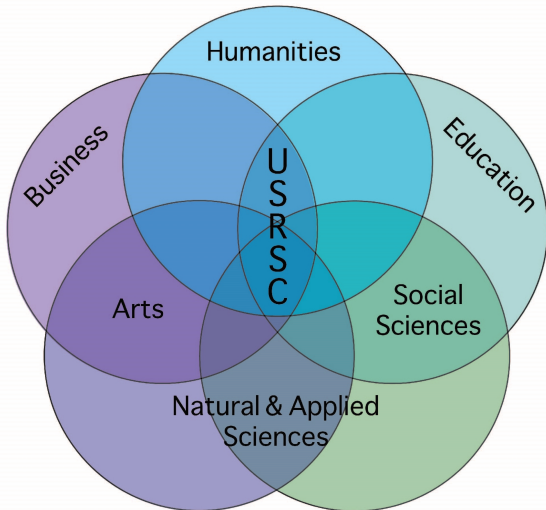


LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

— 1852 —

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH &
SCHOLARSHIP COLLOQUIUM

APRIL 17, 2026



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2:30-3:00PM • POSTER JUDGING (JUDGES ONLY)

FERNANDEZ CENTER, 1ST FLOOR, Beatty Hall 106,108, 110, 112, 114

BEATTY HALL 102- MEETING ROOM FOR THE POSTER PRESENTATION JUDGES

3:00-4:30PM • ORAL PRESENTATIONS

BEATTY HALL 236 –Natural & Applied Sciences Session

FERNANDEZ CENTER 237 – Business School Session

BEATTY HALL 318– Social Sciences Session 1

FERNANDEZ CENTER, 333–Social Sciences Session 2 with Humanities& Arts

BEATTY 116- MEETING ROOM FOR THE ORAL PRESENTATION JUDGES

3:00-5:00PM •POSTER PRESENTATIONS

FERNANDEZ CENTER, 1ST FLOOR, Beatty Hall 106,108, 110, 112, 114.

Poster Judging Continues

3:00-5:00PM - RECEPTION

Please enjoy the buffet across from the Career Center.

5:15-6:00PM • KEYNOTE SPEAKER& AWARDS CEREMONY

MCGUIRE HALL, STUDENT CENTER

Welcome: Selin Gürsözlü, Chair of the USRSC Committee, Associate Teaching Professor of Philosophy

Remarks from the President: Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D.

Keynote Speaker: Nicole A. Shoenberger, Associate Professor of Sociology

Awards Ceremony

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

NATURAL & APPLIED SCIENCES SESSION 1

BEATTY HALL 236

JUDGES: Henrique Rocha, Maren Blohm

#1: *The Effects of Polyamines on CD4+ T Cell Differentiation*

Michael Moseley, Yuri Singh

Faculty Mentor: Cassandra Holbert

#2: *Ch Neutral Sphingomyelinase 2 is involved in fentanyl self-administration and relapse*

Julian Crisostomo

Faculty Mentor: Derek Kendig

#3: *Discovering Multiple Anti-Lipopolysaccharide Factor Variants in the Atlantic Blue Crab*

Shudan Jew

Faculty Mentor: Lisa Scheifele

#4: *Differential Regulation of Arc Expression by Estrone and 17 β -Estradiol: Implications for Postmenopausal Alzheimer's Risk*

Joshua Player

Faculty Mentor: Craig Myrum

#5: *Observation Bias in the Sex Estimation of Skulls*

Belle Hartmann

Faculty Mentor: Rhys Williams

BUSINESS SCHOOL SESSION 1

FERNANDEZ CENTER 237

JUDGES: Jake London

#1: *The Contract Year Phenomenon: Investigating the Effect of Contract Uncertainty on NBA Player Performance*

Chris Owsik

Faculty Mentor: Kerry Tan

#2: *TikTok leaders face growing ethical accountability as social media influencers shape*

Michael Cieza

Faculty Mentor: Lynne Elkes

#3: *Balancing Fear and Joy: Librarians' Social Media Practices*

Jake Burns

Faculty Mentor: Pethigamage Perera

#4: *Beyond the Operating Room: Institutional Responsibility for AI in Medicine*

Simone Abbasi, Emily Bussanich

Faculty Mentor: Lynne Elkes

SOCIAL SCIENCES SESSION 1

BEATTY HALL 318

JUDGES: Donna Pitts

#1: *Disparities in Discipline: Examining the School-to-Prison Pipeline in Maryland's Eastern Shore Counties*

Ifeoma Ezeani

Faculty Mentor: Matt Beverlin

#2: *Follow the Money: Why do Affordable Prescription Bills Always Fail?*

Aidan O'Neill

Faculty Mentor: Matt Beverlin

#3: *Investigating Birth Order as a Moderator on the Link Between Perceived Parental Care and Academic Involvement*

Victoria Marcondes Graham, Lilly Jermain, Jack Barnaba

Faculty Mentor: Rachel Grover

#4: *Shifting Beliefs: How Religious Beliefs Differ Across Cohorts*

Madelyn Kenny, Kyra Hultgren

Faculty Mentor: Andrew Futterman

#5: *Male Rape Myths and Empathy Towards Victims*

Corrine Bertoglio

Faculty Mentor: Diana Betz

#6: *Developing the C-LOS, a novel tool to assess the effects of changes in social companionship on household-living dogs*

Kathryn Shannon

Faculty Mentor: Marie Lau

SOCIAL SCIENCES, HUMANITIES & ARTS SESSION 2

ERNANDEZ CENTER, 333

JUDGES: Beth Yashnyk, Michiko Iwasaki

#1: Social Media Romantic Relationship Consumption, Romantic Beliefs, and Relationship Satisfaction in Emerging Adulthood

Tianah Ellis, Alaina Graham, Kelly Bruen

Faculty Mentor: Rachel Grover

#2: Building Belonging: Understanding Gaps in AAC Support Across Community Contexts

Josh Valentine

Faculty Mentor: Sara Cornett

#3: The Relation of Maternal Influence With Emerging Adult Daughters' Self-Esteem & Body Image

Andrea Lyster, Bella Mast, Ainsley McFarland

Faculty Mentor: Rachel Grover

#4: As of Now: An Exploration of Absence and Thought Through Film Photography

Isabelle Leon

Faculty Mentor: Jon Malis

#5: "Passing Glances: Examining Historical Queer Identity in Nella Larsen's Passing"

Caitlin Cottrill

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Girard

#6: Multilingualism and Equity in Women's Health: A Study on Francophone Populations in US Healthcare Settings

Sammy Yerkes

Faculty Mentor: Andrea Thomas

POSTER SESSIONS

EDUCATION SESSION 1

BEATTY 110 (FORBES IDEA LAB) - STARTING AT 3:00PM

JUDGES: Stacy Williams, Margarita Gómez

#1 Increasing English Language Learners' Oral Reading Fluency Scores

Sarah Sagna

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Mulieri

#2 Using a Graphic Organizer to Improve Student Analysis

Beata Turnquist

Faculty Mentor: Antoinette Carr

#3 Building Strong Readers: Improving Third-Grade Fluency and Comprehension Through Word Recognition Instruction

Kate Callahan

Faculty Mentor: Any Consentino

#4 Implementation of Individualized Instruction for Multilingual Learners

Camille Burton

Faculty Mentor: Jessica Haddaway Enos

#5 "Discussion Based Intervention to Promote Text Engagement in Middle School Students"

Caitlin Cottrill

Faculty Mentor: Antoinette Carr

#6 Importance of Fluency and Decoding in 2nd Grade

Whitney Rees

Faculty Mentor: Antoinette Carr

#7 Finding The Beat in Music: Introducing Rhythm

Kassandra Carey

Faculty Mentor: Antoinette Carr

#8 Scaffolding Words, Strengthening Readers

Tara Larson

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Mulieri, Jessica Haddaway Enos

#9 Strengthening Phonemic Awareness Through Music and Rhythm

Maddie Aucoin

Faculty Mentor: Antoinette Carr, Melissa Mulieri

#10 Impact of Fluency and Phonics Instruction on Grade Level Text Comprehension

Sarah Hinteman

Faculty Mentor: Jessica Haddaway Enos

#11 Strengthening Informational Text Comprehension Through Explicit Instruction of Text and Graphic Features

Daniel Walsh

Faculty Mentor: Jessica Haddaway Enos

12 *Improving Comprehension Among Fifth Grade Students*

Emily Metheny

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Mulieri

EDUCATION SESSION 2

BEATTY 108 - STARTING AT 3:00PM

JUDGES: Karen Terrell, Jessica Haddaway Enos

13 *United Con Fluidez– Fluency’s Influence on Multilingual Literacies*

Luna Luna

Faculty Mentor: Margarita Gómez

14 *Enhancing Sight Word Recognition in Second Grade Through a Three-Tiered Intervention Approach*

Giovanna Madura

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Mulieri

#15 *Smooth Blending for Smooth Readers*

Alex France

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Mulieri

#16 *Fluency Boost: (n.) increase reading speed and accuracy through targeted vocabulary instruction*

Olivia DellaVecchia

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Mulieri

17 *Building Strong Readers: Improving Third-Grade Fluency and Comprehension Through Word Recognition Instruction*

Kate Callahan

Faculty Mentor: Amy Cosentino

18 *Strong Sounds, Strong Readers*

Hannah Kilduff

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Mulieri

#19 *The Impact of Explicit Multisensory Instruction on First-Grade Students’ Sight Word Recognition*

Faye Krelic

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Mulieri

#20 *The Skills of Phoneme Blending and Segmentation Bridges Literacy Across Multilingual*

Jennifer Camacho-Alvarado

Faculty Mentor: Margarita Gómez

21 *Supporting a Multilingual First-Grade Student’s Literacy Growth Through Phonemic Awareness and Early Decoding Instruction- WITHDRAWN*

Grace Cannon

Faculty Mentor: Margarita Gómez

#22 *The Use of Assessment-Based Literacy in a 5th Grade Classroom*

Evelyn Schultz

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Mulieri

#23 *Meaningful Vocabulary: Comprehending Math Word Problems*

Kara Zibell

Faculty Mentor: Stacy Williams

#24 *The Effect of Letter Names, Phonemic Awareness, and Letter Sound Skills on Tricky Word Reading*

Malaya Gaboury

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Mulieri

#25 *Framing Student Thinking: How Sentence Frames Strengthen Writing*

Kylie Maddox

Faculty Mentor: Melissa Mulieri

NATURAL & APPLIED SCIENCES SESSION 1

BEATTY 112 - STARTING AT 3:00PM

JUDGES: Natalie van Breukelen, Stephanie Kors

#1 *Educational Capacity and Clinical Readiness: Examining the Impact of Faculty Shortages in Undergraduate Nursing Programs*

Kendall Small

Faculty Mentor: Katelyn Quarry

#2 *The Xenia Effect as a Potential Mechanism for Intra-Organismal Competition*

Colin Baust-Crain

Faculty Mentor: Maren Veatch-Blohm

#3 *The Effects of the Change of Gravity on the Gene Expression of Microgreens*

Samuel Nwadiibia

Faculty Mentor: Maren Blohm

#4 Antimicrobial Properties of Herbal Teas

Ainsley Mikhail

Faculty Mentor: Maren Blohm

#5 Determining the Effect of Polyamine Depletion on the Migration and Invasion Capabilities of Ovarian Cancer Cells

Chelsea Fuchs, Izabel Paiva, Emily Tyrrel

Faculty Mentor: Cassandra Holbert

#6 Modeling BPAN through a Human iPSC Trilogy: Neurons, Astrocytes, Skeletal Muscles

Pooja Sunar

Faculty Mentor: Marie Lau

#7 Orexin Induction of Arc Expression

Andres Socarras

Faculty Mentor: Craig Myrum

#8 Engineering Yeast for Cost-Efficient Insulin Production

Allison Leung, Katie Russo, Brandon Maniego, Caroline Mesa-Gonzalez,

Muskaan Wadhava

Faculty Mentor: Lisa Scheifele

#9 The Impact of Polyamine Depletion on Macrophage Polarization and Phagocytic Ability

Jamie Cashour

Faculty Mentor: Cassandra Holbert

#10 Identification of Serotonin and Free Fatty Acid Receptors in Colonic Tissue of Mice and Guinea Pigs

Katie Mather

Faculty Mentor: Derek Kendig

#11 Arc–OXR2 Interaction: A Potential Molecular Link Between Sleep and Memory Consolidation

Nathan Kerbel

Faculty Mentor: Craig Myrum

#12 The role of chromatin remodeler HELLS downregulation in glioblastoma cell growth and migration

Olivia Lowrie

Faculty Mentor: Theresa Geiman

NATURAL & APPLIED SCIENCES SESSION 2

BEATTY 114 - STARTING AT 3:00PM

JUDGES: Steve Kutos, Lisa Scheifele

#13 Varying Light Conditions Effects on Shoaling as a Means of Anti-Predation in Juvenile Convict Cichlids

Anna Linsky

Faculty Mentor: Natalie van Breukelen

#14 Investigating the impact of predator exposure on behavioral and physiological stress response in juvenile fish

Sarah Oliver, Arihan Gordillo-Caicedo

Faculty Mentor: Natalie van Breukelen

#15 Kinetic Analysis of Phytoene Desaturase Activity

Mary Kate Feilke, Daria Kane

Faculty Mentor: Brian Barr

#16 Female Mate Choice Based on Sound and Size in Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches

Mateo Gomez

Faculty Mentor: Natalie van Breukelen

#17 Sleep, Aging, and Memory: Investigating the Role of Orexin Peptides in Cognitive Decline

Bree Smith, Gwentyth Lowery

Faculty Mentor: Craig Myrum

#18 Polyamine Depletion and Cytokine Production in the Ovarian Tumor Microenvironment

Lauren Imasa, Stephany Fernanda Guzman Valdez, Gabi Verdicchio, Emma Dorney

Faculty Mentor: Cassandra Holbert

#19 The Study of miRNA-222 and miRNA-125b to Drug-resistant and Drug-sensitive Breast Cancer Cell Lines

Kailee DeMaio, Gabriela Camacho

Faculty Mentor: Armina Kazi

#20 Monitoring IFN β Production in Sendai Virus (+) HEK-293 Cells After Abrogation of Ro52 γ 's RING Domain: Investigating Ro52 γ 's Role in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Yuri Singh

Faculty Mentor: Cassandra Holbert

#21 Polyamine Depletion Enhances Platinum Chemotherapy Response in Ovarian Cancer Models

Mali-Vinn Renz, Tigist Gebreslassie

Faculty Mentor: Cassandra Holbert

#22 Structural complexity as a factor in nest-site choice and parental aggressive behavior by convict cichlid pairs

Leah Rottler-Gurley

Faculty Mentor: Natalie van Breukelen

#23 Investigating Arc Expression in the Hippocampus Across the Sleep-Wake Cycle

Zaira Rehman

Faculty Mentor: Craig Myrum

#24 Companion Planting: Improving Crop Health & Yield

Krystel Juarez

Faculty Mentor: Maren Blohm

SOCIAL SCIENCES SESSION

BEATTY 106 - STARTING AT 3:00PM

JUDGES: Mackenzie Webster, Sara Cornett

#1 Prejudice, Isolation, and Technology Use: The Impacts of Social Media on Student Prejudice Against Diverse Contacts at Loyola University Maryland- WITHDRAWN

Janet Gosnell

Faculty Mentor: H. Lovell Smith

#2 Evaluating Provider Readiness and Care Gaps for Trauma-Exposed HIV Patients in South Africa

Audra Ballenger , Safina Yakub

Faculty Mentor: Stephanie Kors

#3 English stop consonant timing under cross-linguistic context and Stroop interference in sequential English-Spanish bilingual speakers

Molly Suplee , Sofia Cotes

Faculty Mentor: Kathleen Siren and Tepanta Fossett

#4 Examining the Correlation Between Type II Diabetes Mellitus and Hearing Loss

Emma Hester

Faculty Mentor: Donna Pitts

#5 Obstacles for Seeking Help for Sexual Assault in the Latinx Community

Gwen Dorsey

Faculty Mentor: Amanda Konradi

#6 Sleep-Wake Patterns and Emotional Regulation Among Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

Robyn Fielding-Jones ,Aysheh Abuarqub, Sophia Paleski

Faculty Mentor: Amy R. Wolfson and Marianna Carlucci

#7 A Rewarding or Exhausting Journey? Exploring Patients' Therapist Transfer Experiences within Public Hospital Psychodynamic Therapy.

Estefania Berio , Tianah Ellis , Julia London

Faculty Mentor: Stephanie Kors

#8 Chronotype Differences in Sleep, Emotional Regulation, and Impulsivity in a Juvenile Justice Population

Madelyn Beckett, Ben Chico

Faculty Mentor: Amy Wolfson; Marianna Carlucci

#9 A Qualitative Look into The Sleep Health And Environment Of Adolescents In Juvenile Rehabilitation

Juan Cadiz, Razaria Khadar, Lillian Hammond

Faculty Mentor: Amy Wolfson & Marianna Carlucci

#10 Implicit and explicit attitudes towards various forms of psychotherapy among Introductory Psychology professors

Emilia Wolff, Julia Stefanska. Joseph Larson, Calista Rijo, Lillie Weaver, Morgan Massina

Faculty Mentor: Stephanie Kors

THANKS TO OUR REVIEWERS & JUDGES

EDUCATION: Stacy Williams, Jessica Haddaway Enos, Karen Terrell, Margarita Gómez, Antoinette Carr, Kristine Larson

HUMANITIES AND ART: Beth Yashnyk

BUSINESS: Jake London, Pethigamage (Lami) Perera

NATURAL & APPLIED SCIENCES: Craig Myrum, Natalie van Breukelen, Hoang Bui, Henrique Santos Camargos Rocha , Katelyn Quarry , Armina Kazi , Cassandra Holbert , Brianna Tate, Steve Kutos, Maren Blohm, Lisa Scheifele

SOCIAL SCIENCES: Sara Cornett, Michiko Iwasaki, Rachel Grove, Mackenzie Webster, Stephanie Kors, Donna Pitts

SPECIAL THANKS

THE USRSC COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK:

Michael Clark, Assistant Manager, Events Center; Heather Kavanaugh, Events Coordinator; Salvatore Lenzo, Director of Information Systems, Lisa Oberbroeckling, Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Academic Affairs; Youlanda Halterman, Digital Technology Web Supervisor, Printing Services, and Catering Service

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP COLLOQUIUM COMMITTEE 2025-26:

Selin Gürsözlü, Chair (Philosophy)

Hoang Bui, Assistant Chair (Computer Science)

Jessica Haddaway Enos (Teacher Education)

Pethigamage (Lami) Perera (Information System, Law and Operations)

Sara Cornett (Speech-Language- Hearing Sciences)