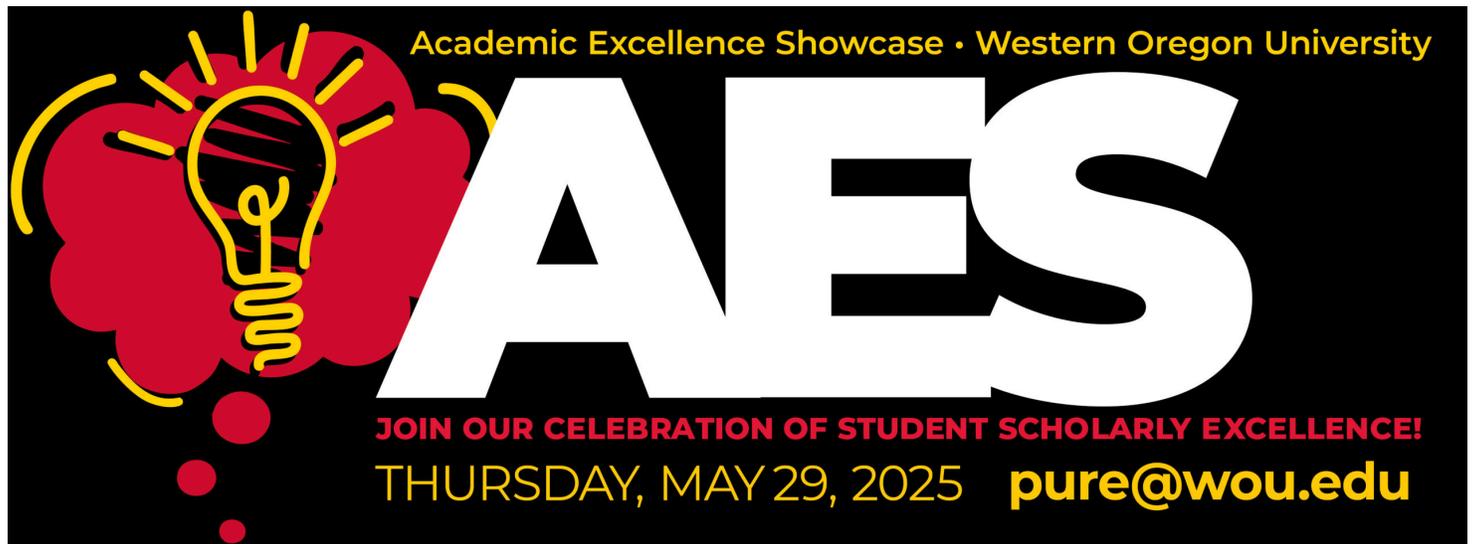


SCHEDULE – PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCES



Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Seeing Is No Longer Believing: Teaching Visual Literacy in the Age of AI	Kali Piki	08:00AM	09:00AM	Willamette (WUC)	<p>With the rate at which Artificial Intelligence models are advancing, media literacy and critical analysis of multiple formats of information are vital skills. The current study sampled 87 university students and sought to measure their ability to detect AI-altered/generated images. The study involved a treatment portion with AI literacy tips and... click for more</p> <p>With the rate at which Artificial Intelligence models are advancing, media literacy and critical analysis of multiple formats of information are vital skills. The current study sampled 87 university students and sought to measure their ability to detect AI-altered/generated images. The study involved a treatment portion with AI literacy tips and training that allowed for participant engagement with the AI-artifacts in the image. They then completed a post-treatment survey to evaluate for change in scores. The research hypothesized that there would be a significant difference between the participant's pre-treatment and post-treatment scores. A paired-samples t-test showed that post-treatment survey scores (M = 11.66, SD = 2.25) were significantly higher than pre-treatment scores (M = 9.05, SD = 2.61), $t(86) = -10.19$, $p < .001$, 95% CI [-3.12, -2.10]. The training produced a substantial improvement in scores, isolating for individual differences such as demographic variables, demonstrating a large effect size with Cohen's $d = 1.09$. These results show a strong ability to teach audiences how to recognize images that have been generated or altered by AI, though the applicability to the generalized population of the specific tips provided in this study is questionable as image-generating AI models will likely phase out many of the included AI-artifacts.</p>	Check-in and coffee	Even (special award)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Plenary: No Place To Grow Old	Michael Larson	09:00AM	10:30AM	Willamette (WUC)	<p>Michael Larson is the visionary behind Humans For Housing. He draws profound inspiration from his personal journey through the foster care system. At two years old, he, along with his two siblings, navigated through various homes, enduring challenges that no child should face until they were finally adopted and found their home. Michael went on... click for more</p> <p>Michael Larson is the visionary behind Humans For Housing. He draws profound inspiration from his personal journey through the foster care system. At two years old, he, along with his two siblings, navigated through various homes, enduring challenges that no child should face until they were finally adopted and found their home. Michael went on to study sociology at Gonzaga, where he discovered the stark reality of homelessness among youth aging out of foster care. This revelation ignited a passionate commitment to serve at a local homeless shelter near his university and eventually leading a student-group named Meals in the Margins. Michael was the director on "Humanizing Spokane", a documentary that told the powerful stories of four individuals and helped to build empathy for those experiencing homelessness across the city. Michael's writing on the issue of homelessness has been featured in The Seattle Times, and he's a regular volunteer at NightStrike, an outreach program every Thursday under the Burnside Bridge in Portland, OR. His hope is to help create a world where every person has a safe and stable place to lay their head at night. The film No Place to Grow Old will be screened following Michael's presentation.</p>	Plenary: No Place To Grow Old	Even (spea awar
Art & Design Portfolio Presentation	Annabella Ramey	10:30AM	12:30PM	ITC 211	Abstract/Image not submitted	Art & Design Senior Portfolio Presentations	Presen (Talk: Presentations
Art & Design Portfolio Presentation	Lucas Montpart	10:30AM	12:30PM	ITC 211		Art & Design Senior Portfolio Presentations	Presen (Talk: Presentations
Art & Design Portfolio Presentation	Chloe Elmore	10:30AM	12:30PM	ITC 211		Art & Design Senior Portfolio Presentations	Presen (Talk: Presentations
Art & Design Portfolio Presentation	Chisa Kobayashi	10:30AM	12:30PM	ITC 211	Abstract/Image not submitted	Art & Design Senior Portfolio Presentations	Presen (Talk: Presentations
Art & Design Portfolio Presentation	Yesenia López	10:30AM	12:30PM	ITC 211	click for more	Art & Design Senior Portfolio Presentations	Presen (Talk: Presentations
Art & Design Portfolio Presentation	Ian Garcia Hernandez	10:30AM	12:30PM	ITC 211	Abstract/Image not submitted	Art & Design Senior Portfolio Presentations	Presen (Talk: Presentations
Art & Design Portfolio Presentation	Sophia Pierce	10:30AM	12:30PM	ITC 211	Abstract/Image not submitted	Art & Design Senior Portfolio Presentations	Presen (Talk: Presentations

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Mitochondrial DNA Usage In Forensic Investigations 10:30-11:00	Camille Hansen	10:30AM	03:00PM	NS 101	<p>Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) has become an increasingly valuable tool in forensic science, particularly in cases where nuclear DNA is limited or highly degraded. Due to the maternal inheritance, high copy number per cell as compared to nuclear DNA, and highly conserved structure, mtDNA can be reliably recovered from... click for more</p> <p>Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) has become an increasingly valuable tool in forensic science, particularly in cases where nuclear DNA is limited or highly degraded. Due to the maternal inheritance, high copy number per cell as compared to nuclear DNA, and highly conserved structure, mtDNA can be reliably recovered from old bones, teeth, and hair shafts. Recent advancements with massively parallel sequencing (MPS) has made mtDNA whole-genome sequencing more and more accessible by enhancing resolution and sensitivity. Typically samples are amplified through PCR and then compared to known reference sequences using the Revised Cambridge Reference Sequence to identify informative single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). Studies have demonstrated that sequencing mtDNA from degraded samples has a high success rate, allowing for the identification of maternal lineage identification and individual DNA profile linkage. These findings show the growing potential for the use of mtDNA as a complementary or alternative tool in forensic investigations, particularly when the DNA samples are degraded.</p>	Chemistry at the Forefront: Undergraduates	Discussing Emerging Trends and Innovations
Green Chemistry: Using Metal-Organic Frameworks to Transform Benzene to Phenol 11:00-11:30	Julee Ashley	10:30AM	03:00PM	NS 101	<p>Green Chemistry: Using Metal-Organic Frameworks to Transform Benzene to Phenol Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) are promising materials for making chemical reactions cleaner and more energy-efficient. This talk explores how two MOFs, known as HKUST-1 (copper-based) and MIL-100 (iron-based),... click for more</p> <p>Green Chemistry: Using Metal-Organic Frameworks to Transform Benzene to Phenol Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) are promising materials for making chemical reactions cleaner and more energy-efficient. This talk explores how two MOFs, known as HKUST-1 (copper-based) and MIL-100 (iron-based), can be used to more efficiently convert benzene to phenol. Phenol is an important chemical with medical and industrial applications. Traditionally, this reaction requires high temperatures and forms toxic byproducts that are environmental pollutants. MOFs can act as catalysts, speeding up the reaction without forming toxic waste that harms the environment. The study focuses on optimizing the reaction conditions for the direct oxidation of benzene and analyzing their effect on the amount of phenol produced. More specifically, it examines the impact of factors such as the acidity (pH), amount of catalyst, and ratios of chemicals used. Overall, this talk highlights how MOFs can support greener, more sustainable practices in chemical manufacturing.</p>	Chemistry at the Forefront: Undergraduates	Discussing Emerging Trends and Innovations

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Unlocking the Puzzle of Anxiety: How Genes and Brain Patterns Shape Treatment Responses in Adolescents 11:30-12:00	Ashley Banker	10:30AM	03:00PM	NS 101	Unlocking the Puzzle of Anxiety: How Genes and Brain Patterns Shape Treatment Responses in Adolescents Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) is a chronic condition marked by excessive worry and various somatic symptoms. Escitalopram, a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI), is often used as a first-line... click for moreUnlocking the Puzzle of Anxiety: How Genes and Brain Patterns Shape Treatment Responses in Adolescents Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) is a chronic condition marked by excessive worry and various somatic symptoms. Escitalopram, a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI), is often used as a first-line treatment, but its effectiveness varies, especially in adolescents. This study examined whether genetic and neurofunctional traits can predict how well an adolescent responds to escitalopram. Escitalopram targets the serotonin transporter (SERT), increasing serotonin levels by binding with high affinity to its orthosteric and allosteric sites. Researchers focused on CYP2C19, a gene affecting drug metabolism, and changes in amygdala-based functional connectivity (FC). They found escitalopram reduced anxiety more than placebo, with outcomes influenced by CYP2C19 metabolism rate and early FC changes. These findings suggest that genetic and brain imaging data could help personalize GAD treatment in adolescents.	Chemistry at the Forefront: Undergraduates Discussing Emerging Trends and Innovations	Presentations (Talks)
Beyond the drill: Silver diamine fluoride in cavity care 12:00-12:30	Brenda Naranjo	10:30AM	03:00PM	NS 101	Beyond the drill: Silver diamine fluoride in cavity care Silver diamine fluoride (SDF) has emerged as a minimally invasive, cost-effective treatment for managing cavities, particularly in pediatric and underserved populations. This presentation highlights findings from recent studies that examine how SDF compares to traditional... click for moreBeyond the drill: Silver diamine fluoride in cavity care Silver diamine fluoride (SDF) has emerged as a minimally invasive, cost-effective treatment for managing cavities, particularly in pediatric and underserved populations. This presentation highlights findings from recent studies that examine how SDF compares to traditional treatments like sodium fluoride varnish and glass ionomer sealants. The research shows that SDF helps stop cavity progression by increasing mineral content in the tooth and reducing bacterial growth. Clinical and in vitro studies demonstrate that SDF significantly increases mineral density, inhibits collagen degradation, and reduces Streptococcus mutans biofilm activity. While some clinicians use SDF with additional fluoride varnish, the evidence suggests this combination doesn't improve results and may even weaken SDF's antibacterial effects. These findings support the use of SDF on its own as an effective option for arresting and preventing cavities, all the while, improving access to care in settings where traditional treatment may not be available and offers a promising pathway toward equitable, non-invasive dental care.	Chemistry at the Forefront: Undergraduates Discussing Emerging Trends and Innovations	Presentations (Talks)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Genetics and Its Role in Drug Discovery 1:30-2:00	Abigail Hammons	10:30AM	03:00PM	NS 101	<p>Genetics are what make up every living thing, and with that, they can tell us a lot about ourselves and other living things if we are able to study them. Genome mining is a technique to explore the genetic makeup of microorganisms like bacteria and fungi to find new natural products, such as medicines or other... click for more</p> <p>Genetics are what make up every living thing, and with that, they can tell us a lot about ourselves and other living things if we are able to study them. Genome mining is a technique to explore the genetic makeup of microorganisms like bacteria and fungi to find new natural products, such as medicines or other useful compounds. By studying the DNA of these organisms, scientists can discover genes responsible for creating special chemicals that might have healing properties, like Rapamycin, an antibiotic with potent anti-tumor and immunosuppressive activity. This method helps identify new, valuable substances that were previously unknown and can be produced more efficiently by tweaking the genes in these microorganisms. Genome mining also allows scientists to tap into a wider range of microbes, including those that haven't been studied much, offering opportunities to find new, life-saving drugs. As we continue to learn more about the genomes of different organisms, genome mining will play an important role in producing new medicines. Rapamycin is one drug discovered, and through the use of genome mining, there has been more discovery and research into possible combinations of drugs to be even more beneficial in a medicinal way.</p>	Chemistry at the Forefront: Undergraduates Discussing Emerging Trends and Innovations	Presc (Talk:

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Understanding the Human Risk of Chronic Wasting Disease 2:00-2:30	Kayshs Lehman	10:30AM	03:00PM	NS 101	Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a contagious prion disease that causes a buildup of abnormal proteins and affects cervids such as deer and elk. Increasing concerns have come up over the possibility of CWD spreading to humans, similar to how Mad Cow Disease (BSE) can be transmitted from cattle to humans. To evaluate the risk, mouse models were... click for moreChronic wasting disease (CWD) is a contagious prion disease that causes a buildup of abnormal proteins and affects cervids such as deer and elk. Increasing concerns have come up over the possibility of CWD spreading to humans, similar to how Mad Cow Disease (BSE) can be transmitted from cattle to humans. To evaluate the risk, mouse models were used that produce the healthy human prion. CWD-infected brain material from deer was injected into the brains of the mice. After injection, the mice developed clinical symptoms of prion disease, and infectious prions were found in brain tissue, the spinal cord, spleen, and feces. When a second round of mice was injected with the fecal material, they also developed prion disease. This suggests that under certain genetic conditions, humans could be at risk of getting CWD from an infected cervid. If a human did acquire CWD, the individual could potentially spread it from person to person. Researchers also found that CWD from North America had a higher chance of infecting humans than strains found in Norway. These findings highlight the need to treat CWD as a potential public health concern and to continue researching how it might affect humans.	Chemistry at the Forefront: Undergraduates Discussing Emerging Trends and Innovations	Presc (Talk:
Body Farms and the Chemistry of Decay 2:30-3:00	Sarah Sedgewick	10:30AM	03:00PM	NS 101	Body farms, or body ranches, are research facilities that study decomposition in a variety of settings. Cadavers are intentionally left to be bleached by the sun, hung from branches, scattered by scavengers and carrion birds, all to study the processes of human decomposition. Decomposition changes a body but also changes and the world around it,... click for moreBody farms, or body ranches, are research facilities that study decomposition in a variety of settings. Cadavers are intentionally left to be bleached by the sun, hung from branches, scattered by scavengers and carrion birds, all to study the processes of human decomposition. Decomposition changes a body but also changes and the world around it, gases attract blowflies, ammonia seeps into the earth and bleaches the grass before decomposing into nitrogen and fertilizing it green again. Exposure to sun, air, dirt, temperature, and environment all affect decomposition processes, resulting in thousands of different stories left behind from a single death. These stories are decoded and translated by forensic analysis, and relayed to the living.	Chemistry at the Forefront: Undergraduates Discussing Emerging Trends and Innovations	Presc (Talk:

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Diversity Certificate: An Overview and Presentation	Emily Plec	10:30AM	11:30PM	Ochocoo (WUC)	WOU's Diversity Certificate was established in 2014 by a group of dedicated students and their staff/faculty mentors. This event provides an overview and explanation of the Diversity Certificate, a discussion of recent updates to it, and includes the awarding of a certificate to this year's undergraduate student recipient, who helped revive and... click for more WOU's Diversity Certificate was established in 2014 by a group of dedicated students and their staff/faculty mentors. This event provides an overview and explanation of the Diversity Certificate, a discussion of recent updates to it, and includes the awarding of a certificate to this year's undergraduate student recipient, who helped revive and revise the certificate for future students.	Diversity Certificate: An Overview and Presentation	Even (speci awar
A Mission to Save Orangutans	Njerj Cayton	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poste

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Awareness on Sea-Level Rise and Erosion	Jennifer Andrike	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Abstract The report establishes the definition of sea level rise and erosion in Oregon through a detailed examination of historical background and stakeholder involvement and policy responses and statistical data. The worldwide ocean surface elevation rises because of seawater thermal expansion and ice sheet and glacier melting. The National... click for more</p> <p>Abstract The report establishes the definition of sea level rise and erosion in Oregon through a detailed examination of historical background and stakeholder involvement and policy responses and statistical data. The worldwide ocean surface elevation rises because of seawater thermal expansion and ice sheet and glacier melting. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that ocean levels have increased by 8-9 inches since 1880 and scientists predict 1-4 feet of additional rise until 2100 based on different emission scenarios. Coastal erosion occurs when coastlines experience degradation because of wave action and tidal forces and currents and human activities. The combination of rising ocean levels with coastal erosion results in substantial land loss throughout Oregon's coastal regions. The Oregon Department of Geology and Minerals Industries (DOGAMI) indicates that specific coastal regions in Oregon experience annual erosion rates above 3 feet. Before environmental concerns gained prominence Oregon maintained its natural scenic beauty through forested landscapes and wildlife while its land use policies protected working landscapes. The project investigates the problems of sea level rise and erosion together with their effects on the Oregon coastline. The issue of sea level rise and coastal erosion presents significant challenges for Oregon's environment, economy, and communities. Through informed policy responses backed by scientific research and community engagement, it is possible to make advances on resilient strategies that protect both natural ecosystems and human infrastructure.</p>	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Cash in the Trash: WOU's Waste is Costing Us	Justus Mikkelsen	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	Western Oregon University spends approximately \$40,000 yearly on the hauling and disposal of campus-wide waste at the landfill, most of it coming from student housing, and much of it is still compostable or recyclable. This project presents a simple and strategic intervention: install three- bin waste stations, deliver targeted education, and... click for moreWestern Oregon University spends approximately \$40,000 yearly on the hauling and disposal of campus-wide waste at the landfill, most of it coming from student housing, and much of it is still compostable or recyclable. This project presents a simple and strategic intervention: install three- bin waste stations, deliver targeted education, and realign operations with proven sustainability practices. Backed by EPA and USDA data, the model demonstrates that landfill volume can be reduced by up to 40 percent, generating more than \$10,000 in annual savings. This is not a facilities issue, it's a leadership opportunity. We can keep dumping tuition into the trash or turn waste into long-term savings and institutional credibility.	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster
Electric vs. Gas-Powered Cars: Driving Toward a Sustainable Future	Shey Aspria	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster
Environmental Impact of Pet Waste	Travis Bezecny	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Is Our Food Still Healthy	Reid Granquist	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	In recent decades, concerns about the healthiness of our food have intensified due to rising chronic illnesses, food allergies, and the environmental impacts of industrial agriculture. This poster presentation explores how modern farming practices, especially those that degrade soil fertility and rely heavily on chemical inputs, take away the... click for more In recent decades, concerns about the healthiness of our food have intensified due to rising chronic illnesses, food allergies, and the environmental impacts of industrial agriculture. This poster presentation explores how modern farming practices, especially those that degrade soil fertility and rely heavily on chemical inputs, take away the nutritional quality and safety of our food. Central to the discussion is soil health, which plays a vital role in producing nutrient rich crops. Industrial practices like excessive tillage, and overuse of synthetic fertilizers have led to significant soil degradation and environmental harm. This poster presentation also examines the health and ecological risks of chemical pesticides such as glyphosate, as well as the economic burdens these practices place on farmers. In response, it highlights regenerative and organic agricultural methods as promising solutions to restore soil fertility, improve crop nutrition, and promote environmental sustainability. Emphasizing individual consumer choices, this presentation argues that a shift toward regenerative agriculture is essential for creating a healthier, more resilient food system.	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster
Notice to Climate Change	Elijah Traeger	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster
Powering the Cloud Responsibly: Eco-Friendly Data Center Practices	Rachel Munoz	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster
Preventing Food Waste	Sage Gartley	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Protecting Reefs, Preserving Life	Serena Finke-Taylor	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>This project explores the vital role of coral reefs in human life, emphasizing the ways they supply human necessities, contribute to the economy and cater to new pharmaceutical discoveries. My research highlights the rapid decline of coral reefs due to human activity, global warming, and ocean acidification. To address this issue, I discuss... click for more</p> <p>This project explores the vital role of coral reefs in human life, emphasizing the ways they supply human necessities, contribute to the economy and cater to new pharmaceutical discoveries. My research highlights the rapid decline of coral reefs due to human activity, global warming, and ocean acidification. To address this issue, I discuss sustainable practices, eco-friendly solutions and ways to reduce carbon footprints. Additionally, the project shows how positive actions can create a positive "domino effect" for both coral reefs and human daily life. Individuals can contribute to long-term reef conservation and overall planetary health by changing human habit.</p>	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster
Salmon In Decline: A Biodiversity Crisis	Kaylee Hall	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Biodiversity is essential to the health and resilience of ecosystems yet many keystone species, like salmon in the Pacific Northwest, are rapidly declining. This project explores and explains the ecological, economic, and cultural significance of salmon in the Pacific Northwest and highlights how human impacts, such... click for more</p> <p>Biodiversity is essential to the health and resilience of ecosystems yet many keystone species, like salmon in the Pacific Northwest, are rapidly declining. This project explores and explains the ecological, economic, and cultural significance of salmon in the Pacific Northwest and highlights how human impacts, such as outdated dams, threaten the sustainability of the species. The focus is on dam removal and structural updates as viable solutions to enhancing salmon's survival, aiming to promote student's engagement in salmon conservation and policy changes. Through research and outreach, this project calls attention to how protecting salmon plays a larger role in preserving biodiversity and sustaining the health of our future.</p>	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster
Save the Trees!	Kaylee Moore	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>If trees are nature's filter for CO₂, absorbing it like a sponge soaks up water, what happens when we remove them? Deforestation and forest degradation are pressing, ever-growing issues. There may not be a single, easy fix, but you can start making a difference today by using less paper and recycling more.</p>	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Forn
The ReWOUsable Reckoning	Nora Robison	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>My project focuses on improving sustainability practices at Western Oregon University by evaluating the effectiveness of the existing reWOUsables reusable container program. Using campus observations and data from comparable institutions, I aim to identify barriers to participation and propose strategies to increase student and faculty... click for more</p> <p>My project focuses on improving sustainability practices at Western Oregon University by evaluating the effectiveness of the existing reWOUsables reusable container program. Using campus observations and data from comparable institutions, I aim to identify barriers to participation and propose strategies to increase student and faculty engagement. The final presentation will highlight the environmental benefits of reusable systems and offer practical policy recommendations to reduce single-use waste on campus. The goal is to promote behavior change through increased awareness and accessibility.</p>	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poste
Waste Eaters	Lomasi Kerr	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Municipal solid waste builds up fast, the average American throws away over four pounds of trash a day. Landfills are great at hiding the unaesthetic and used, but they ultimately shift responsibility off the consumer to analyze their consumption. With the combined power of bioremediation and informed individuals we can lower our waste, lengthen... click for more</p> <p>Municipal solid waste builds up fast, the average American throws away over four pounds of trash a day. Landfills are great at hiding the unaesthetic and used, but they ultimately shift responsibility off the consumer to analyze their consumption. With the combined power of bioremediation and informed individuals we can lower our waste, lengthen the use and safety of landfills, and help our environment. Fungus is the earth's natural decomposer, they will act as a vital instrument in our future when it comes to environmental clean up, and even the replacement of some goods.</p>	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poste

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Waste less be great	Alex Gutierrez	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>This project began as a personal audit of the waste I created in daily student life and evolved into a campus-wide exploration of plastic pollution at Western Oregon University. By examining both student behavior and campus infrastructure, like recycling bin placement and labeling, it identifies the key reasons why recyclable plastics often end... click for more</p> <p>This project began as a personal audit of the waste I created in daily student life and evolved into a campus-wide exploration of plastic pollution at Western Oregon University. By examining both student behavior and campus infrastructure, like recycling bin placement and labeling, it identifies the key reasons why recyclable plastics often end up in trash cans. Through observations, reflection, and a pattern of repeated missteps, the project reveals how habits, design, and awareness all shape the campus waste stream. It concludes with simple, actionable steps WOU can take to reduce plastic waste and support a stronger culture of sustainability.</p>	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poste
Water Conservation in Oregon	Jacob Bobbitt	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Climate change is impacting many ecosystems around the world, one of them being water levels. Each year Oregon is experiencing dryer summers and rainier winters leading to more floods and wells going dry. This presentation will be talking about the current challenges Oregon is facing, the impact climate change is having and steps you can take to... click for more</p> <p>Climate change is impacting many ecosystems around the world, one of them being water levels. Each year Oregon is experiencing dryer summers and rainier winters leading to more floods and wells going dry. This presentation will be talking about the current challenges Oregon is facing, the impact climate change is having and steps you can take to help save water.</p>	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poste

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Where Water Meets Life: Saving Our Wetlands	Jose Francisco Aguilar Rojas	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	This research explores the vital yet underestimated role of wetlands as the research addresses the global challenges it brings. It raises the question of how essential wetlands are to the survival of Earth's ecosystems and biodiversity and why they are disappearing despite their proven benefits. By examining global trends, select case examples,... click for moreThis research explores the vital yet underestimated role of wetlands as the research addresses the global challenges it brings. It raises the question of how essential wetlands are to the survival of Earth's ecosystems and biodiversity and why they are disappearing despite their proven benefits. By examining global trends, select case examples, and the current conservation efforts being done, the research highlights the silent contributions of wetlands that many don't take notice of, such as natural flood regulators, carbon sinks, and biodiversity hotspots. Despite occupying only 3% of Earth's surface, wetlands store up to 30% of land-based carbon and support 40% of global biodiversity. Yet, they are being lost at three times the rate of forests due to human inaction and the shifting climate caused by humans. Findings point to a growing international response through policy, restoration initiatives, and community-driven efforts. Despite the efforts, they are not enough to reverse the trend of biodiversity loss and require the help of public awareness and engagement. The implications are clear: wetlands are not simply landscapes but a central piece to sustaining life on earth. Preserving them is no longer a matter of environmental preference; it's a global necessity.	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster
Wildfires and Wildfire Prevention	Demetrius Yehnert	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	Since the 1980s, the area burned in the United States each year by wildfires has been increasing. The cause of this increase is multifactorial, but climate change and the excess accumulation of fuel in our forests from a decades-long fire deficit are major contributors to this trend. While the number of wildfires... click for moreSince the 1980s, the area burned in the United States each year by wildfires has been increasing. The cause of this increase is multifactorial, but climate change and the excess accumulation of fuel in our forests from a decades-long fire deficit are major contributors to this trend. While the number of wildfires each year has not changed significantly, the average damage caused by each one has increased, meaning the prevention of ignitions is more important now than it ever has been. With approximately eighty-five percent of wildland fire ignitions being caused by human activity, education may be the best way to reduce human caused fires. This project explores how people can go about reducing the risk that they are responsible for a wildfire ignition.	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster
"Hooked on Plastic: How Microplastics Are Reeling in the Fishing Industry"	Jack McAllister	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	Environmental Politics Awareness Projects	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Importance of newspapers in preserving local history	Gabriel Grecny	10:30AM	12:30PM	RWEC 101	Abstract/Image not submitted	History	Presc (Talk:
Listen to a Legacy	Cody Dyche	10:30AM	12:30PM	RWEC 101	Cody Dyche Internship Site: City of Monmouth Serving as an intern with the City of Monmouth Historic Committee, I contributed to an ongoing project documenting the city's history during the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. In collaboration with MHC member Amy Jaramillo, we conducted an oral history interview with Monmouth locals Rose Hernandez and Paul... click for more Cody Dyche Internship Site: City of Monmouth Serving as an intern with the City of Monmouth Historic Committee, I contributed to an ongoing project documenting the city's history during the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. In collaboration with MHC member Amy Jaramillo, we conducted an oral history interview with Monmouth locals Rose Hernandez and Paul Sieber to explore life in the city during that era. I also researched historic newspapers and digitized photographs for preservation and public access. Coordinating participant schedules took several weeks and required strong communication, flexibility, and persistence. The group-style interview allowed Rose and Paul to bounce memories off each other; although it was at times difficult to stay on topic, historical materials such as photographs, OSE student newspaper articles, and a mapped layout of Main Street businesses that we created helped ground the conversation. Key skills used included communication, interpretation, time management, preparation, empathy, objectivity, adaptability, and organization. This project supports the City of Monmouth's Listen to a Legacy Program.	History	Presc (Talk:

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
An Internship at the Oregon State Archives	Zephen Wilkinson	10:30AM	12:30PM	RWEC 101	<p>Under the supervision of Reference Archivist Theresa Rea from the Oregon State Archives, my internship project is to start analyzing, reorganizing, and preserving the photo print and negatives collections from the Oregon State Fair (OSF) and Exposition Center from 1950-1975. This collection has been in the Archives since the 1990s and has yet to... click for more</p> <p>Under the supervision of Reference Archivist Theresa Rea from the Oregon State Archives, my internship project is to start analyzing, reorganizing, and preserving the photo print and negatives collections from the Oregon State Fair (OSF) and Exposition Center from 1950-1975. This collection has been in the Archives since the 1990s and has yet to have been properly processed and organized. To do this, I am doing a full examination of the OSF photo print and negatives collection down to every individual record. I am required to understand the timeline and history of the OSF, interpret the significance behind every record, analyze the conditions and aging of the records, and take detailed interpretive notes of all of this information. The purpose of this is to develop an understanding of how the records should be reorganized in the future, understand what steps should be taken to prevent any current or future deterioration, and start the process of properly housing these records. Processing and preserving the OSF's photo print and negatives collection represents and upholds the Oregon State Archives goal of meaningfully preserving Oregon's history through providing researchers and the public properly cared for records of Oregon State history.</p>	History	Present (Talk)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Postcards of Albany, OR	Stephanie McKenzie	10:30AM	12:30PM	RWEC 101	<p>In collaboration with Amy Bozorth of the Albany Regional Museum, I have fully catalogued two collections containing photographs, brochures, pamphlets, postcards, and a stray ink blotter during my internship thus far. The third, final, and largest collection I will work on is compiled only of thousands of postcards. During the cataloguing of the... click for more</p> <p>In collaboration with Amy Bozorth of the Albany Regional Museum, I have fully catalogued two collections containing photographs, brochures, pamphlets, postcards, and a stray ink blotter during my internship thus far. The third, final, and largest collection I will work on is compiled only of thousands of postcards. During the cataloguing of the second collection when I transcribed smudged 120+ year-old cursive successfully, I discovered my niche and thus solidified my final collection to work on: the Potts Postcard Collection, which ranges from the late Victorian Era to 1950s. These collections involve scanning, imputing into the universal cataloguing system Pass Perfect, digital editing of scans and listings, and making sure they are uploaded properly into the ARM cloud. Transcribing these personal letters, or postcards, directly connect to ARM's mission of preserving and encouraging knowledge of the history and culture of Albany, Oregon by salvaging the thoughts and greetings of those who have long passed from the area. Nothing could be more connected to their culture than what the people of Albany had to previously say in their personal correspondences.</p>	History	Presc (Talk:

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Murder in the Duomo: The Rise of Lorenzo the Magnificent	Hallie Tasker	10:30AM	12:30PM	RWEC 101	<p>Between 1520 and 1525, Niccolo Machiavelli wrote the historical account History of Florence and the Affairs of Italy. Published in 1532, this work reports the events and conflicts of Renaissance Italy from 1215 to 1492. Machiavelli wrote this history in Tuscany while under the employment of Cardinal Giulio de Medici —the nephew of Lorenzo the... click for more</p> <p>Between 1520 and 1525, Niccolo Machiavelli wrote the historical account History of Florence and the Affairs of Italy. Published in 1532, this work reports the events and conflicts of Renaissance Italy from 1215 to 1492. Machiavelli wrote this history in Tuscany while under the employment of Cardinal Giulio de Medici —the nephew of Lorenzo the Magnificent— who would later become Pope Clement VII. It was speculated that Machiavelli did so intending to reenter the good graces of the Medici family after being exiled from Florence in 1513. This primary source document will be used as a key element within my thesis, focusing on Lorenzo the Magnificent and his rise to power in the wake of the Pazzi Conspiracy. The Conspiracy was an assassination attempt in 1478 upon the brothers Lorenzo and Giuliano de Medici. After the Conspiracy, which resulted in the death of his brother, Lorenzo cemented his power over Florence by capitalizing on the immediate aftermath of the attack and the popular support of the people. Machiavelli's history offers a keen insight into the events and situations that allowed Lorenzo to rise to vast levels of power and influence during the Italian Renaissance.</p>	History	Presc (Talk:

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Catskin and Glass Beads: The Status of Magical Women in the Viking Age	Ross Abel	10:30AM	12:30PM	RWEC 101	<p>Ahmad ibn Fadlan was a Muslim scribe who worked for the Caliphal Court of Baghdad in the 10th century and traveled to the Bulghar kingdom as part of his diplomatic duties. Ibn Fadlan produced this travel document, Risala, in 922 CE as a record of his journey, during which he encountered various ethnic groups. Of importance here is his... click for more</p> <p>Ahmad ibn Fadlan was a Muslim scribe who worked for the Caliphal Court of Baghdad in the 10th century and traveled to the Bulghar kingdom as part of his diplomatic duties. Ibn Fadlan produced this travel document, Risala, in 922 CE as a record of his journey, during which he encountered various ethnic groups. Of importance here is his stay with the Rus, a group of Swedish people that had formed settlements in areas such as Novgorod and the Volga River. Risala depicted a Rus funeral, which included the sacrifice of an enslaved girl. As part of the ritual, a woman called the Angel of Death by Ibn Fadlan and her two daughters prepared the enslaved girl's body for sacrifice. The ritual demonstrates that women of low social status were reduced to a ritual commodity in the magical sphere while the women conducting the ritual were elevated to a status different from 'woman'. The detail of a Viking Age ritual imparted upon readers is important for my project, which is concerned with Viking Age magic in Norse culture and the status of women who utilized it.</p>	History	Presc (Talk:

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
"Unmanly Man': Slandering Poetry and Misogyny in the Viking World"	Jandika Borden	10:30AM	12:30PM	RWEC 101	<p>The vision of the defiant warrior Viking woman is an appealing archetype to modern audiences but is not reflected in the stories of the Vikings. In the Viking tradition of slanderous poetry, women are often portrayed in a negative light, expected to be socially subservient, and associated with sexual passivity. The literature and mythology of a... click for more</p> <p>The vision of the defiant warrior Viking woman is an appealing archetype to modern audiences but is not reflected in the stories of the Vikings. In the Viking tradition of slanderous poetry, women are often portrayed in a negative light, expected to be socially subservient, and associated with sexual passivity. The literature and mythology of a given society is indicative of the prominent cultural values within it, thus an examination of the values in Viking poetry reveals the roles and expectations held for Viking women. Slandering poetry and oral traditions were often used as vessels to articulate public criticism, making their contents have significant social and legal consequences. Slandering poetry in the Viking Age therefore reflected the prominence of misogyny within Viking society. This presentation draws on the original research paper that challenges inaccurate modern assumptions about Viking society by examining a range of slanderous poems and the misogynistic themes within them and connects them to legal consequences outlined in the Gulaping laws and Grágás. Loki's Flyting, or Lokasenna, was an example of a slanderous poem from the Poetic Edda. It was believed to have been written in the 10th century and includes examples of misogynistic insults in the form of poetry. Analysis of this work of slanderous Viking poetry reveals the prominence of misogyny in Viking society.</p>	History	Present (Talk)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Controversies of Der Alte: Konrad Adenauer, German Reunification, and NATO, 1949-1955	Caleb Ihne	10:30AM	12:30PM	RWEC 101	<p>From 1949 to 1955, German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer had to choose between the unity of Europe and that of his country, and he chose the former through membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This paper examines Chancellor Adenauer's controversial decision to prioritize European integration over reunification and the Federal...</p> <p>click for more</p> <p>From 1949 to 1955, German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer had to choose between the unity of Europe and that of his country, and he chose the former through membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. This paper examines Chancellor Adenauer's controversial decision to prioritize European integration over reunification and the Federal Republic of Germany's path to accession in NATO. Through declassified NATO documents, speeches, newspaper articles, and scholarly sources, this paper pieces together Adenauer's hopes for the newly christened FRG with NATO and the backlash they faced on the road to accession. An important source to piecing together Adenauer's hopes for Germany is a speech titled "Statement by Dr. Adenauer," given at West Germany's accession into NATO on May 9, 1955. This source offers Adenauer's own thoughts on his actions that, while ensuring West Germany's continued existence, condemned East Germany to nearly half a century of isolation from its counterpart. Although Adenauer could not see the future, he still faced controversy and resistance head on and remained steadfast in his decisions, and those decisions have stood the test of time.</p>	History	Presc (Talk:

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
The Long, Rocky Backroad Toward Unity: German Reunification And The European Economy 1991-1993	Hannah Burk	10:30AM	12:30PM	RWEC 101	Under the pressure of the inherent social issues born of its communist system, East Germany's government collapsed in 1989, and in October of 1990, East Germany was hastily swept into West Germany. Despite this chain of events, reunification was easier said than done, and West Germany quickly found that roping their... click for moreUnder the pressure of the inherent social issues born of its communist system, East Germany's government collapsed in 1989, and in October of 1990, East Germany was hastily swept into West Germany. Despite this chain of events, reunification was easier said than done, and West Germany quickly found that roping their formerly communist counterpart into their well-established global economic powerhouse was a bit of a flailing struggle. Germany's central bank raised two key interest rates in 1991 as a necessary corrective measure to the economic weight of German reunification. Holding steady through the end of 1993, Germany's interest rates were nothing short of a challenge to the rest of the European economy. Steven Greenhouse's 16 April 1991 New York Times article is an exceedingly valuable primary source of this analysis. Greenhouse, an American journalist, uses the expertise of French, British, and German economists in his work to report upon, analyze, and draw larger economic implications of German reunification. Greenhouse's snapshot in time provides the backbone of my larger argument, articulating and illustrating decades of European optimism, the subsequent continental disappointment and hardships of reunification, and an optimistic future in the face of all the struggles of his present context.	History	Present (Talk)
The Haitian Revolution: How Yellow Fever Crippled the French Empire	Benjamin Loverin	10:30AM	12:30PM	RWEC 101	A military report was sent from Le Cap, Haiti... click for moreA military report was sent from Le Cap, Haiti on 6 August 1802 from the commander of the French forces in Haiti General LeClerc to his second in command Vicomte de Rochambeau. This report was written shortly after the capture of Haitian General Toussaint Louverture, who oversaw all Haitian revolutionary forces. While the French believed the capture brought the end of the war, it only prolonged their suffering as yellow fever was still killing at least 100 French soldiers a day. Within the report LeClerc shows a level of desperation, wanting to send his men home to get away from the disease. But without approval he restores to his second in command to launch unprovoked attacks against any Haitians outside the city. Yet it was because of the French staying within the cities that they continued to lose hundreds of men from yellow fever. I argue that not only did Haitian revolutionary leaders use the yellow fever pandemic of 1802 to cripple the French forces, but that General Toussaint Louverture knowingly used the disease and secured safe locations prior to the French invasion which ensured that the French were put in the heaviest containment points on the island.	History	Present (Talk)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Accuracy of the Transition Analysis 3 (TA3) Method for Age Estimation in the John A. Williams Human Skeletal Collection	Blue Wonhof	10:30AM	03:00PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	Interdisciplinary Posters	Poster
A Stylistic Comparison of J.R.R. Tolkien's The Fellowship of the Ring to George R.R. Martin's A Game of Thrones	Aubrey Baker	10:30AM	12:30PM	Willamette (WUC)	This presentation's purpose is to demonstrate an example of the mechanics of literary styles as differentiated between sub-genres and eras. The project compares the sentence count, subordinate clause usage, and noun-modifier usage of a 1950s high fantasy sample with those of a 1990s epic fantasy sample. Through the... click for moreThis presentation's purpose is to demonstrate an example of the mechanics of literary styles as differentiated between sub-genres and eras. The project compares the sentence count, subordinate clause usage, and noun-modifier usage of a 1950s high fantasy sample with those of a 1990s epic fantasy sample. Through the collection, quantification, and analysis of the relevant data, it was found that the classical high fantasy writing sample of J.R.R. Tolkien emphasizes heightened description and conceptual impressions, while the modern epic fantasy writing sample of George R.R. Martin emphasizes immediate narrative content. Near-accurate generalizations of stylistic tendency can be assumed, studied, and potentially emulated towards the improvement of one's own writing and understanding of literature.	Literature, Writing and Linguistics	Poster (Talk)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Evaluating the Use of AI for Teaching English Pronunciation	Emm Delgado	10:30AM	12:30PM	Willamette (WUC)	<p>This research project investigates the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) for teaching English pronunciation to adult second language (L2) learners. Using a mixed-method approach, the researcher analyzed one adult participant's experience with the AI language learning app ELSA. Over a three-week period, data was collected from ELSA's... click for more</p> <p>This research project investigates the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) for teaching English pronunciation to adult second language (L2) learners. Using a mixed-method approach, the researcher analyzed one adult participant's experience with the AI language learning app ELSA. Over a three-week period, data was collected from ELSA's evaluations of the participant's pronunciation proficiency. Additional data was collected through a questionnaire on attitudes and motivation, and two semi-structured interviews. Results revealed minor improvements in the participant's intonation and accuracy of few select phonemes. However, there was no significant change in the participant's overall pronunciation, attitudes, or motivation. Moreover, qualitative findings revealed limitations in ELSA's generated feedback and long-term feasibility considering financial costs. In conclusion, while ELSA may still have certain benefits to offer, this study suggests that short-term, self-guided use of the app is ineffective for learning target pronunciation. Overall, further research is necessary to evaluate AI's effectiveness in teaching pronunciation, particularly in the context of long-term use.</p>	Literature, Writing and Linguistics	Presc (Talk:

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
The Influence of Topic Interest, Motivation, and Self-efficacy on Speech Production in English Learners	Nicole McKinney	10:30AM	12:30PM	Willamette (WUC)	<p>This project explores how motivation, topic interest, and self-efficacy influence second language (L2) speech production among Taiwanese English learners. Data was gathered from three English learners through a series of structured conversation sessions on "East Asian influences on U.S culture," which were... click for more</p> <p>This project explores how motivation, topic interest, and self-efficacy influence second language (L2) speech production among Taiwanese English learners. Data was gathered from three English learners through a series of structured conversation sessions on "East Asian influences on U.S culture," which were transcribed and followed-up with a questionnaire. The data was analyzed and broken into session and participant specific charts. This revealed learners produced more speech when topics aligned with their personal interests, experiences, or values, even when their prior knowledge was limited. Intrinsic motivation was also consistently high, despite a lack of interest or enthusiasm with some questions. Furthermore, a learners' self-efficacy, particularly their self-proclaimed English proficiency, affected their willingness to communicate—learners with lower self-confidence required more prompting and produced less speech. These findings suggest L2 educators should tailor speech activities to student interest and scaffold content to build a learner's confidence within a topic. More specifically, this project highlighted the importance of learner-centered and interested-based approaches to increase speech production, interest, and communicative confidence</p>	Literature, Writing and Linguistics	Presentations (Talks)
Building Community Through an Interdisciplinary Clean-Up	Cheyenne Ortiz	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>This project proposes the creation of an annual environmental cleanup event in partnership with Western Oregon University and the City of Monmouth. Data indicates an underutilized interest in sustainability and outdoor engagement, and this initiative aims to bridge that gap. The event would promote environmental stewardship, student leadership,... click for more</p> <p>This project proposes the creation of an annual environmental cleanup event in partnership with Western Oregon University and the City of Monmouth. Data indicates an underutilized interest in sustainability and outdoor engagement, and this initiative aims to bridge that gap. The event would promote environmental stewardship, student leadership, and cross-disciplinary involvement by fostering collaboration between departments and the local Monmouth community. The project essentially aims to make environmental action accessible and visible on campus through institutional support and long-term planning.</p>	Political Science Research	Posters

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Western Oregon University and Study Abroad	Jacobi Fisher	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Part of the image that is drafted when someone imagines a typical university campus is a bustling international student and faculty body where individuals can be met by a diverse group of people. This was once part of Western Oregon University's (WOU) image. However, in recent years, WOU has experienced a...</p> <p>Part of the image that is drafted when someone imagines a typical university campus is a bustling international student and faculty body where individuals can be met by a diverse group of people. This was once part of Western Oregon University's (WOU) image. However, in recent years, WOU has experienced a significant decline in international engagement, marked by the closure of its study-abroad office and the absence of international students on campus following the COVID-19 pandemic. The lack of international students on WOU's campus creates a lack of worldly interaction that American students have come to expect and desire from their universities. Coupling this with the near-complete lack of study abroad opportunities following the closure of WOU's study abroad office has culminated in a striking loss to the students' ability to experience different cultures and peoples. Building international relationships at the individual level is extremely important in today's global world today. Benefits to the students, such as academic opportunities, increased competitiveness in the job market, building personal connections, and confidence building, are all sorely lost in the current status quo at WOU. This is not an insurmountable problem. With enough desire and action from the students, faculty, and administration, WOU's campus could be revitalized into a living and breathing international university again.</p>	Political Science Research	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Your Tuition, Your Public Square: Examining Student Free Speech in Public vs. Campus Forums	Kay Vasquez, Vince Johnson, Andrew Wolf	10:30AM	11:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Across the United States, and of particular note at our nation's most prestigious universities, debate around the extent of free speech and expression has reached a pressure point. Sanctions, funding freezes, and congressional oversight meetings have dominated the news cycles over the topic of how far these constitutional protections extend to... click for more</p> <p>Across the United States, and of particular note at our nation's most prestigious universities, debate around the extent of free speech and expression has reached a pressure point. Sanctions, funding freezes, and congressional oversight meetings have dominated the news cycles over the topic of how far these constitutional protections extend to student-led protests. Universities, long looked to as havens for critical discourse, have now become the subject under critical review. Disruptions and limitations to the extent to which higher education institutions can engage in critical discourse over federal policy action work to dismantle key elements to our constitutional protections. This project aims to explore, through both historical and contemporary analysis, the broader consequences of limiting free speech and expression in higher education on national policy development and the preservation of constitutional freedoms.</p>	Political Science Research	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
The Vatican's Secret Archive: UFOs	Maya Helmen	10:30AM	12:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>In this paper I trace the long, winding thread that connects the Catholic Church to the modern UFO story. I start with the 1933 Magenta crash that Italian researcher Roberto Pinotti says Mussolini tried to bury—and that former U.S. intelligence officer David Grusch now claims the Vatican quietly knew about. From there I dig through artwork, nun... click for more</p> <p>In this paper I trace the long, winding thread that connects the Catholic Church to the modern UFO story. I start with the 1933 Magenta crash that Italian researcher Roberto Pinotti says Mussolini tried to bury—and that former U.S. intelligence officer David Grusch now claims the Vatican quietly knew about. From there I dig through artwork, nun diaries, and century-old observatory logs, showing how odd lights and flying orbs keep popping up on Church turf. I ask: are these "miracles," or early UAP reports wearing a halo? The paper then puts the Apostolic Archives under a magnifying glass. With 50-plus miles of shelves and only a handful of scholars allowed in, they're the perfect place to stash records that could upend both science and faith. I look at TMZ's spotlight on UFO-looking motifs in Renaissance paintings, recent Daily Mail allegations of 100-plus hidden Vatican UFO files, and Pope Francis' own joke about baptizing a Martian. Together, these snapshots reveal a Church that publicly preaches cosmic openness while privately guarding its receipts. By weaving eyewitness claims, theological commentary, and modern whistle-blower testimony, I argue that the Vatican sits at the crossroads of belief and disclosure. If the rumors are true, its next move could reshape not just Catholic doctrine, but humanity's sense of where we fit in the universe.</p>	UFOs: Government Officials Go on the Record	Poster
Combatting STI's in Oregon: Prevention Strategies and Public Health Initiatives	Loren Wisniewski	10:45AM	11:30AM	Columbia (WUC)	<p>Combatting STI's in Oregon: Prevention Strategies and Public Health Initiatives Presented by Emma Higashi, Jacylin Nakamura, & Emily Villanueva Why this Matters? Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) rates in Oregon are a public health concern that... click for more</p> <p>Combatting STI's in Oregon: Prevention Strategies and Public Health Initiatives Presented by Emma Higashi, Jacylin Nakamura, & Emily Villanueva Why this Matters? Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) rates in Oregon are a public health concern that affects college aged students (highest rates in the 20 to 39 population). STI's can be "silent" and if left untreated have life long consequences. What will be covered in Presentation? We will explore current STI trends in Oregon, contributing factors, and prevention strategies; including how WOU plays a role in reducing and addressing STI risk. Goal of Presentation? Raise awareness and explore effective strategies to reduce STI transmission.</p>	Combatting STI's in Oregon: Prevention Strategies and Public Health Initiatives	Poster (Talk)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Spring Student Recital	Carlos Velez	11:00AM	12:00PM	Smith Hall	Student recital showcases the work of our talented music students. Performances will feature instrumentalists and vocalists, and will include musical works representing a wide array of styles. Many of these performances represent works-in-preparation for junior and senior recitals.	Spring Student Recital	Perf
Acorn Production Patterns Across Six Years in Oregon White Oaks	Emily Sedgewick	11:30AM	12:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Acorn Production Patterns Across Six Years in Oregon White Oaks Emily Sedgewick, Gareth Hopkins, Ava Howard Oak Ecology Research Group, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon 97361 Oregon white oaks (<i>Quercus garryana</i>) are an essential part of local ecosystems due to the environment and food it provides to wildlife. Loss of oak woodlands... click for more</p> <p>Acorn Production Patterns Across Six Years in Oregon White Oaks Emily Sedgewick, Gareth Hopkins, Ava Howard Oak Ecology Research Group, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon 97361 Oregon white oaks (<i>Quercus garryana</i>) are an essential part of local ecosystems due to the environment and food it provides to wildlife. Loss of oak woodlands and savannas has made collections of acorns essential to restoration efforts. Oaks experience masting years, during which they generate a large number of acorns interspersed among low production years. To understand variation in reproduction, we collected acorns yearly in the fall from up to 64 oaks from 2019-2024. We used ten-minute time-constrained searches beneath each tree's canopy. Trees in savanna grazed by cows produced more acorns than trees in all other habitats. Masting events occurred in 2019, 2021, and 2023. Previously published literature documents masting on a four-year cycle; three years of low reproduction followed by a spike in acorn reproduction in the fourth year. Our data contradicts this, with a spike in acorn reproduction documented in 2021 that occurred two years after a mast year in 2019. As Oregon white oak populations continue to decline, further understanding masting behavior of these trees is essential for effective restoration.</p> <p>Keywords: Masting, <i>Quercus garryana</i>, White oak, Habitat</p>	Biology and GIS Poster Session	Poste

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Comparative Immune and Stress Responses in Red-Eared Sliders and Western Painted Turtles	Santi Groat	11:30AM	12:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Invasive species pose a significant threat to many native species, although the mechanisms that allow invasive species to outcompete native species are still unclear. In this study, we compared the physiology of invasive Red-Eared Sliders (<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>) and native Western Painted Turtles (<i>Chrysemys picta bellii</i>),... click for more</p> <p>Invasive species pose a significant threat to many native species, although the mechanisms that allow invasive species to outcompete native species are still unclear. In this study, we compared the physiology of invasive Red-Eared Sliders (<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>) and native Western Painted Turtles (<i>Chrysemys picta bellii</i>), with a focus on understanding species-specific differences in key physiological processes: immune function and the stress response. While Red-Eared Sliders have been extensively studied for their robust immune responses, there are prevalent gaps in our understanding of the physiology of the threatened Western Painted Turtles. We used established methods such as lymphocyte and heterophil counts, bacterial killing ability (BKA), and corticosterone (CORT) measurements to compare the ecophysiology of these species in a semi-urban habitat in the mid-Willamette Valley of Oregon. Our research highlights possible differences in immune function and stress physiology between these species, offering insights into how invasive and native turtle species may differentially cope with environmental challenges while filling in data gaps for Western Painted Turtles. These ecoimmunological findings contribute to broader conservation efforts by improving our understanding of the biological factors that influence species' success in changing habitats.</p>	Biology and GIS Poster Session	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Diet of Invasive American Bullfrogs (Lithobates catesbeianus) in the Willamette Valley of Oregon: Opportunistic or Selective Predators?	Sophia Tate	11:30AM	12:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	American Bullfrogs (<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>) are invasive in Oregon, and are thought to cause considerable ecological damage through their large size and indiscriminate feeding on native wildlife in the state. However, an in-depth... click for more American Bullfrogs (<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>) are invasive in Oregon, and are thought to cause considerable ecological damage through their large size and indiscriminate feeding on native wildlife in the state. However, an in-depth examination of bullfrog diet in the state has yet to be completed. It is also unclear if bullfrogs opportunistically eat any prey available to them, or are more selective predators. To fill these knowledge gaps, we quantified the stomach contents of bullfrogs at a heavily-populated pond that were collected by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and compared stomach contents to aquatic invertebrate availability at the same pond. Bullfrogs ate 16 different prey items, including small mammals, snakes, other amphibians, and 12 different types of aquatic invertebrates. Odonata, the most abundant invertebrate order found in the environment, was notably underrepresented in frog stomach contents. Similar underrepresentation was found for Coleoptera and Gastropoda, while Hemiptera appeared slightly overrepresented. These findings indicate that bullfrogs may show selective feeding behavior on invertebrates, and may not be the opportunistic feeders previously assumed. While the impact of bullfrogs on native wildlife is clearly significant, our results complicate the view of bullfrogs as indiscriminate feeders and highlight the importance of continued research into their impacts within fragmented wetland ecosystems.	Biology and GIS Poster Session	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Diversity and Abundance of Ecotomycorrhozae Fungi in Different Oregon White Oak Habitats	Laura Ferry	11:30AM	12:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Oregon white oak (<i>Quercus garryana</i>) roots bind with fungi, to form an ectomycorrhizae (ECM) symbiote. Many plants rely on ECM for water and nutrient uptake, but little is known about the amount and types of ECM that may be associated with our local oaks. We aim to identify the diversity and composition of the ECM communities associated with oak... click for more</p> <p>Oregon white oak (<i>Quercus garryana</i>) roots bind with fungi, to form an ectomycorrhizae (ECM) symbiote. Many plants rely on ECM for water and nutrient uptake, but little is known about the amount and types of ECM that may be associated with our local oaks. We aim to identify the diversity and composition of the ECM communities associated with oak roots in two contrasting habitats in the Willamette valley: savannah and forest. In the savannah, oaks grow vigorously in full light whereas forest oaks tend to grow slowly being suppressed by shade. We collected roots from seven oaks in each habitat in November 2023. Roots were used for two analyses: ITS amplicon sequencing and percent of roots colonized. Soil from below each tree was analyzed for chemical composition. Savannah soil showed wider variation in pH and had higher phosphorus and lower nitrate levels than the forest soil. Savannah oaks had a greater variety of fungal ECM species, but had less roots colonized by ECM compared to forest oaks. Variation in oak ECM may be related to soil composition differences, and could indicate that oaks require more or specific ECM to help them compete.</p>	Biology and GIS Poster Session	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Occurrence and Distribution of Snapping Turtles in Oregon	Trevor Thomson	11:30AM	12:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Common snapping turtles (<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>) are an invasive species found increasingly on a global scale. They are native to eastern North America, but are found throughout the western United States. Despite reports of snapping turtles dating back decades in Oregon, a systematic examination of their distribution and natural history in areas... click for more</p> <p>Common snapping turtles (<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>) are an invasive species found increasingly on a global scale. They are native to eastern North America, but are found throughout the western United States. Despite reports of snapping turtles dating back decades in Oregon, a systematic examination of their distribution and natural history in areas outside of their native range in North America has been lacking. By documenting their distribution and general characteristics, researchers can implement management strategies to better protect native biodiversity. The goal of this study was to review where common snapping turtles have been documented outside of their native range, document spatial-temporal patterns, and determine morphological and reproductive characteristics of snapping turtles in Oregon as a case study. Data was collected between 2004–2024 via targeted surveys and verified public-reported observations, and was analyzed using spatial-temporal analyses. Snapping turtles are primarily found in western Oregon, and specifically in the Portland area. Eighty-eight percent of turtles were found within 200 m of waterbodies, and half of all turtles were in parks. Sightings were most common in June. The public has played a large role in data collection. More surveys, as well as continued public outreach, are required to fully understand the true distribution and extent of this invasive species' threat to native biodiversity in Oregon and other areas of western North America.</p>	Biology and GIS Poster Session	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Seeking Higher Ground: How Raptors of the Willamette Valley Utilize Artificial T-Posts in Ash Creek Preserve	Adrien Weathers	11:30AM	12:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Ash Creek Preserve is a field that resides outside the borders of Western Oregon University– and is often used by students and nearby residents to go on nature walks or play disk golf. Human recreation aside, the preserve is actively used by raptors native to the Willamette Valley. These raptors have... click for more</p> <p>Ash Creek Preserve is a field that resides outside the borders of Western Oregon University– and is often used by students and nearby residents to go on nature walks or play disk golf. Human recreation aside, the preserve is actively used by raptors native to the Willamette Valley. These raptors have been observed using artificial 14.5ft tall, man-made T-posts that have been posted throughout the preserve. These raptors utilize these posts in many ways, though have been hypothesized to use the perches primarily for seeking prey from high above ground-level. In order to confirm or deny this hypothesis, trail cameras have been placed near six different artificial T-posts to record footage of raptor activity on each post for the duration of two weeks. Each raptor was identified and quantified by species, with the behaviors observed being quantified with an activity budget and analyzed through Microsoft Excel and R-Studio. Raw data is still in the process of being collected, though it is inferred that raptors will be primarily displaying scanning and vigilance behaviors– which was supported by a one-week trial of this observational study performed for an animal behavior course.</p>	Biology and GIS Poster Session	Poster
Studies Toward a Total Synthesis of Viridistratin B	Anthony Delgado	11:30AM	12:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Viridistratins A–C were isolated in 2020 from <i>Annulohypoxylon viridistratum</i>, a tropical fungus collected in Thailand. These compounds represent three previously undescribed secondary metabolites belonging to the benzo[<i>j</i>]fluoranthene class of natural products. Research efforts aimed at the total synthesis of Viridistratin B have focused on the... click for more</p> <p>Viridistratins A–C were isolated in 2020 from <i>Annulohypoxylon viridistratum</i>, a tropical fungus collected in Thailand. These compounds represent three previously undescribed secondary metabolites belonging to the benzo[<i>j</i>]fluoranthene class of natural products. Research efforts aimed at the total synthesis of Viridistratin B have focused on the construction of the carbon framework, facilitating exploration of the key oxidative ring closure step.</p>	Biology and GIS Poster Session	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
The Impact of Water Quality Metrics on Physiological Stress, Immune Function, and Capture Success in Western Painted Turtles and Red-Eared Sliders	Antonette Tilgner	11:30AM	12:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Oregon's native turtles are Conservation Strategy species of concern due to habitat loss and degradation and threats from invasive species, including Red-eared Sliders (<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>). Although population trends have been documented in both native and invasive turtles in Oregon, the physiological health of turtles, and how this might... click for more</p> <p>Oregon's native turtles are Conservation Strategy species of concern due to habitat loss and degradation and threats from invasive species, including Red-eared Sliders (<i>Trachemys scripta elegans</i>). Although population trends have been documented in both native and invasive turtles in Oregon, the physiological health of turtles, and how this might be impacted by habitat quality has been less well-studied. In this study, we examined how common water quality metrics including temperature, pH, and turbidity, affect baseline physiological stress (corticosterone levels), immune function, and capture success rate in both native Western Painted Turtles (<i>Chrysemys picta bellii</i>) and invasive Red-Eared Sliders at Minto Brown Island Park in Salem, OR, from July-September 2024. We used baited hoop nets and recorded water temperature, pH, and turbidity at the time of capture. A blood sample was taken within 5 minutes of capture of each turtle to accurately examine baseline corticosterone levels and immune function (bacterial killing ability and heterophil: lymphocyte ratio). Most of the water quality metrics did not predict turtle capture, corticosterone levels, or immune function. However, water temperature positively predicted turtle capture, with a small positive trend of increased corticosterone with increased temperature. These preliminary findings contribute to broader conservation efforts by enhancing our understanding of the factors that affect freshwater turtle capture, as well as how water metrics may influence physiological health in these species.</p>	Biology and GIS Poster Session	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Understanding Variability of Leaf Trichome Density in Oregon White Oaks	Emily Sedgewick	11:30AM	12:30PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Understanding Variability of Leaf Trichome Density in Oregon White Oaks Emily Sedgewick, Gareth Hopkins, Ava Howard Oak Ecology Research Group, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon 97361 Oregon white oaks (<i>Quercus garryana</i>) are an essential part of our local ecosystems due to the environment and food they provide to wildlife. Trichomes... click for more</p> <p>Understanding Variability of Leaf Trichome Density in Oregon White Oaks Emily Sedgewick, Gareth Hopkins, Ava Howard Oak Ecology Research Group, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon 97361 Oregon white oaks (<i>Quercus garryana</i>) are an essential part of our local ecosystems due to the environment and food they provide to wildlife. Trichomes are hair-like appendages on the surface of leaves of plants and may function for herbivory defense and water retention. Variation in trichomes has not been studied in Oregon white oak. To understand trichome variability in Oregon white oak, we collected leaves from 47 trees in Corvallis, OR in 2020 and measured trichome density in relation to habitat characteristics and tree anatomical traits. The average trichome density was 1542.728 trichomes/mm². Trichomes were more dense on the abaxial (lower) side of the leaf compared to the adaxial (upper) side. Total trichome density was not impacted by habitat, tree sizes, or leaf mass to surface area ratio. The density of trichomes between individual trees was highly varied but was fairly consistent among leaves of the same tree. More research is needed to fully understand if trichomes are an adaptive trait for oaks and their specific functional significance. Keywords: Trichome density, <i>Quercus garryana</i>, Herbivory</p>	Biology and GIS Poster Session	Poster
Meaningful Movement: Celebrating Dance at Western Oregon University	Tim Cowart	11:30AM	12:30PM	Maple Hall	The WOU Dance Program presents a collection of creative research from our 2024-2025 season, by selected student choreographers and esteemed guest artists.	Meaningful Movement: Celebrating Dance at Western Oregon University	Performance
Gabriela Jimenez National Student Exchange	Gabriela Jimenez	11:30AM	12:30PM	Ochocoo (WUC)	View	National Student Exchange: Students' Study-Away Experiences	Poster (Talk)
National Student Exchange: My Study-Away Experience	Grace Bixby	11:30AM	12:30PM	Ochocoo (WUC)	View	National Student Exchange: Students' Study-Away Experiences	Poster (Talk)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
NSE student presentation Maxwell Jayne	Maxwell Jayne	11:30AM	12:30PM	Ochocoo (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	National Student Exchange: Students' Study-Away Experiences	Poster (Talk)
Resume Mixology!	Erin Lieuallen	11:30AM	12:30PM		Rizz-Mixologist In Da House. Learn the recipe for a successful resume, and build yourself a Mocktail in the process.	Resume Mixology!	Poster
3-minute research videos	Feier Hou	12:45PM	01:45PM	Ochocoo (WUC)	Do you want to attend AES but cannot make it to campus in person on AES day? Do you want to share your research with a broader audience? Do you want a short video to include in your resume and portfolio for job or graduate school applications? If you answered "yes" to any of the above, record a very short (3 minute) video about your research, and... click for moreDo you want to attend AES but cannot make it to campus in person on AES day? Do you want to share your research with a broader audience? Do you want a short video to include in your resume and portfolio for job or graduate school applications? If you answered "yes" to any of the above, record a very short (3 minute) video about your research, and submit it to this session! Your video should be short and concise, clearly illustrating your research without much jargon. No fancy recording device required - record it on your laptop, your phone, or any recording device of your choice. This is the session for your to submit your video. Your video will be played in a video room on AES day. (You do not have to be present at this session on AES day - just submit your video before the deadline.) For more information (including an example of a 3-minute video), click here.	3-minute research videos	Recording (Optional) Admin
A Look Into Color Contrast And How It Affects Reading Comprehension	Russell Beitzel	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	The current research explores the relationship between contrasting text colors on a blue background and reading comprehension. This study was conducted on the online platform Qualtrics with Western Oregon University students as participants. The participants' reading comprehension scores were measured after completing a reading passage in either... click for moreThe current research explores the relationship between contrasting text colors on a blue background and reading comprehension. This study was conducted on the online platform Qualtrics with Western Oregon University students as participants. The participants' reading comprehension scores were measured after completing a reading passage in either a blue background with black text, or blue background with white text. While the results of this study have yet to be calculated due to the nature of extending the participation end-date as late as possible, it is predicted that there will be a difference in reading comprehension scores between the two conditions. This prediction derives from previous studies in the field of color contrast theory that suggest comprehension scores vary based on the colors used for text and background.	Behavioral Sciences Research Poster Session	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Life Purpose in Older Adulthood	Marisela Catalan Galeana	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>The purpose of this study was to better understand spirituality in the life narratives of older adults. I analyzed life narratives (n = 34) of older adults via a basic thematic analysis to determine the general themes related to resilience and overcoming adversity. My results included four main categories (adversity, resilience, spirituality, and... click for more</p> <p>The purpose of this study was to better understand spirituality in the life narratives of older adults. I analyzed life narratives (n = 34) of older adults via a basic thematic analysis to determine the general themes related to resilience and overcoming adversity. My results included four main categories (adversity, resilience, spirituality, and family) that were organized into major themes. The major themes included (but were not limited to): giving and receiving family support catalyzes resiliency, organized religion provided a defined structure for life, meaning, resilience, and social connection and personal spirituality allowed some participants to define their structure for life, meaning, resilience, and social connection. Implications of this study show family, social support, and religion and spirituality as vital to overcoming hardships in life.</p>	Behavioral Sciences Research Poster Session	Poster
AI in the Public Mind: Perception Drives Impact	Melanie Kirstein	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>This study examines how perceptions of Artificial Intelligence (AI) influence society's interpretation of its benefits, as well as potential risks, such as its effects on job employment. The researchers conducted a study in which they examined public opinions on AI through a data-driven approach, focusing on... click for more</p> <p>This study examines how perceptions of Artificial Intelligence (AI) influence society's interpretation of its benefits, as well as potential risks, such as its effects on job employment. The researchers conducted a study in which they examined public opinions on AI through a data-driven approach, focusing on demographic and geographical differences. They looked at how factors such as age, gender, region, race, education, and employment affected perceptions of AI. Their results indicated that men, younger respondents, and residents of Northern Western Europe were more likely to have a positive attitude toward AI and its potential benefits to society. In correlation with age, as respondents grew older, their views on AI became more negative. Through these researchers' findings they suggest accounting for diverse perspectives and addressing concerns across demographic groups for AI integration to be successful.</p>	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Cannibalism: Does it make evolutionary or nutritional sense for humans?	Ezra O'Mara-Cook-Baron	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Cannibalism is a phenomenon that has been recorded in a variety of species, including humans. In animals, cannibalism can be for evolutionary benefits like population regulation, elimination of weak offspring, or as nutrition during times of resource scarcity. This analysis examines the possibility of cannibalism in... click for more</p> <p>Cannibalism is a phenomenon that has been recorded in a variety of species, including humans. In animals, cannibalism can be for evolutionary benefits like population regulation, elimination of weak offspring, or as nutrition during times of resource scarcity. This analysis examines the possibility of cannibalism in humans from biological, nutritional, ethical, and comparative zoological perspectives. While human flesh is calorically dense and, in extreme survival situations, has historically served as a food source, its consumption carries severe health risks, including the transmission of prion diseases like kuru and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and is further constrained by moral codes, laws, and cultural taboos. In some other species, such as lions and chimpanzees, cannibalistic behaviors may be exercised under specific environmental or social tension, without the long-term disruption of group or pack structure. This argument suggests that while cannibalism is biologically feasible in human beings and comparable with some animal-like behaviors, it is not feasible in today's society due to its serious ethical, legal, and health implications. However, there is a possibility that in the future, the health risks can be nullified and the stigma can be erased, depending on the circumstances of the future world.</p>	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster
climate change	cameron crooks	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Do cellphone calls actually increase heart disease?	Jennifer Ramos Torres	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Does using your phone a lot increase the risk of heart disease because it affects sleep, stress, or health problems like smoking and diabetes? The study looked at how using your phone a lot might affect your heart by causing things like poor sleep, stress, and bad mental health. It also found that people who smoke... click for more</p> <p>Does using your phone a lot increase the risk of heart disease because it affects sleep, stress, or health problems like smoking and diabetes? The study looked at how using your phone a lot might affect your heart by causing things like poor sleep, stress, and bad mental health. It also found that people who smoke or have diabetes, who are already more at risk for heart problems, tend to use their phones more. The researchers studied data from 444,027 people in the UK Biobank to explore the link between cellphone use and heart disease. Participants reported how much time they spent making phone calls each week, and their health was tracked over an average of 12.3 years. The study measured the risk of heart problems like stroke and heart failure based on phone use. It also looked at how poor sleep, stress, and existing conditions like smoking and diabetes might explain the increased risk. The study suggests that using your phone a lot doesn't directly cause heart disease, but it can lead to poor sleep and more stress, which can increase the risk, especially for people who already have health issues like smoking or diabetes. So, it's more about how phone use affects your overall health, not just the phone calls themselves, which makes the study a little inaccurate. This research is important because it shows that heavy phone use might hurt your health in ways people don't always think about, like messing up your sleep or increasing stress. Understanding this can help people make healthier choices and avoid bigger health problems like heart disease later on. Using your phone a lot can increase the risk of heart disease, but not directly. It's mostly because it can lead to poor sleep, higher stress, and worse mental health, especially in people who already have health issues like smoking or diabetes. This research highlights how something as common as phone use can affect our health in unexpected ways. While phones are a big part of everyday life, spending too much time on calls might increase the risk of heart disease, not because of the phone itself, but because of how it impacts our overall well-being. The study found that heavy phone use is linked to poor sleep, more stress, and worse mental health. These issues can harm the heart over time, especially for people who already smoke or have diabetes. That means phone use can make existing health problems even worse. Understanding this connection is important because it shows that small habits, like talking on the phone for hours, could have long-term health effects. Being aware of these risks can help people make better choices, like setting limits on phone time, improving sleep, and managing stress. It also reminds us that health isn't just about diet and</p>	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
					exercise, our daily routines and screen time matter too. As technology continues to grow, so does its impact on our health. Being mindful of how much time we spend on our phones could be a simple way to protect our hearts and improve our overall well-being. While more research is needed, this study helps us think differently about how technology affects our bodies.		
fys student showcase	Braiden Copeland	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster
Genetically Modified Organisms	Xochitl Madrigal	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	This research evaluates the advantages and disadvantages of GMO foods. The topic of GMO has been a topic for discussion within the scientific community and general population for some time regarding its safety for consumption because it is genetically modified. This project is meant to educate individuals who... click for moreThis research evaluates the advantages and disadvantages of GMO foods. The topic of GMO has been a topic for discussion within the scientific community and general population for some time regarding its safety for consumption because it is genetically modified. This project is meant to educate individuals who may have questions towards the concept of GMO and to evaluate its pros and cons. Overall, my findings conclude GMO does not hold significant harm when consumed and instead benefits us.	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster
GMOS vs Natural Foods	isabelle hernandez	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)		First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster
Hidden Opportunities	Angelina Flores	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	This short film captures a transformative moment in my life where an inconvenient day filled with frustration and resistance evolves into a powerful lesson in perspective, connection, and personal growth. An unexpected interaction would lead me to discover the beauty and meaning in the most unlikely of places. Through this film, I reflect on how... click for moreThis short film captures a transformative moment in my life where an inconvenient day filled with frustration and resistance evolves into a powerful lesson in perspective, connection, and personal growth. An unexpected interaction would lead me to discover the beauty and meaning in the most unlikely of places. Through this film, I reflect on how subtle shifts in mindset and attitude can alter one's path in profound ways—revealing how opportunities often arrive disguised as inconveniences.	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Impacts of Outside Domestic House Cats on Their Owners and the Environment	Sage Butler	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>This review explores literature and research regarding the effects of allowing domestic house cats outside of the home. I compiled information on house cats impacts on local bird populations and potential to put owners at risk of disease from multiple articles. Literature on the topic indicates that house cats do have a large impact on bird... click for more</p> <p>This review explores literature and research regarding the effects of allowing domestic house cats outside of the home. I compiled information on house cats impacts on local bird populations and potential to put owners at risk of disease from multiple articles. Literature on the topic indicates that house cats do have a large impact on bird populations even when the actual mortality rate of birds killed by cats is not significant. While conclusions from researchers seem split <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> can be found in very high concentrations among house cat populations and have extremely harmful effects on the human body, especially prevalent in pregnant women. These studies suggest that allowing house cats outside can cause damage both in and outside the home putting both environments and cat owners at risk.</p>	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster
Is AI a Tool or a Threat to Us and Our Environment?	Mayela Poareo Davidson	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>There is much conflicting research about whether AI is helping us mitigate our climate crisis, or is contributing to the climate crisis. I conducted research from many different scholarly articles discussing the production and use of AI and its effects on our environment. The research shows that AI does have... click for more</p> <p>There is much conflicting research about whether AI is helping us mitigate our climate crisis, or is contributing to the climate crisis. I conducted research from many different scholarly articles discussing the production and use of AI and its effects on our environment. The research shows that AI does have significant environmental impacts. These impacts include the release of greenhouse gasses and energy consumption. Greenhouse gasses are a large contributor to climate change. In large quantities these impacts are concerning for our environment. However, the research also shows that with responsible and calculated use of AI, AI can be an aid in finding climate change solutions. This is dependent on using AI in sustainable and environmentally aware methods and models. The controversy of AI and its relationship to our environment is an important topic because it has a direct impact on our planet, which in turn directly impacts everyone.</p>	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Poster	Braiden Copeland	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Question? How has growing awareness of brain damage in football affected the rules of the game and public attitudes toward youth participation? Methodology? To explore this question, I will review medical studies on brain injuries in football, analyze rule changes in the NFL and youth leagues, and examine news articles and surveys to understand... click for more</p> <p>Question? How has growing awareness of brain damage in football affected the rules of the game and public attitudes toward youth participation? Methodology? To explore this question, I will review medical studies on brain injuries in football, analyze rule changes in the NFL and youth leagues, and examine news articles and surveys to understand public opinion. This mixed approach will help show both the scientific impact and the social response. Findings? Research shows that increased awareness of brain damage in football has led to safety focused rule changes at all levels of the sport and growing concern among parents about youth participation. However, while the game is becoming safer, debates continue over whether it can ever be truly risk-free. Importance? This research highlights the need to balance the cultural value of football with the responsibility to protect players long term brain health, especially among young athletes. Full- People are starting to learn more about how playing football can cause brain damage, so the rules of the game are changing to make it safer, especially for kids. Even though some things have improved, people still argue about whether football can be completely safe. To find out more, I looked at science studies about brain injuries, checked out how the NFL and youth leagues have changed their rules, and read news articles and surveys about what people think. This helped me understand both the health facts and how people feel about the sport. My research shows that we need to find a way to keep football fun and important while also keeping players brains safe, especially for younger kids.</p>	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poste
Presentation of Clean Energy	Brett Highburger	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Clean energy is an energy source that produces little to no greenhouse gases and other pollutants which greenhouse gases are a big factor in global warming. The energy sources are things like wind turbines and solar panels and biomass, but that is where the problems arise because the inconsistency in clean energy... click for more</p> <p>Clean energy is an energy source that produces little to no greenhouse gases and other pollutants which greenhouse gases are a big factor in global warming. The energy sources are things like wind turbines and solar panels and biomass, but that is where the problems arise because the inconsistency in clean energy comes from environmental changes which can cause solar panels to not work from getting no sunlight for example. Clean energy is a good method that if it can overcome those problems it will help a lot in eliminating greenhouse gases. Pictures:</p>	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poste

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Presentation on Clean Energy	Brett Highburger	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	Clean Energy: Clean energy is an energy source that produces little to no greenhouse gases and other pollutants which greenhouse gases are a big factor in global warming. The energy sources are things like wind turbines and solar panels and biomass, but that is where the problems arise because the inconsistency in... click for more Clean Energy: Clean energy is an energy source that produces little to no greenhouse gases and other pollutants which greenhouse gases are a big factor in global warming. The energy sources are things like wind turbines and solar panels and biomass, but that is where the problems arise because the inconsistency in clean energy comes from environmental changes which can cause solar panels to not work from getting no sunlight for example. Clean energy is a good method that if it can overcome those problems it will help a lot in eliminating greenhouse gases.	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster
Scientist Trying to Bring Back Extinct Animals	Brooke Bleser	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	This project explores the controversial and rapidly advancing field of de-extinction, where scientists use cloning, gene editing, and selective breeding to bring extinct animals back to life. The central question guiding this research is whether reviving extinct species can provide meaningful ecological benefits or if it poses more risks than... click for more This project explores the controversial and rapidly advancing field of de-extinction, where scientists use cloning, gene editing, and selective breeding to bring extinct animals back to life. The central question guiding this research is whether reviving extinct species can provide meaningful ecological benefits or if it poses more risks than rewards. Focusing on high-profile efforts like attempts to resurrect the woolly mammoth and the thylacine, the project examines the scientific methods involved, the ethical dilemmas, and the environmental implications. It also considers whether de-extinction is a practical conservation tool or a distraction from protecting endangered species. Ultimately, the study asks: Can—and should—science reverse extinction?	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
The controversy behind animal testing	Harley Harper-Larson	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>The research I am conducting explores the ethical and scientific controversies surrounding animal testing, particularly its role in modern biomedical research. I investigated this topic by analyzing both primary and secondary scholarly sources, including a peer-reviewed study by Ferdowsian and Beck (2011) that evaluates the ethical justifications... click for more</p> <p>The research I am conducting explores the ethical and scientific controversies surrounding animal testing, particularly its role in modern biomedical research. I investigated this topic by analyzing both primary and secondary scholarly sources, including a peer-reviewed study by Ferdowsian and Beck (2011) that evaluates the ethical justifications and scientific validity of animal experiments, and a review article by Doke and Dhawale (2015) that surveys current alternatives to animal testing. the primary article revealed that animal models frequently fail to accurately predict outcomes in humans, and raise significant moral concerns, while the secondary article emphasized the growing reliability of alternative methods such as in vitro testing and computer modeling. These findings suggest that although animal testing has historically contributed to medical advances, its continued use is increasingly challenged by ethical considerations and the availability of more humane and scientifically relevant alternatives. This research is important because it highlights the evolving tension between scientific progress and animal welfare, encouraging greater investment in alternative methods and stricter ethical oversight in research.</p>	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
The effect of Artificial Intelligence on today's Academic Society	Jayden Vanderveen	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>My current research explores the effect of artificial intelligence on today's academic society. I had asked peers on my college campus, and compared their opinions to online sources, and even what certain AI platforms had to say. They were asked how they think artificial intelligence... click for more</p> <p>My current research explores the effect of artificial intelligence on today's academic society. I had asked peers on my college campus, and compared their opinions to online sources, and even what certain AI platforms had to say. They were asked how they think artificial intelligence affects their schooling, whether it is used for beneficial purposes, whether it will hurt the future society/generations, how it affects the development of "soft-skills", and how it affects writing abilities. My results indicate that my peers think "AI usage in school is beneficial, because it can expand on topics that maybe the professor didn't expand on, and limit the necessity to use office hours. I think AI can be used for beneficial purposes, but it depends on the student and how they use it for assistance. Students use it for answers and less for tools for studying." As for soft skills, they will become even more important to stay relevant in a workspace as AI continues to advance. Furthermore, artificial intelligence subverts the learning and thinking process when it's used to write essays that the student hasn't sufficiently learned about. My research shows that artificial intelligence usage in schools will affect our future society and generations, but as of right now, students don't see it as harmful. Sources: Westover, J. H. (n.d.). How AI use will increase the value of soft skills at work. Innovative Human Capital. Retrieved May 7, 2025, from https://www.innovativehumancapital.com/article/how-ai-use-will-increase-the-value-of-soft-skills-at-work</p> <p>Garbarine, R. (2023, March 27). How is AI changing how we write and create? NC State University Department of English. Retrieved May 7, 2025, from https://chass.ncsu.edu/news/2023/03/27/how-is-ai-changing-how-we-write-and-create/</p> <p>target="_blank">View</p>	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
The Ethical Concerns of Human Genetic Modification	Averie Duyck	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	For my Academic Excellence Showcase project I will be focusing on genetic modification in humans and its ethical concerns. I specifically want to highlight why genetic modification occurs and its benefits, but it cons when it comes to the creation of a human life. Using academic literature reviews and primary... click for moreFor my Academic Excellence Showcase project I will be focusing on genetic modification in humans and its ethical concerns. I specifically want to highlight why genetic modification occurs and its benefits, but it cons when it comes to the creation of a human life. Using academic literature reviews and primary research experiments I was able to analyze topics such as changing agriculture crop genomes, advancing in disease treatment, and the lack of ethics when changing an embryo's DNA. Based on such journals it is clear that there are necessary needs for the gene editing tool, the "Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats", or CRISPR. This tool can help our health as a society, and for agricultural purposes, but when it comes to an embryo, many, including myself, draw the line.	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster
The Habitability of Planets in Interstellar	Ray Welch, Celeste Mejias Melendez	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	Interstellar Real Estate: Is this Planet for Sale? (And Also... Survivable?) Purpose: To evaluate the habitability of the three planets showcased in the film Interstellar, directed by Christopher Nolan. In addition to this, we also sought to understand the intricacies of planet habitability and provide traits that the last planet shown in the... click for moreInterstellar Real Estate: Is this Planet for Sale? (And Also... Survivable?) Purpose: To evaluate the habitability of the three planets showcased in the film Interstellar, directed by Christopher Nolan. In addition to this, we also sought to understand the intricacies of planet habitability and provide traits that the last planet shown in the film likely possesses in order to be habitable. Methods: Research for this project was done via the collection of secondary sources, including academic studies relating to the habitability of planets, black holes, and exoplanets, academic journals, and the film Interstellar. Results: We found that the first two planets shown in the film would indeed not be habitable, and provided information about what would need to change in order for them to be habitable. We also theorized the reasons why the last planet was found to be habitable by analyzing the few clips of it shown in the film. Conclusion: The Miller and Mann planets are uninhabitable due to their closeness to a black hole, resulting in them having extreme surface conditions. The last planet, Edmund, is habitable because it resides in a habitable zone while orbiting the black hole. This causes its conditions to be similar to Earth's.	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
The Importance of Vaccines	Mari Miguel	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>My research is on how some vaccines protect against some kinds of bacteria. I will be trying to find some studies that I've seen online, and I will try to analyze some data that will also be online to be able to summarize the effectiveness of preventing some kind of bacteria with vaccines. All of this information will allow me to compare some... click for more</p> <p>My research is on how some vaccines protect against some kinds of bacteria. I will be trying to find some studies that I've seen online, and I will try to analyze some data that will also be online to be able to summarize the effectiveness of preventing some kind of bacteria with vaccines. All of this information will allow me to compare some vaccination rates and data with various types of vaccines. My findings show that vaccines are highly effective in reducing the spread of infectious diseases across diverse populations. Regions with higher vaccination rates consistently report lower incidences of vaccine-preventable illnesses, confirming the critical role of immunization in public health. The importance of my research is vaccines in protecting public health and supporting vaccination programs to prevent disease outbreaks.</p>	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster
The Lazarus Taxa	BeaZea Haytas	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>In paleontology, the phenomenon is described as species that have disappeared from the fossil record for one or more periods of time only to reappear later as fossils or living organisms. Conservation biology and ecology define it as species or populations that were thought to be extinct and were rediscovered alive after a period of time.... click for more</p> <p>In paleontology, the phenomenon is described as species that have disappeared from the fossil record for one or more periods of time only to reappear later as fossils or living organisms. Conservation biology and ecology define it as species or populations that were thought to be extinct and were rediscovered alive after a period of time. Scientists debate the causes of the Lazarus taxa with explanations ranging from the refugia theory (biological) to sampling failure (stratigraphic). Refugia describes Lazarua taxa as having found areas of shelter that protected populations during environmental crisis, allowing re-emergence into the surrounding area afterwards. Sampling failure argues that the taxa only "disappeared" because of inadequate data collection. Examples of paleontological taxa include the Coelacanth (Latimeria) which was rediscovered in 1938 after being thought to be extinct due to its absence from the fossil record 66 million years ago. Species from the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red list that have reappeared include the New Caledonian Crested Gecko (<i>Correlophus ciliatus</i>) first described in 1866 and thought extinct until 1994.</p>	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
The Problems of CTE	Baxter cox	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	This research looks at how repeated hits to the head affect football players over time, especially regarding a condition called chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). It turns out that the number and force of these head impacts are more important for the risk of CTE than just the concussions that players might receive. Researchers studied data... click for moreThis research looks at how repeated hits to the head affect football players over time, especially regarding a condition called chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). It turns out that the number and force of these head impacts are more important for the risk of CTE than just the concussions that players might receive. Researchers studied data from more than 600 former football players and found that playing longer and experiencing harder hits raised their chances of developing CTE. The symptoms of CTE can include memory loss, mood changes, and trouble thinking clearly. These findings show that we really need to improve safety in football. This could mean creating better helmets and changing game rules to help reduce head impacts. It's important to tackle these risks to protect the long-term brain health of athletes and make the game safer for everyone.	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster
The Science Of Interstellar	Naomy Fuentes	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster
The Search for Dark Matter/Energy	John Harris	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	There is a lot of research being done on the structure of our universe and its expansion, and one of the leading theories is the existence of dark matter and energy. I am researching various articles, scholarly and otherwise, and creating a poster displaying this information. I have found that there is an abundance of evidence supporting the... click for moreThere is a lot of research being done on the structure of our universe and its expansion, and one of the leading theories is the existence of dark matter and energy. I am researching various articles, scholarly and otherwise, and creating a poster displaying this information. I have found that there is an abundance of evidence supporting the existence of both dark matter and dark energy in our universe. This is important because the existence of dark matter and energy would clear up a lot of missing information about how the universe began and the way that it works.	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
What Exactly Causes ADHD?	Roy Tucker	12:45PM	01:45PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>What exactly causes ADHD? To find out what exactly causes ADHD I started accessing information by organizations such as the mayo clinic and the national library of medicine. So far I've found that it appears to be genetic but the environment also plays a part in ADHD but ADHD is also more common in low birth weight and premature children, also... click for more</p> <p>What exactly causes ADHD? To find out what exactly causes ADHD I started accessing information by organizations such as the mayo clinic and the national library of medicine. So far I've found that it appears to be genetic but the environment also plays a part in ADHD but ADHD is also more common in low birth weight and premature children, also those who were exposed to extreme adversity early in one's life, it is thought that the central nervous system has a part to play too. It is important to know what causes ADHD as knowing the cause can severely help treatment plans and allow for better support for those who have ADHD and maybe one day being able to make a cure.</p>	First Year Seminar Student Showcase	Poster
Maurice Creativity Prize	Stephen Scheck	12:45PM	01:45PM	Willamette (WUC)	<p>A presentation by the student or student team selected as the winner of the annual Maurice Undergraduate Initiative. The Maurice Undergraduate Initiative Prize Competition is designed to challenge students to use their own creativity and innovation in solving a problem of importance to them, therefore deepening their breadth of knowledge about... click for more</p> <p>A presentation by the student or student team selected as the winner of the annual Maurice Undergraduate Initiative. The Maurice Undergraduate Initiative Prize Competition is designed to challenge students to use their own creativity and innovation in solving a problem of importance to them, therefore deepening their breadth of knowledge about themselves and their abilities. This annual competition—open to Western Oregon University undergraduate students—includes a prize of \$5,000 to the individual winner or team who has demonstrated the deepest learning and problem solving. In selecting a project of their own desire, it is the belief that participants will experience an additional educational benefit outside of their standard coursework. Additionally, participants will plan and execute a strategy to address their issue while applying their own knowledge, creative use of resources, and the ability to work with others to find solutions.</p>	Maurice Creativity Prize	Even (special award)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Influence of Large-Scale Volcanic Eruptions on Global Climate	Lillian Prince	02:00PM	04:30PM	RWEC 101	<p>This research project explores the relationship between large-scale volcanic eruptions and global climate, with a focus on the factors driving volcanically induced cooling events and the potential impact on humans. Information for this study was derived from existing literature sources and includes data, climate models, and global circulation... click for more</p> <p>This research project explores the relationship between large-scale volcanic eruptions and global climate, with a focus on the factors driving volcanically induced cooling events and the potential impact on humans. Information for this study was derived from existing literature sources and includes data, climate models, and global circulation maps, which were used to perform comparative analyses of well-studied large-scale volcanic eruptions. The severity and duration of volcanically driven global cooling events are controlled by several factors, including the location of the volcano in the global wind system and the quantity and characteristics of the aerosols ejected. The main climate shifts that follow eruptions are cooling driven by reduced solar irradiance, leading to humans being impacted by issues such as acid rain, plague outbreaks, and famine due to reduced agricultural productivity. Based on data and results from various studies, volcanoes that eject a higher quantity of sulfur and sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere tend to have more significant cooling periods, which also means that those eruptions are more likely to negatively affect humans. Coupled with this, volcanoes situated within the tropical latitudes have a more widespread effect due to their position within the global trade winds.</p>	Earth and Environmental Science Senior Seminar: Global Volcanism and Humans	Present (Talk)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
The Impact of Volcanic Ash Fall on Human Health	Tiwfaluk Umulap	02:00PM	04:30PM	RWEC 101	<p>The health implications of volcanic ash from explosive eruptions to the human respiratory system can be significant. This project explores the impact that ash can have on communities and towns after an eruption. In one study linked to the 2002 eruption of Mount Etna in Italy, hospital emergency department visits from 1 month after the eruption... click for more</p> <p>The health implications of volcanic ash from explosive eruptions to the human respiratory system can be significant. This project explores the impact that ash can have on communities and towns after an eruption. In one study linked to the 2002 eruption of Mount Etna in Italy, hospital emergency department visits from 1 month after the eruption were compared with visits during the same time period one year prior to the eruption. Results showed that there was a significant increase in visits related to respiratory system ailments associated with exposure to ashfall. Further, data showed that these issues continued longer due to re-suspended ash from human activities. Another study from Hawaii considered "vog" associated with Kilauea Volcano, which has been erupting since 1983. Researchers assessed exposure of sulfur dioxide and acidic aerosol on children and demonstrated that chronic exposure to vog is linked to coughing and long-term impacts on lung function. Results from these studies can be used by public health officials to prepare for the increased number of individuals suffering from respiratory system problems. For example, equipment to mitigate re-suspension of ash, warning systems, and more personnel to distribute masks have shown to be crucial strategies to protect human lives. This study contributes to understanding of both short- and long-term effects of ash fall to the human respiratory system. This kind of information is vital for communities to better understand the consequences and how to prepare for potentially hazardous volcanoes.</p>	Earth and Environmental Science Senior Seminar: Global Volcanism and Humans	Presentations (Talks)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Volcanic Hazard Mitigation Strategies For Remote Communities In Developing Countries	Dante Haven	02:00PM	04:30PM	RWEC 101	<p>Volcanic hazards have affected communities throughout human history. In the last century, tremendous advancements have taken place in the field of volcanology resulting in many lives being saved. However, many remote communities, especially those in developing countries, are not as well protected. This study compares eruptions from Nevado del... click for more</p> <p>Volcanic hazards have affected communities throughout human history. In the last century, tremendous advancements have taken place in the field of volcanology resulting in many lives being saved. However, many remote communities, especially those in developing countries, are not as well protected. This study compares eruptions from Nevado del Ruiz, Mt. Pinatubo, and Mt. Kelud by assessing improvements in hazard mitigation strategies over the past 4 decades. Data from various published sources include death tolls, eruption characteristics, and infrastructure loss. The eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo and Mt. Kelud demonstrate an evolution in mitigation and communication strategies, resulting in far fewer deaths and injuries as well as greater preservation of infrastructure. The strategies deployed in the time leading up to these eruptions were particularly effective in hazard mitigation especially when compared to the 1985 Nevado del Ruiz eruption. Comparative analysis of eruptions improves our ability to save more lives in the future. Pairing what we learn, with new advancements in volcanic technologies, allows us to make sure tragedies like the lahars of Armero, Columbia never happen again.</p>	Earth and Environmental Science Senior Seminar: Global Volcanism and Humans	Present (Talk)
New Technological Advancements in Volcano Monitoring	Mitzi Pulido Tetuan	02:00PM	04:30PM	RWEC 101	<p>To assess how emerging technologies are improving volcano monitoring, this project reviews published research from the last 5 years. This study focuses on two promising technological strategies and evaluates each in terms of how successful a given approach is in assessing and mitigating volcanic hazards. Remote sensing strategies that employ... click for more</p> <p>To assess how emerging technologies are improving volcano monitoring, this project reviews published research from the last 5 years. This study focuses on two promising technological strategies and evaluates each in terms of how successful a given approach is in assessing and mitigating volcanic hazards. Remote sensing strategies that employ interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) technology have grown significantly over the past several decades and provide evidence of subsurface magma and pressure changes without the need for ground equipment. The global volcano monitoring infrastructure database (GVMID) is an emerging resource encompassing networks, stations, and instruments to help meet the diverse needs of the volcano science community. While InSAR provides greater data collection at the local and regional scale, data underutilization and collaboration challenges arise, making GVMID crucial for analysis and efficient hazard response.</p>	Earth and Environmental Science Senior Seminar: Global Volcanism and Humans	Present (Talk)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Development and Implementation of Standing Orders for Nurse Treatment of Syphilis in Linn & Benton Counties	Rachel La Vigne, Emma Bangs	02:00PM	03:00PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	OHSU Nursing Leadership Poster Presentations	Poster
Enhancing Measles Preparedness in Lane County, Oregon: Customizing Simulations to Support Vulnerable Populations and Build Response Confidence	Erin Fox, Celeste Palma-Zavala	02:00PM	03:00PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	OHSU Nursing Leadership Poster Presentations	Poster
Evaluating Sheridan School District Comprehensive Substance Use Prevention Plan: Guiding the Development of Evidenced-Based Interventions for Students at Moderate Risk	Karina Villa Diaz	02:00PM	03:00PM	Pacific (WUC)	Please review attached presentation and abstract.	OHSU Nursing Leadership Poster Presentations	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Implementation of Mindfulness Tool Kit to Improve Sleep in Adolescents	Clarissa Traeger, Natalya Burgess	02:00PM	03:00PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>The majority of adolescents are not getting an adequate amount of sleep. By not receiving the recommended amount of sleep, teens are at a higher risk for anxiety, depression, suicide, and substance abuse disorders. Mindfulness is one of the many interventions linked to improving sleep. This process improvement project aims to improve adolescent... click for more</p> <p>The majority of adolescents are not getting an adequate amount of sleep. By not receiving the recommended amount of sleep, teens are at a higher risk for anxiety, depression, suicide, and substance abuse disorders. Mindfulness is one of the many interventions linked to improving sleep. This process improvement project aims to improve adolescent sleep by implementing a mindfulness tool kit at Mind Matters. By utilizing the Plan-Do-Study-Act or PDSA model, we implemented a mindfulness educational video and a mindfulness quick guide. These educational deliverables were presented to the providers of Mind Matters and an adolescent girls' group where they were each asked to complete a pre-and post-survey regarding their knowledge of sleep and mindfulness. After analyzing the survey results, the girls' group showed evidence that many learned something new about mindfulness and sleep. The findings of the provider's survey showed that many agreed that they would use these educational materials with their patients. By using the different techniques suggested in our tool kit such as mindfulness meditation apps, box breathing, and three good things, adolescents can see improvements in their sleep. We hope that improving sleep in adolescents with the implementation of this mindfulness tool kit will enhance the Mind Matters patient's mental health and well-being.</p>	OHSU Nursing Leadership Poster Presentations	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Improving Human Papillomavirus Vaccination (HPV) Rates in Adolescents	Clarice Mathewson, Cindy Pleitez	02:00PM	03:00PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>In the United States, we have the capability to eliminate the cause of 99% of cervical cancer, 90% of anal cancer, and most vaginal, oropharyngeal, and penile cancers all through the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (National Cancer Institute, 2023). Although the HPV vaccine is effective when received at the recommended time (ages 11-13), less... click for more</p> <p>In the United States, we have the capability to eliminate the cause of 99% of cervical cancer, 90% of anal cancer, and most vaginal, oropharyngeal, and penile cancers all through the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (National Cancer Institute, 2023). Although the HPV vaccine is effective when received at the recommended time (ages 11-13), less than 60% of adults are vaccinated in the US (National Cancer Institute, 2023). Despite the vaccine's significant potential, Yamhill County, Oregon, vaccination promotion has been strongly discouraged, forbidding the public health department to educate on HPV in community settings or promote the vaccination, limiting the awareness and education Yamhill residents receive. To address this problem and increase the rate of HPV vaccination in adolescents we have developed six interventions including educating students in the classroom setting, promoting community education through health fairs, assessing and updating current teaching given by educators in public schools, collaborating with community stakeholders, working with new Yamhill county commissioner on promotion, and creating policy change by collaborating with state policy makers to require HPV vaccination in schools. The goal of these interventions is to reduce the number of people with HPV and, consequently, reduce the rate of HPV related cancers.</p>	OHSU Nursing Leadership Poster Presentations	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Improving Kindergarten Readiness Through Parental Education About Developmental Milestones.	Nicholas Kunkle, Ivan Reyes Gonzalez	02:00PM	03:00PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>OBJECTIVE: Increase kindergarten readiness through parental education about developmental milestones. METHODS: Utilizing the logic model to identify gaps in the current modality of parental education. Conducting interviews with local principals allowed insight into their perspectives regarding childhood... click for more</p> <p>OBJECTIVE: Increase kindergarten readiness through parental education about developmental milestones. METHODS: Utilizing the logic model to identify gaps in the current modality of parental education. Conducting interviews with local principals allowed insight into their perspectives regarding childhood development in the school district. Using that information we were able to develop a trifold that includes education about some expected childhood milestones from birth to 5 years of age. A QR code was also implemented into the trifold that leads to another page that is full of resources for parents such as parenting classes, more detailed information about milestones, and where to locate preschools. RESULTS: An educational trifold has been developed that includes information about expected milestones for children from birth to 5 years old. A list of additional resources was also compiled to go along with the trifold that parents can use to get even more education at their own leisure. Also included in that list is information for parenting classes and preschool information. Multiple stakeholders have identified themselves as interested in this educational pamphlet, including Salen Health, WIC, Family Building Blocks, and Small Town Pediatrics. CONCLUSIONS: The community has agreed on the need for an increase in kindergarten readiness. There has also been interest from community stakeholders, which allows for this parental education to be more widely available.</p>	OHSU Nursing Leadership Poster Presentations	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
OHSU Nursing Leadership Poster Presentations	Ibeth Gomez Vaquera, Melissa Cortes	02:00PM	03:00PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Puberty is a time of significant physical, emotional, and social change, often causing confusion and discomfort among youth. In the Gervais community, cultural and societal norms, particularly within its large Hispanic and Old Russian populations, have significantly influenced students' access to timely puberty education, especially at the... click for more</p> <p>Puberty is a time of significant physical, emotional, and social change, often causing confusion and discomfort among youth. In the Gervais community, cultural and societal norms, particularly within its large Hispanic and Old Russian populations, have significantly influenced students' access to timely puberty education, especially at the elementary school level. To address these issues, our project introduced puberty education to fifth-grade students using the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) model to guide implementation. A five-question parent survey gathered perspectives on the topic, and fifty fifth-grade students completed a six-question pre-test to assess knowledge of developmental and hygiene-related changes typically occurring between ages eight and thirteen. After an informational session and distribution of resource materials, a post-test revealed a significant improvement in students' understanding. However, some areas still required further clarification, indicating a need for continued reinforcement. These results support integrating early puberty education into the elementary school curriculum to enhance hygiene, self-awareness, body perception, and overall preparedness for developmental changes.</p>	OHSU Nursing Leadership Poster Presentations	Poster
OHSU Nursing Leadership Poster Presentations	Ivan Reyes Gonzalez, Nicholas Kunkle	02:00PM	03:00PM	Pacific (WUC)	Abstract/Image not submitted	OHSU Nursing Leadership Poster Presentations	Poster

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Optimizing the Medical Emergency Response at Polk County Jail	Jessica Smith, Cruz Lopez	02:00PM	03:00PM	Pacific (WUC)	<p>Optimizing the Medical Emergency Response at Polk County Jail Abstract Background: Adequate healthcare within correctional facilities is essential for ensuring the well-being of inmates. However, Polk County Jail lacks 24-hour medical staffing, which can lead to... click for more</p> <p>Optimizing the Medical Emergency Response at Polk County Jail Abstract Background: Adequate healthcare within correctional facilities is essential for ensuring the well-being of inmates. However, Polk County Jail lacks 24-hour medical staffing, which can lead to delays in medical attention, exacerbation of health conditions, and increased risk of medical emergencies in the absence of medically trained personnel. Purpose: This research and poster investigate how staffing 24-hour medical personnel improves emergency medical response within the Polk County Jail. Approach: Our research used the Spectrum of Prevention model as a framework. We comprehensively analyzed emergency medical treatment resources and obstacles within the Polk County Jail. Our methodology involved data collection through various channels, including direct observations, insights from on-duty medical personnel, facilitation of the annual on-site emergency training seminar, and surveys administered to Polk County Sheriff Deputies. This approach allowed us to evaluate existing emergency response protocols, identify areas for improvement, and investigate barriers to establishing round-the-clock medical staffing. Outcomes/implications: Implementing 24-hour medical staffing at the Polk County Jail will improve health outcomes for incarcerated individuals and enhance overall community health. Around-the-clock coverage ensures a timely response to medical emergencies and helps prevent avoidable complications. To support this transition, a basic medical emergency response guide was also developed for non-medical staff, helping bridge current gaps in care during off-hours.</p>	OHSU Nursing Leadership Poster Presentations	Poster
Tiny Beautiful Things	Michael Phillips	02:00PM	04:00PM	Rice Auditorium	<p>WOU Theatre is proud to present Tiny Beautiful Things, by Nia Vardalos, based on the bestselling book by Cheryl Strayed. Tiny Beautiful Things personifies the questions and answers that "Sugar" was publishing online from 2010-2012. When the struggling writer was asked to take over the unpaid, anonymous position of advice... click for more</p> <p>WOU Theatre is proud to present Tiny Beautiful Things, by Nia Vardalos, based on the bestselling book by Cheryl Strayed. Tiny Beautiful Things personifies the questions and answers that "Sugar" was publishing online from 2010-2012. When the struggling writer was asked to take over the unpaid, anonymous position of advice columnist, Strayed used empathy and her personal experiences to help those seeking guidance for obstacles both large and small. Tiny Beautiful Things is a play about reaching when you're stuck, healing when you're broken, and finding the courage to take on the questions that have no answers.</p>	Tiny Beautiful Things	Perfor

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Software Sorcerers	Alden Roy, Kaitlyn Woodard, Brady Parksion, Kira Morgan	03:00PM	05:00PM	ITC 211	<p>Movie Magic: A simplified and accessible browsing experience Alden Roy, Kaitlyn Woodard, Kira Morgan, Brady Parksion Movie Magic is a centralized movie search engine and recommendations platform that will fulfill all your binge planning needs. With a main search page that links you to the streaming services the content you're looking for is on,.... click for more</p> <p>Movie Magic: A simplified and accessible browsing experience Alden Roy, Kaitlyn Woodard, Kira Morgan, Brady Parksion Movie Magic is a centralized movie search engine and recommendations platform that will fulfill all your binge planning needs. With a main search page that links you to the streaming services the content you're looking for is on, we've streamlined this to a single service, instead of google's obnoxious navigation. Movie Magic is also ADA compliant and made for the purpose of accommodating people with visual and audio disabilities. Screen reader accessibility, color contrast features, font size adjustments, and dyslexic font accommodations, make this an online experience that everyone should be able to use easily. With our personalized user dashboard, you can check recently viewed movies, change preferences, and add streaming services to you account. Don't know what to watch? We've got you covered. With our AI assisted chatbot, you can find anything you need with the click of a button. Everyone knows how long it can take to find something to watch, but with Movie Magic, you'll be done in seconds! Mentor: Becka Morgan and Chris Brooks</p>	Computer Science Capstone	Present (Talk)
Architech's Wildfire Web App. Presentation	Quintan Meinung, Michael Deladurantaye, Jonny Reynoso, Eric Lomeli	03:00PM	05:00PM	ITC 211	<p>Webfire: Wildfire tracking service Jonny Reynoso Diaz, Quintan Meinung, Eric Lomeli-Gil, Michael Deladurantaye Tracking wildfires in real time can be challenging for communities and responders. Enter Webfire: a dynamic web app designed to keep users informed about active fires across the US. Webfire simplifies wildfire monitoring by allowing... click for more</p> <p>Webfire: Wildfire tracking service Jonny Reynoso Diaz, Quintan Meinung, Eric Lomeli-Gil, Michael Deladurantaye Tracking wildfires in real time can be challenging for communities and responders. Enter Webfire: a dynamic web app designed to keep users informed about active fires across the US. Webfire simplifies wildfire monitoring by allowing users to subscribe to specific fires and receive instant notifications on status changes, containment updates, and evacuation zone changes. What sets Webfire apart is its personalized alert system and user-friendly interface, ensuring critical information is always at your fingertips. Join us as we introduce Webfire, your essential tool for staying ahead of wildfire threats.</p>	Computer Science Capstone	Present (Talk)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
UxCheckmate	Alexis Ramos, Andrea Betun Jacho, Stevie Trapero, Sagan Rauscher	03:00PM	05:00PM	ITC 211	UxCheckmate: AI-Enhanced Web Accessibility and User Experience Auditing Software Lexy Ramos, Andrea Belen Jacho, Stevie Trapero, Sagan Rauscher UxCheckmate is an accessibility-focused web application that empowers users to evaluate and improve the inclusivity of their websites with ease. By simply entering a web link, users receive actionable... click for more UxCheckmate: AI-Enhanced Web Accessibility and User Experience Auditing Software Lexy Ramos, Andrea Belen Jacho, Stevie Trapero, Sagan Rauscher UxCheckmate is an accessibility-focused web application that empowers users to evaluate and improve the inclusivity of their websites with ease. By simply entering a web link, users receive actionable feedback. Registered users can benefit from saving reports and exporting them as a PDF or to a Jira Project. Designed with both technical and non-technical users in mind, UxCheckmate is intended to be accessible to any web developer or designer, no matter their level of experience. The project showcases our team's commitment to thoughtful design, technical excellence, and inclusive user experience. As a senior capstone, it reflects our passion for accessible technology and our belief that every user deserves a seat at the digital table.	Computer Science Capstone	Presen (Talk:
Stork Dork: A Birding Webapp	Alice Hodge, Christian Raymon, Ujunwa Nwokoma, Hunter Winger	03:00PM	05:00PM	ITC 211	Stork Dork is a social bird-watching application designed to help users log bird sightings, track achievements, and engage with a nationwide community of fellow enthusiasts. Unlike competitors such as eBird and Merlin, which focus primarily on identification and data collection, Stork Dork emphasizes social connectivity by enabling users to add... click for more Stork Dork is a social bird-watching application designed to help users log bird sightings, track achievements, and engage with a nationwide community of fellow enthusiasts. Unlike competitors such as eBird and Merlin, which focus primarily on identification and data collection, Stork Dork emphasizes social connectivity by enabling users to add friends, share discoveries, and celebrate birding milestones on personalized profiles. Our goal is to bring bird-watchers together and make birding a more interactive and community-driven experience.	Computer Science Capstone	Presen (Talk:

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
GymBro: An All-In-One App for All-Out Gains	Angel Larios, Brett Jones, Gabriel Diaz Rivera, Nicholas Himler	03:00PM	05:00PM	ITC 211	Gym Bro: An All-In-One App for All-Out Gains Nicholas Himler, Brett Jones, Angel Larios, Gabriel Diaz Rivera Gym Bro is designed to cut down on unnecessary time spent between multiple applications. Most applications only let you do one thing at a time in their applications. Users typically have to download multiple applications to create and... click for moreGym Bro: An All-In-One App for All-Out Gains Nicholas Himler, Brett Jones, Angel Larios, Gabriel Diaz Rivera Gym Bro is designed to cut down on unnecessary time spent between multiple applications. Most applications only let you do one thing at a time in their applications. Users typically have to download multiple applications to create and track workouts, create and track meals and even search for gyms. With Gym Bro you can do all of these in one place! Our aim is to be the most convenient application for both experienced and novice gym goers so they can focus more time on the things that matter. Mentor: Becka Morgan	Computer Science Capstone	Present (Talk)
TrustTrade Capstone Project	Rowan Vasen, Jesus Larios, Paul Sangha, Justin Wells	03:00PM	05:00PM	ITC 211	TrustTrade: Building credibility through verified investing Rowan Vasen, Palwinder Sangha, Justin Wells, Jesus Larios TrustTrade is a social trading platform that fosters a trusted community where investors can connect with peers, share insights, and track their investment performance. It allows users to link their real brokerage accounts for... click for moreTrustTrade: Building credibility through verified investing Rowan Vasen, Palwinder Sangha, Justin Wells, Jesus Larios TrustTrade is a social trading platform that fosters a trusted community where investors can connect with peers, share insights, and track their investment performance. It allows users to link their real brokerage accounts for automatic performance tracking, share strategies within a community of fellow investors, and stay informed with the latest market news. Unlike existing investment platforms, TrustTrade prioritizes transparency by verifying each user's brokerage account, ensuring that all shared results and insights are backed by genuine trades. As the community grows, TrustTrade has the potential to empower new investors with authentic guidance and enable experienced investors to share their expertise with credibility, fostering greater confidence among investors of all experience levels.	Computer Science Capstone	Present (Talk)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Prompt Quest	Kyle Blair, Ben Roth, Kaleb Lindon, Jose Fernandez	03:00PM	05:00PM	ITC 211	In this turn-based mad-lib style adventure browser game, the story is simple, you are an adventurer tasked with traversing dangerous levels. Along the way, you will discover items and monsters. With the help of AI image generation the game is brought to life! There are multiple floors and things to be found along the way with a few fun twists in... click for more In this turn-based mad-lib style adventure browser game, the story is simple, you are an adventurer tasked with traversing dangerous levels. Along the way, you will discover items and monsters. With the help of AI image generation the game is brought to life! There are multiple floors and things to be found along the way with a few fun twists in there.	Computer Science Capstone	Presentations (Talks)
Can I Have Your Attention, Please: Acoustic Form and Function of Domestic Cat Vocalizations	Veda Duffy	04:00PM	06:00PM	Columbia (WUC)	Dependent animals' vocalizations are thought to evolve acoustic characteristics that effectively capture the attention of their caregivers, ensuring that the vocalizer receives the food and care it needs to survive. In humans and other primates, infants produce noisy cries with high frequencies, rapid amplitude... click for more Dependent animals' vocalizations are thought to evolve acoustic characteristics that effectively capture the attention of their caregivers, ensuring that the vocalizer receives the food and care it needs to survive. In humans and other primates, infants produce noisy cries with high frequencies, rapid amplitude fluctuations, sharply rising frequencies, and short energy pulses to grab adults' attention and convey urgency. The current study sets out to uncover which specific acoustic characteristics within cat vocalizations are effective at eliciting the attention of human listeners. Audio clips of vocalizations, each featuring one of the abovementioned characteristics, were gathered, as well as a control group of neutral calls. An online survey was created in which participants (n = 61) were instructed to listen to the calls and rate them on perceived emotional valence, arousal, as well as how annoying they found the call (annoyance being a widely utilized operationalization for attention). We hypothesize that calls with these characteristics would be rated the most annoying and therefore the most attention-grabbing. Results showed that noisy calls, or those with a low harmonics-to-noise ratio, were rated as higher in perceived arousal, more negative in emotional valence, and more annoying/attention-grabbing (p >.0001 for all).	Behavioral Sciences Research Symposium	Presentations (Talks)

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
The sound of attachment: Understanding cat attachment styles and vocalizations	Kota Swaney	04:00PM	06:00PM	Columbia (WUC)	Attachment style refers to an animal or human's ability to use the presence of someone they are bonded with as a form of comfort which facilitates the reduction of stress in stress-related events and increases exploration. The secure-base test evaluates attachment security by undergoing two minutes with a caregiver, two minutes alone, then... click for moreAttachment style refers to an animal or human's ability to use the presence of someone they are bonded with as a form of comfort which facilitates the reduction of stress in stress-related events and increases exploration. The secure-base test evaluates attachment security by undergoing two minutes with a caregiver, two minutes alone, then two minutes in a reunion phase. In both the alone and the reunion phase, many cats made vocalizations directed toward their human caretakers. We are analyzing the acoustics of cat vocalizations from the secure-base test, including the fundamental frequency (F0) which is perceived as pitch, duration, and other parameters. I hypothesize that calls with a higher, more variable F0 and longer duration will be more present in ambivalent and secure cats which display heightened negative states of arousal during the alone phase, while avoidant cats will have lower F0 and a shorter call duration thus representing lower states of arousal. I predict, however, that ambivalent and secure cats will differ in responses upon the return of the owner, where secure cats will have low-F0, short calls, while ambivalent cats will maintain somewhat the same as when they were alone.	Behavioral Sciences Research Symposium	Presc (Talk:

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Divided Attention: Does Parent's Technoference Alter Children's Behavior?	Daisy Garibay Garibay, Addie Floyd, Ruth Simonsen, Mateo McCann, Ella Mainwaring	04:00PM	06:00PM	Columbia (WUC)	<p>"Technoference" refers to everyday interruptions and distractions from interpersonal activities by mobile technologies (e.g., cell phones). There is growing evidence that "technoference" occurs in the context of parent-child interactions and may lead to lower levels of parental engagement and language. We explored... click for more</p> <p>"Technoference" refers to everyday interruptions and distractions from interpersonal activities by mobile technologies (e.g., cell phones). There is growing evidence that "technoference" occurs in the context of parent-child interactions and may lead to lower levels of parental engagement and language. We explored changes in parent and child behavior when the parent was interacting with a cell phone. Using a repeated measures design, twenty eight parent-child dyads (Parents M = 33.82 years, SD = 5.07; Children M = 37.14 months; SD = 10.32 months) were videotaped interacting with a standard set of toys across three conditions including receiving and responding to text messages, expecting to receive text messages (e.g., the "mere presence" condition) and cell phone silenced and out of sight. Videotapes of the dyads were coded for parent and child behaviors across the three conditions. As expected, parents were less responsive, less likely to scaffold their child's language, and engaged in fewer instances of coordinated joint attention when responding to text messages compared to when the cell phone was turned off and out of sight. Children produced more bids for attention in the texting condition compared to when the cell phone was turned off and put away. The "mere presence" of a cell phone did not impact the parent or child's behavior. We found as cell phone time at home increased, parent responsiveness, coordinated joint attention, and scaffolding decreased in the texting condition.</p>	Behavioral Sciences Research Symposium	Presc (Talk:

Presentation/Poster	Presenters	Start	End	Location	Abstract	Session	Form
Examining the Effects of Resistance Training and Cognitive Stimulation on Cognitive Performance	Nathan Okada, Nabeel Noor	04:00PM	06:00PM	Columbia (WUC)	<p>As lifespans continue to increase, the number of years spent in good health has not increased proportionally, leading to a growing need for interventions that support physical and cognitive functioning in older adults. Prior research has demonstrated that resistance training and cognitive stimulation training (CST) can both yield improvements in... click for more</p> <p>As lifespans continue to increase, the number of years spent in good health has not increased proportionally, leading to a growing need for interventions that support physical and cognitive functioning in older adults. Prior research has demonstrated that resistance training and cognitive stimulation training (CST) can both yield improvements in executive functioning, with some evidence suggesting greater benefits from resistance training, particularly when strength gains are achieved. The present study investigates the differential effects of resistance training and CST on executive function in adults aged 50 and older. Participants (N ≈ 22) were recruited from Center 50+ and screened using the SLUMS assessment. Those scoring ≥ 16 were randomly assigned to either a resistance training group, which participated in a biweekly Silver Sneakers resistance training class, or a once weekly CST group that received additional exercises to be performed at home. The CST group completed guided cognitive tasks including sudoku, word scrambles, and memory recall. Interventions were conducted for a minimum of 16 sessions for the resistance training group, and 8 sessions for the CST group. Cognitive performance was assessed pre- and post-intervention using the Trail Making Test, and the Forward Digit Span test. We hypothesize that both groups will show improvements in executive function, with greater gains observed in the resistance training group. This study contributes to ongoing efforts to identify scalable, community-based strategies for promoting cognitive health in aging populations.</p>	Behavioral Sciences Research Symposium	Presc (Talk: