

AT THE CORE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

**UNDERGRADUATE
CONFERENCE
FOR FIRST AND
SECOND YEAR
STUDENTS**



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

AT THE CORE

At the Core highlights the value of liberal arts core courses and our high value on mentoring and undergraduate research. They are at the core of the work we do in University College. At the Core is proudly sponsored by the Department of General Education, University College, and Academic Transition Programs and funded by the generosity of the Dr. Martha Ann Saunders, Crider Endowment, University College, and UBLAF.

AT THE CORE COMMITTEE

Amy Ellison, Lecturer of English, Committee Chair

Kathie Barrett, Associate Professor of Political Science

Brian Brodsky, Lecturer of Mathematics

Jenna Harte, Assistant Professor of General Education

Bonnie Jett, Senior Lecturer of English

Ricky Johnson, Lecturer of Mathematics

Gavin Lee, Professor of Criminology

Neema Noori, Professor of Sociology

Sonal Patel, Lecturer of Mathematics

Sal Peralta, Professor of Political Science

Andy Walter, Associate Dean of University College & Professor of Geography

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

9:00-9:30 am: Welcome Address, Campus Center Ballroom 108.2

9:30-10:45 am: Concurrent Panel Session 1, Campus Center

11:00 am-12:15 pm: Concurrent Panel Session 2, Campus Center

12:15-1:30 pm: Lunch & Learn, Campus Center Ballroom 108.2

1:30-2:45 pm: Concurrent Panel Session 3 & Poster Presentations, Campus Center

3:00-3:30 pm: Awards Ceremony, Campus Center Ballroom 108.2

LET US KNOW!

University College wants your first and second-year experience to be amazing! Scan this QR Code to complete a brief survey about At the Core:



UWG At the Core UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to the Fourth Annual At the Core Conference!

University College and the Department of General Education are pleased to host At the Core which highlights the value of the liberal arts—our core courses—and to share the transformational influence of faculty-student mentorship and undergraduate research. This work is the core of University College. We focus on empowering every student to become academically and professionally who they dream of being.

Today's conference highlights a nine-month journey of firsts and new academic endeavors for many of our students. Students entered college with high expectations, met new people, adapted to face-to-face and online classes, learned to transition into challenging academic and social environments, and found their place at UWG. University College is fully invested in ensuring that these students appreciate their accomplishments and are prepared to achieve even greater successes at UWG and beyond in their professions.

We are excited to witness how much each At the Core scholar has achieved academically, creatively, and professionally in 2025!

Congratulations on excellence!



Karen L. Owen, Ph.D.
Dean, University College and Honors College

WELCOME ADDRESS

9:00 AM | Campus Center Ballroom 108.2

Welcome: Dr. Karen Owen, Dean of University College

Brief Instruction: Amy Ellison

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Session I 9:30-10:45 AM

Panel 1: An Exploration of Cults and Culture

Campus Center 108.3

Moderated by Dr. Jenna Harte

Brooklyn Martin, Lily Snider, Haiden Collins, Kalyann Duke, “The Power of Twin Flames”

Sierra Watkins, Mackenna Nix, Carlie Bagwell, Sarai Reed, Ella Eason, “The Darkness Behind Keep Sweet”

Caylee Desilma, Jada Alexander, Kieran Lively, Ava Clutter, Javaughn Jones, “R. Kelly’s Fame”

Panel 2: Morality and Justice

Campus Center 108.4

Moderated by Prof. Amy Ellison

Kaelyn Olander, “Potion or Poison: Apothecaries”

Andrew Bogner, “Elaborate Ruse or Historical Fact: A Criminal Investigation of the Resurrection of Jesus”

D’Asia Merritt, “The Disparities of Literature and Its Conflicting Culture Against Black Voices”

Tuesday Foster, “The Portrayal of Black Dialects and Mythology in Detective Stories”

Panel 3: Politics, Policy, and Social Life

Campus Center Ballroom 105

Moderated by Prof. Jade Loicano

Colin Davis, “Taxes! Taxes! Beautiful Taxes!”

Samuel Hubbard, “The Fading American Dream: Rising Housing Prices in Rural America”

Harrison Hudson, “Legalizing Gambling in Georgia”

Sam Colvin, “Unseen, Unheard, Unmanaged: Air Quality in Georgia”

Session II 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Panel 4: Seeking Stability: Horror and Cults

Campus Center 108.3

Moderated by Prof. Amy Ellison

Callie Senn, "Uncertainty and Stability in *Hidden Pictures*"

Emma Daehler, "*Hidden Pictures: The Woods*"

Caroline Love, Adam Singleton, and Erin Brown, "The Cult of Fame"

Mallorie Rogers and Emily Nevills, "The Cult of Greek Life"

Panel 5: Innovation and Narration in the Hardboiled Detective Genre

Campus Center 108.4

Moderated by Prof. Bonnie Jett

Keira Wolf, "A Narrative's Influence on the Reader's Perception of Societal Concepts"

Jocelyn Garmendia, "Narration Strategies for Building Reader Relationships in the Hardboiled Tradition"

Gabriel Umegakwe, "From Tough Guys to Thoughtful Detectives: Shifts in Hardboiled Storytelling"

Mickel Murenzi, "Innovative Narratives: Shaping Societal Views in Hardboiled Fiction"

Panel 6: Hamilton & Burr: The Men, Their Flaws, & The Drama

Campus Center Ballroom 105

Moderated by Dr. Katie Chaple

Lexie Marie Smith, "Alexander Hamilton: The Corruption of Ambition"

Makayla Payne, "Aaron Burr: Waiting For the Powder Keg to Blow"

Camryn Robert Tracey Walker, "Diametrically Opposed, Foes"

Panel 7: Corporate Waste, Crime, and Disinformation: Using Statistics to Identify Problems and Find Solutions

Campus Center Ballroom 104

Moderated by Prof. Stacey Morin

Jacob Craig, "Dirty Money: The Business of Corporate Waste"

Kalib Winn, "Color, Education, and Crime: Does Education Really Help Reduce Crime in Minorities?"

Ethan Gray, "Media Greed: Selling Disinformation and Manufacturing Division"

LUNCH & LEARN

12:25-1:00 PM | Campus Center Ballroom 108.2

"The First Year and Beyond"

Moderated by Mary Parsons

Conversation by Crystal Shelnett, Rayne Kolsrud, Nahsir Johnson, Kennedy Ragin, and Selah Burley

Session III 1:30-2:45 PM

Panel 8: Cooking and Crying: First-Year-Writing & the Hybrid Essay

Campus Center 108.3

Moderated by Prof. Stephanie White

Ayame Cheese, "The Cheese Family Cookbook"

Eva Nieves, "Crying in the Library Bathroom"

Eliana Parker, "Hot Chicken and Pepper Soup"

Ogheneyoleme Janet Jockey, "Breaking Stereotypes and Strengthening Bonds:
A Perfect Sunday with Mom"

Panel 9: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on AI

Campus Center Ballroom 108.4

Moderated by Dr. Jenna Harte

Logan Ayers, "AI and Nuclear Power"

Aiden Webb, "AI and Author's Copyright"

Jordan Aje and Molly Driver, "AI and the Creative Process"

Dominion Williams and Jackson Volz, "AI and Sports"

Cameron Yun, "AI and the Learning Process"

Panel 10: Broken, Crazy, and Imperfect Women

Campus Center 105

Moderated by Prof. Jade Loicano

Emily Hunt, "Women's Struggles with Mental Health"

Brandon Powell, "Perfectly Imperfect"

Panel 11: Technology, Adolescence, and the Arts: From Anguish to Answers

Campus Center Ballroom 104

Moderated by Prof. Josh Sewell

Shreejal Silwal, "Screen Time, Mental Health, and Legal Accountability: Lessons
from the Conrad Roy Case"

Fantasia Mosby, "Juvenile Delinquency"

Nahsir Johnson, "What Do We Want? Poetry! When? NOW!"

Keilani Johnson, "The Jaunt: A Cautionary Tale For Society Today"

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1:30-2:45 | Campus Center Ballroom 108.2

Ivan Aceves	Jiwon Kim	Jacqueline S. Quintero
Jorja Agan	Madelyn Kinder	Jakai Reed
Sanai Allen	Ariel Kraus	Brodie Rosinski
Aique Mvondo Assomo	Hannah Kunkle	Mary Saadiq
Yubeen Bang	Don LeGrand	Nathan M. Salame
Jonathan Bissette	Flora Leigh	Kemo Sanneh
Savannah Briggs	Tamia Mack	Christian Scott
Johnathan Brown	Shaleem Mason	Lily Scott
Charlie Chadwick	Zion Mcallister	Xavier C. Shegog
Miah Chandler	Payton McCormick	Ariyana Smith
Shaniya Craft	Audrey McCurley	Gabe Tamez
Tanysheia Dale	Kamaren Mitchell	Jaya Thompson
Francesca De La Cruz	Jeff Nettles	Devin E. Todd
Garrison Duncan	Aaron Nguyen	Hector Trabado
Melody Evans	Isaac O'Brien	Colin Tuttle
Parker Ferguson	Elvis Okoi	Brendon C. White
Matthew Haley	Tobi Osunlalu	Radaesia Williams
Melinda Henderson	Jai Jai Parham	Sarah Williams
Sarah Howell	Elijah Parrish	Alexander Yeager
Jermesia Huguley	Rachel Pelanek	Mia Yeager
Demarkus Hurt	Xavier Powell	
Sophia Johnston	Abdul Qadeer	

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AT THE CORE 2026**

April 2026



UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA