

AT THE CORE

UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE

April 24, 2024



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 Crider Endowment, University College, and UBLAF.

AT THE CORE COMMITTEE

Melissa Jackson, Lecturer of English, Committee Chair

Brittney Beth Baxter, Lecturer of English

Brian Brodsky, Lecturer of Mathematics

Carrie Carmack, Senior Lecturer of Mathematics

Jenna Harte, Assistant Professor of General Education

Ricky Johnson, Lecturer of Mathematics

Stacey Morin, Senior Lecturer of English

Neema Noori, Professor of Sociology

Sonal Patel, Lecturer of Mathematics

Sal Peralta, Professor of Political Science

Andy Walter, Associate Dean of University College and 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 & Debate, 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

JOIN US ONLINE!

We are excited to launch a new type of At the Core conference this year with multimodal projects. Some of our presentations contain a virtual component that can be found online. Just use the QR code to explore some amazing student work!



UWG

At the Core

UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE

Thursday, April 24, 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to the Third 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 2024!

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: Melissa Jackson

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Session I 9:30-10:45 AM

Panel 1: Is this a Cult?

Campus Center 302

Moderated by Dr. Jenna Harte

Nick Clark-Brown

Nadia Long

Rylee Greeson

Josh Saxby

Amerly Holland

Chezney Williams

Abrie Isabu-Ward

Panel 2: Media, Censorship, and American Exceptionalism (Multimodal)

Campus Center 303

Moderated by Prof. Stacey Morin

Isaiah Miller, "Shaping Minds and Opinions: Exploring the Dynamics of Media Influence"

Isaac O'Brien, "American Exceptionalism: An Unseen Danger"

Jewel Casey, "Armed with Knowledge: The Impact of Research in Times of War"

Brae Mooney, "Pop Culture's Influence on Social Bias"

Mackenzie Wilder, "From Dirty Rats to Yellow Monkeys: The Dehumanization of the Japanese in American Media"

Panel 3: AI in Finance, Marketing, Data Analytics, Research, and Education (Multimodal)

Campus Center Ballroom 108.1

Moderated by Prof. Mitzi McFarland

Rhian Deroko, "How AI is Impacting the Marketing Industry"

Christian Craycroft, "Strategic Implementation of AI in Accounting"

Isaiah Neal, "Advancements and Limitations: AI's Impact on Data Science Job Opportunities and Coding Efficiency"

Brooklyn Keenan, "AI in Education: Efficiency at the Cost of Creativity"

Whitney Benz, "AI in Biology Research"



Panel 4: Mixed Independent Projects

Campus Center Ballroom 108.4

Moderated by Prof. Jason Kesler

Bryson Burnette, "The Importance of Poetry in the Classroom"

Leetavious Maines, "Six Feet Under: Gaining Access to Life Insurance in Georgia"

Jesimina Walker, "Fighting Two Monsters: The Financial Burden of Fighting Childhood Cancer"

Panel 5

Campus Center Ballroom 108.3

Moderated by Prof. Josh Sewell

Cameron Yun, "From the Soul, Not the Skin"

Riley Keough, "Back in the Good Ole Days: Essay on *Back to the Future* and Misogyny"

Jessica Tilford "Lorraine Baines and the Terrible, No Good, Very Bad Treatment of Women: An Analysis of Sexuality and Masculinity in *Back to the Future*"

Panel 6: Redemption and Perseverance (Paper Presentations)

Campus Center Ballroom 104

Moderated by Prof. Bonnie Jett

Aniyah Green, "Redemption in Margaret Edson's *W;t*"

Am Canil, "Redemption in Margaret Edson's *W;t*"

Taliyah Echols, "Thank You to The Light of Cambridge: Hidden Stoic Gems of Doug"

Henry Smith, "The Little Chief's Silent Struggle: A Partially Stoic Life"

Session II 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Panel 7: Representation Matters: The Influence of Media on Views of Gender (Paper Presentations)

Campus Center 302

Moderated by Prof. Mitzi McFarland

Angelica Ortiz Zavala, "Baby Dove: A Formal Deconstruction of the Mother Identity"

Bella Godwin, "American Bodies: An Analysis of American Media and Its Effect on Women and Society"

Daniel Bonilla, "The Fall of Toxic Masculinity"

Kai Remshagen, "From Controversy to Aromatizing Individualistic Masculinity"

Panel 8: Atomic Narratives: Stories from the Post Atomic World (Creative)

Campus Center 303

Moderated by Prof. Stacey Morin

Graycen Fountain: "Falling in Line"

Ashlee Frederick, "One in Ten Thousand"

Madeline Campbell, "The Dark Stain"

Levi Winters, "My Journey to Twenty"

Grace Helton, "The Interview: Mrs. L.T. Thurgood, Musgrove County Sheriff's Office, September 24, 2016"

Panel 9: AI and The Entertainment Industry & Physical and Mental Health (Multimodal)

Campus Center Ballroom 108.1

Moderated by Prof. Melissa Jackson



Grace Helton, "Designing the Future: The Implications of AI in Costume Design"

Tommy Bowen, "AI in Live Sound, Engineering, Music Performance, and Entertainment"

Sarah Gardner, "The Future of Film"

Richard Oteri, "AI in the Local and Global Music Industry"

Olivia Grantham, "Convenience is not Enough: AI in Therapeutic Practice"

Annaliese Neal, "AI in the Fields of Sports Training and Physical Therapy"

Panel 10: Cults and Culture: The Lure of Belonging (Multimodal)

Campus Center Ballroom 108.4

Moderated by Dr. Jenna Harte

Lara Lamis, Kayla Binion, and Farrah Robinson, "Cults Make Money: Exploring Twin Flames"

Yarida Esquibel and Isabella Rivera, "Gender, Religion, and Obedience: Warren Jeffs in Keep Sweet, Pray and Obey"

Ariel Russell, Gracie Dawkins, and Jaelyn Gaskin, "The Cult of R Kelly"

Calina Tucker, Carson Clenney, and Gavin Sharkey, "Cult-ish Families: Analyzing Acts of Storytelling and Learning in Tara Westover's Educated"

Panel 11: That Which Haunts Us: An Exploration of the Horror Genre through Jason Rekulak's *Hidden Pictures*

Campus Center Ballroom 108.3

Moderated by Prof. Amy Ellison

Terra Corson, "Substance Abuse in *Hidden Pictures*"

Gabe Dodge, "Masked: An Analysis of Personalities within *Hidden Pictures*"

Macey Jordan, "Abduction: Real-World Connections to *Hidden Pictures*"

Panel 12: Exploring Identity (Multimodal)

Campus Center Ballroom 104

Moderated by Prof. Brittney Beth Baxter

Ariel Alverson, “Blossoming: Coming of Age in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*”

Adrian Delgado, “Linguistics of Identity”

Vaughn Wright, “Identity in Liminal Spaces”

Kurt Vonnegut in 2023

Film Project by Jonah Butler

Campus Center Ballroom 108.2

LUNCH DEBATE

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

What’s Your Influence: Cartoon Network vs. Nickelodeon

Introduction by Prof. Brittney Beth Baxter

Moderated by Jannette Emmerick

Cartoon Network Team: Bryson Burnette, Casandra Gutierrez,

Erica Speer, Tyliyah Lattimore, Kendarious Ward, Easton Muscara, Ki’Arre Wilson

Nickelodeon Team: Leonard Bowles, Anna Blackburn, Braylon Bradley, Rhian

Deroko, Grace Helton, Ashlynn Jones, Colin Puckett



Session III 1:30-2:45 PM

Panel 13: Legitimacy: Targeting Authenticity with Rhetorical Identity? (Multimodal)

Campus Center 302

Moderated by Prof. Mitzi McFarland

Reese Smith, “Invention or Strategy: The Underlying Danger of Digital Deception – Connections or Duplicity?”

Karim Devries, “Responding to Controversy: Implications of False Narratives on a World that Breathes Truth”

Austin Carper: “Is the Left Right?”

Brandy Cole, “Material Mind: Commodification of Consciousness”

Denai Beckford, “As Hollow as an Empty Pepsi Can”

Panel 14: Face-off: Hamilton vs. Jefferson (Multimodal)

Campus Center 303

Moderated by Dr. Katie Chaple

Seth Milam, “The Push of the Personal Politics of Thomas Jefferson”

Nalia Vokhiwa, "Hamilton VS Jefferson: The Unspoken Rivalry"

Josselyn Barahona Ortiz, "Hamilton and Jefferson's Fallout"

Panel 15: AI and Healthcare Research & Practice (Multimodal)

Campus Center Ballroom 108.1

Moderated by Prof. Melissa Jackson



Anna Blackburn, "Bioengineering in the Age of AI: Innovation Demands Caution"

Leonard Bowles, "AI in Hospital Administration"

Riley Wade, "AI in Nursing: Enhanced Efficiency, Improved Decision Making, and Innovation"

Eli Walton, "AI in Medicine: Regulation, Performance, and Bias"

Colin Puckett, "Revolutionizing Patient Care through AI in Anesthesiology"

Panel 16: Problem Solving (Multimodal)

Campus Center Ballroom 108.4

Moderated by Dr. Sal Peralta

Chase Williams, "Screw This: The Longer the Wait, The Less Support for Disabled Americans"

Evan Willis, "Guilty or Not: How Much is Innocence Worth?"

Ashling Carey and Karen Rossie, "The Ripple Effect: Small Local Changes Make a Big Difference"

Panel 17: Creative & Memoir (Hybrid)

Campus Center Ballroom 108.3

Moderated by Prof. Pam Murphy

Alexis Wingenbach, "Hiking and Assorted Inquiries about Death"

Mckinzie Wright, "Impacts of Rule of Rose on Women"

Thomas Hunt, "Lessons from the Unfamiliar"

Yasmin Martinez, "Identity Division"

Milton Gibbs, "The Other Side of Fear"

Katrina Houk, "Nature's Home"

Panel 18: Final Projects in Progress: A Group Discussion on Students' writing Processes

Campus Center Ballroom 104

Moderated by Prof. Brittney Beth Baxter

Brenda Wilson

Jaila Williams

Lana Revere

Alec Stapp

Hannah Hansen

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

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

Aalayah Brown

Alex Larson

Alexa Tritt

Aliyah Ayers

Allyson Pendleton

America Sandoval

Andrew Higgins

Archie Small

Bailey Long

Brandon Douglas Poague

Caleb Campbell

Calib Revere

Cameron Pfahl

Carlethea Richardson

Carrie Krebs

Chakala Renfroe

Chase Chandler

Chiamaka Mbeledogu

Chloe Juhan

Christian Byrd

Christian Martella

Cierra Williams

De'Jah Dunn

Devin Woodruff

Elizabeth Dotson

Emma Robinson

Fasone, Ava

Favour Onwanuo

Georgia Trammell

Gracelyn McIsaac

Hope McClellan

Imaan Vaid

Isabella Jackson

Jessaly Hernandez Mendoza

Jessica Adzotor

Jessica Anzeumafack

Josi Gilley

Kiera Phillips

Kimberly Barker

Kristen Abercrombie

Madison Brooks

Madison Thomas

Madyson Ogles

Mae Whirlledge

Malia Pope

Mallori Troy

Maura Plummley

Mckenna Morgan

Megan Rosencrance

Michaela Copeland

Michayla Bell

Myah Santana

Parker Smitherman

Paul Ehichioya

Richelle Reynolds

Sheyanne Rodriguez

Sheylin Pantoja

Stacey Mora

Tareq Deeb

Taylor Seffrin

Treavor Smith

Tyler Jacobs

DR. MARTHA ANN SAUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP IN FIRST-YEAR WRITING

The Dr. Martha Ann Saunders Scholarship in First-Year Writing is awarded by the FYW Committee to a rising sophomore with a demonstrated commitment to and facility for writing and who is pursuing a career that demands excellent communication and writing skills.

AT THE CORE AWARDS

Award for Best Poster Presentation

Award for Best Academic or Research Paper

Award for Best Creative or Personal Essay

Award for Best Multi-modal Presentation

Team Trophy Award for Lunch Time Pop-Culture Debate

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DONATIONS FUNDED AWARDS

Essay Awards provided by Mark Baxter and Baxter Plumbing, Co.

Multimodal and Poster Awards funded in Memory of Millard Farmer, Jr (Defense Attorney and Civil Rights Advocate)

Additional funding from Michelle Morgan and UBLAF

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



JUDGE BIOGRAPHIES

AtC 2024 is grateful to the following individuals for their support as Judges:

Parks Avery: Cofounder of Avery and Pope Wealth Management, Parks Avery is a lifelong learner who has enjoyed classes at UWG in various disciplines from American Literature to Astronomy. Parks received his degree in finance from the UGA. He is an active member of the Newnan Development Authority; and Chairman of the Newnan Convention Center Authority.

Ashley Bush: A graduate of UWG with a degree in Mass Communications, Ashley serves as the Director of Communications for Southwire. Ashley provides leadership to Southwire's Communications and Giving Back team and develops meaningful strategies to provide engaging, effective communications.

Jackie Kennedy: Jackie Kennedy is a freelance journalist and the editor of Newnan-Coweta Magazine. A community advocate and generous supporter of emerging writers, Jackie holds a degree in journalism from Georgia State University.

Dr. Jaami Rutledge: Dr. Jaami Rutledge holds a clinical Doctorate in Nursing, an MBA, and a BFA in English. Jaami grew up as an athlete and dancer, has worked as a ski instructor, and consults for Ageless Grace, a brain fitness program based on neuroplasticity that activates all 5 functions of the brain – strategic planning, memory/recall, analytical thinking, creativity and imagination, and kinesthetic learning.

Steve and Marie Swope: A founder of the Rubicon Group and a veteran of Delta Airlines, Steve Swope serves as a trustee for UWG and as the co-founder of the Swope Family Fund with his wife Marie. The SFF supports organizations that exhibit meaningful, and profound impact on the lives of children, the poor, and those adversely affected by natural disasters. Steve and Marie are tireless community and UWG advocates.

Dr. Pam Thompson: Dr. Thompson serves individuals, couples, women's groups, and inmates as a psychologist and life coach. Her book, *Surviving Mama* earned her a role in *Look at Us Now, Mother*, featured in Jewish Film Festivals worldwide. Dr. Thompson holds an undergraduate degree in journalism and public relations from UGA. As a PR specialist she worked in the offices of Mayors Andrew Young and Maynard Jackson and served the City of Atlanta as Executive Director of the Clean City Commission where she focused on neighborhood beautification and recycling efforts.

Beyond Gen Ed and University College

The following UWG staff and faculty have also served to support feedback and evaluations

Dr. Randy Blackmon, Dr. Emily McKendry-Smith, Dr. Katy Green, Erin Duckett, Dr. Pauline Gagnon, Dr. Clint Samples, Dr. Sharmistha Basu-Dutt, Destiny Morrison, Dr. Farooq Khan.

The AtC 2024 Committee thanks EVERYONE, named and unnamed, for their incredible efforts and support.

MARK YOUR SYLLABUS FOR AT THE CORE 2025

Registration Deadline: March 30, 2025
Paper & Poster Submissions: April 16, 2025
Conference: April 30, 2025



UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA