

# 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.

#### Newnan Committee

Melissa Jackson, Chair; Rebecca Smith; Kris Jackson; Cheyenne Miller; Nathan Rehfluss; Leslie Kuykendall



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### EMPOWERING EVERY STUDENT, SUPPORTING EVERY COLLEGE

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AT THE CORE 2026  
APRIL 2026**

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#### CONTACT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

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# AT THE CORE NEWNAN

*University College Writing  
and Research Conference*

**APRIL 25, 2025  
8:30 AM-3:00 PM  
NEWNAN**

Funded by the generosity of the University College, UWG Newnan, UWG Culture Lab, Mark Baxter, Whitt's Custard, Dianne Parker Allstate Insurance, and the Millard Farmer, Jr Family

**Spring 2025**

## WELCOME: 8:30-9:00 AM

Opening Remarks, University College Dean Karen Owen  
Brief Introductions: Melissa Jackson

## CONCURRENT SESSION 1: 9:15-10:15 AM

### Panel 1: Moderated by Charles Powers

#### Room 131

Braden Echols, "Creativity and Disability"  
Henry Smith, "Football and its Effects on the Human Mind"  
Kimberly Palmer, "The Art of Napping: From Childhood Fears to Scientific Benefits"  
Mackenzie Anthony, "Fluoride: The Most Controversial Compound In Your Cup"

### Panel 2: Moderated by Susan Mullins

#### Room 154

Elsie Grace Neal, "'Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)': Terrorism, Brotherly Love, and Country Music"  
Dee Bacigalupo, "Listening to Loss: The Emotional Depth of Amy Winehouse's *Back to Black*"  
Evan Wilhoite, "Jimmy Buffett's Final Album *Equal Strain on All Parts*"  
Logan Bradd, "*Unreal Unearth*: A Masterclass in Historical Music"  
Reece McLaughlin, "Even When It's Not Whole: NCT 127"

### Panel 3: Moderated by Jennifer Jones

#### Room 188

Camila Bartolomei, "The Iced Butter Pecan Latte: The Sweet Realization of Connection"  
Chloe Hogg, "Through the Eyes of Owalas: A Journey of Transformation and Perspective"  
Virginia Groover, "The Faces of Eve"  
Olivia Thonen, "How Chuck E. Cheese Took Over Showbiz Pizza Place"

### Panel 4: Moderated by Cheyenne Miller

#### Room 164

Fischer White, "*Rocket League*: Escape from Reality"  
Emily McGeachy, "*Gilmore Girls*: The Comfort of a Perfect Life"  
Callie Steward, "Stories of Yesterday and Tomorrow: The Carousel of Progress"  
Gretchen Kuba, "*Stardew Valley*: The Community it Brought Me"

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS: 9:15-10:15 AM

### Hosted by Nathan Rehfuss

#### Entrance Lobby

Chiamaka Mbeledogu  
Isaiah Jackson Marshall  
James Jackson  
Kaili Moore  
Mia Yeager  
Nicholas Parker  
Rowan Morykwias  
Xavier Scott

## CONCURRENT SESSION 2: 10:30 AM -11:30 PM

### Panel 5: Moderated by Kris Jackson

#### Room 131

#### Public Art and Community Presentations

Addison Marin  
Gerald Slaton  
Justice Benjamin  
Miracle Cox  
Barrett Meghrian

### Panel 6: Moderated by Charles Powers

#### Room 154

Haleigh Horsley, "'La Rebelion': Gracias por Todo"  
Kaylee Whobrey, "*The Divine Feminine*: An Album by Mac Miller"  
Aidan Cole, "My Playlist: An Extension of Myself"  
Emma Caylor, "The Paradox of Pepper Spray"

### Panel 7: Moderated by Melissa Jackson

#### Room 164

Cloud Wellborn, "Chappell Roan's 'Pink Pony Club' and Being Queer in America"  
Ruthie Collins, "Short Story titled 'Young Mother'"  
Isaiah Marshall, "D&D Tieflings: Fiery Representation for the Marginalized"

### Panel 8: Moderated by Cheyenne Miller

#### Room 188

Hector Trabado, "A Conflicted Future: Charlie Brooker's 'Men Against Fire'"  
Kenneth Mitchell, "Charlie Brooker's *Black Mirror*: The Entire History of You': A Criticism of the Digital Panopticon's Adulteration of Intrapersonal Relationships"  
Lynden Sealy, "Humanity in *2001: A Space Odyssey*"  
Ethan Wilkins, "The Seven Deadly Sins in Spike Jonze's *Her*"

## LUNCH AND DEBATE: 11:45-1:00 PM

#### Room 133

#### Emily Dickinson Team:

Addison Lee  
Brenda Wilson  
Brooklyn Keenan  
Kimberly Palmer  
Riley Clark

#### Walt Whitman Team:

Cherry Vo  
Elsie Grace Neal  
Gregory Flores  
Mikayla Labruzzo  
Mya Calvert

#### Historical Context

Caroline Tomlinson  
Wyatt Mlakar

## THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES!

Cynthia Bennett, Dr. Randy Blackmon, Dr. Paul Haun, Pat McKee, Caroline Moore, Dr. Tim Schroer, Matthew Stilley, Marie Swope, and Dr. Pam Thompson

## CONCURRENT SESSION 3: 1:15-2:15 PM

### Panel 9: Moderated by Jennifer Jones

#### Room 131

Brennan Robinson, "My Glasses: A Portal to Reading and Understanding"  
John Karrels, "Toulouse, France"  
Nehemiah Meng, "Biltong, a Taste of South Africa"  
Brooklyn Keenan, "19th Century Transcendentalism in Public Education"

### Panel 10: Moderated by Randy Blackmon

#### Room 154

William Knight, "747: The Queen of the Skies"  
Camden Jones, "The Weight of the Katana"  
Lyllian Welsch, "The Revolutionary 1996 BMW E36; An Engineering Masterpiece"  
Lucas Hammond, "Longswords"  
Cam Lovett, "P-51 Mustang"

### Panel 11: Moderated by Rebecca Smith

#### Room 164

Max Whitaker, "The Relatability of Batman"  
Keir Morykwias, "*Interstellar*: Strides in Cinema and Science"  
Mya Calvert, "The Remote Meaning of Life and Our Connection to Space and Time"  
Rowan Morykwias, "Humanity's Guide to the Orion Constellation"

### Panel 12: Moderated by Kris Jackson

#### Room 186

Sydnee Ruy, "Stuffed Dogs and the Love of Comfort"  
Ruthie Collins, "Sunflowers: A Metaphor for Intimate Connection"  
Lindsey James, "*Hadestown*: The Circle of Love, Loss, and Redemption"  
Mia Yeager, "*Falsettos*: Redefining the Family Unit"

### Panel 13: Moderated by Cheyenne Miller

#### Room 188

Hannah Henderson, "The Petit Le Mans: A Human Race"  
Lily Fox, "The Legacy of Formula One: Scuderia Ferrari"  
Taylor Seffrin, "The Murph: More than a Workout"  
Elsie Grace Neal, "Crossfit: A Fitness Community Focused on Nurturing a Healthy Identity"

## AWARDS CEREMONY: 2:30-3:00 PM

#### Room 133

Closing Remarks: Patrick W. McKee, Lawyer and Author  
Award Presentation: Andy Walter & Melissa Jackson