

UNIVERSITY *of*
MONTEVALLO



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

Harman Hall • 9:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.



Schedule of Events

Oral Presentations Session 1	9:00-10:20 a.m.	Harman Hall <i>Room 103</i>
Oral Presentations Session 2	10:30-11:50 a.m.	Harman Hall <i>Room 103</i>
Oral Presentations Session 3	12:00-1:10 p.m.	Harman Hall <i>Room 103</i>
Oral Presentations Session 4	1:20-2:30 p.m.	Harman Hall <i>Room 103</i>
Poster Presentations	12:00-2:15 p.m.	Harman Hall <i>First Floor</i>
Group Photograph	2:35 p.m.	Harman Hall <i>Front Steps</i>
Recognition	2:45 p.m.	Harman Hall <i>Room 103</i>

Undergraduate Researchers

Price Alexander	Olivia Dean	Ryota Nakajima
Amber Allen	Scarlette DeCicco	Mads Owens
Miguel Arreola Gomez	Francesca De Roover	Hiromi Rodriguez
Ravyn Barlow	Jacob Duclos	Da'Nadia Ross
Brady Baugh	Taylor Emery	Miranda Sennett
James Bentley	Lily Fithian	Victoria Shorter
Daultyn Bradley	Blake Godwin	Kaitlyn Shulch
Jill Brooks	Conner House	Katlyn Smith
Tucker Brooks	Alyse Jones	Alexis Valentine
Emma Carstensen	Ben Lebdaoui	Breanna Wells
Ren Cater	James Long	Corrine Wilcox
Nahia Constant	Macie Mathers	Andrew Wilson
Victoria Corcimaru	Aspen Mays	Claire Withington
Willow Corcoran	Chanda Mitchell	Ashley Zapata-Rabadon

Faculty Mentors

Brendan Beal	Danielle Haskett Jennings	Karli Morris
Richard Cummings	Valerie Johnson	Brett Noerager
Carl Doerfler	Rachel Jubran	Md Rahman
Jenny Estes	Alicia Logan	Elizabeth Richardson
Emily Gill	George Lytle	Erica Roberson
Kate Hayden	Alex Mechitov	Heather Tinsley
Alice Henton	Anthony Melton	Ruth Truss
John Herron	James Montgomery	Benton Tyler
Robert Herron		Kelly Wacker

Faculty Respondents

Emma Atwood	Gary Johnson	Elizabeth Richardson
Houston Byrd	Carley Kirkland	Sara Robicheaux
Kelley Devane-Hart	Bethany Lawyer	Greg Ryan
Andrea Eckelman	Dalila Mathews	Christine Sestero
Bruce Finklea	James Montgomery	Lee Somers
Carey Heatherly	Jason Newell	Catherine Walsh
Clark Hultquist	Brett Noerager	Jill Wicknick
	Alina Olteanu	

Undergraduate Research Committee

Dr. Cynthia P. Tidwell
Coordinator of Undergraduate Research

Dr. Elizabeth Richardson
College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Gary Johnson
Stephens College of Business

Dr. Kelley Devane-Hart
College of Health Professions

Dr. Bruce Finklea
College of Fine Arts

Mr. Carey Heatherly
Carmichael Library

Dr. Ruth Truss
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

Ms. Tonja Battle
Undergraduate Research Program Administrative Assistant

Oral Presentations

Session 1

9:00-10:20 a.m.

Room 103

Moderator: Heather Tinsley

Presenter(s)	Title	Advisor(s)/Discipline
Amber Allen	Effects of Hyaluronic Acid on Human Breast Cancer Cells	Heather Tinsley <i>Biology</i>
Jill Brooks	The Perspectives and Communication Decisions of Parents with Children Who Have Hearing Loss	Alice Henton <i>Speech Language Pathology</i>
James Long	United Auto Workers Impact on Quality of Work Life in the South	Carl Doerfler <i>Political Science</i>
Aspen Mays	Creating a Culturally Sensitive Language Screener	Erica Roberson <i>Speech Language Pathology</i>
Miranda Sennett	Community Care for Health Equity: A Student-Led Community Engagement Model for Addressing Rural Health Disparities	Alicia Logan <i>Nursing</i>
Breanna Wells	QR Factorization of Matrices	Karli Morris <i>Mathematics</i>

Oral Presentations

Session 2

10:30-11:50 a.m.

Room 103

Moderator: Kate Hayden

Presenter(s)	Title	Advisor(s)/Discipline
Brady Baugh	Predicting the Spread of Invasive Coastal Alabama Plant Species Using Ecological Niche Modeling	Anthony Melton <i>Biology</i>
Victoria Corcimaru	Classification and Optimization of Tiling Techniques	Benton Tyler <i>Mathematics</i>
Jacob Duclos Andrew Wilson	Forum Software and Data Mining	Md Rahman <i>Computer Science</i>
Alyse Jones	Gene Editing and It's Implications	Jenny Estes <i>Biology</i>
Ben Lebdaoui	Dynamics of the LaCrosse Virus	George Lytle <i>Mathematics</i>
Da'Nadia Ross	Toxic Legacies: Environmental Racism, Biochemical Industrialism, and Generational Health Disparities	Kate Hayden <i>Chemistry</i>

Oral Presentations

Session 3

12:00-1:10 p.m.

Room 103

Moderator: Anthony Melton

Presenter(s)	Title	Advisor(s)/Discipline
Ren Cater	eDNA Analysis of Chironomid Community Assemblages Before and After Seasonal Turnover in a Southeastern Reservoir	Danielle Haskett Jennings <i>Environmental Science</i> Anthony Melton <i>Biology</i>
Scarlette DeCicco	Sir Gawain and His Many Ladies: A Study in Arthurian Gender Relations	Valerie Johnson <i>English</i>
Francesca De Roover	College Sport in the U.S. and Europe: Two Different Models	Alex Mechitov <i>Business</i>
Conner House	NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) Impact on Universities	Alex Mechitov <i>Business</i>
Chanda Mitchell	Electric Vehicles Revolution: The Chinese Factor	Alex Mechitov <i>Business</i>

Oral Presentations

Session 4

1:20-2:30 p.m.

Room 103

Moderator: Ruth Truss

Presenter(s)

Title

Advisor(s)/Discipline

Miguel Arreola Gomez

Beyond Graduation: Exploring
the Lives of Alternative
Education Alumni

Ruth Truss
History

Tucker Brooks

Lab Grown Diamonds,
Are They Worth It?

Alex Mechitov
Business

Willow Corcoran

Tabletop Role-playing Games as
Live Performance

Emily Gill
Theatre

Olivia Dean

Study of Appalachian Folk Art
and Music

Kelly Wacker
Art

Ryota Nakajima

Cultural Differences and Marketing
Practices: USA vs Japan

Alex Mechitov
Business

Poster Presentations

Harman Hall First Floor 12:00-2:15 p.m.

Presenter(s)	Title	Advisor(s)/Discipline
Price Alexander	Evaluation of Turtle Populations in the Cahaba River Drainage	Jenny Estes <i>Biology</i>
Ravyn Barlow	How Technology Aids Human Trafficking	Brendan Beal <i>Social Work</i>
James Bentley	Allelopathic Effects of Fennel Seed Extract	Kate Hayden <i>Chemistry</i>
Daultyn Bradley	Analysis of Spacetime Geometry	John Herron <i>Mathematics</i>
Emma Carstensen	An Examination of Factors and the Impacts on Speech and Language Delays or Disorders	Rachel Jubran <i>Psychology</i>
Nahia Constant	A Comparative Analysis of Off-Season and Preseason Training Loads in DII Women's Lacrosse	Robert Herron <i>Exercise & Nutrition Science</i>
Taylor Emery	The Complexity of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus	Brett Noerager <i>Biology</i>

CONTENT DISCLAIMER FOR POSTER PRESENTATION

The presentation: "How Technology Aids Human Trafficking" given by Ravyn Barlow has the following content warning: "This presentation contains strong language and sexual violence. Viewer discretion is advised."

Poster Presentations

Harman Hall First Floor 12:00-2:15 p.m.

Presenter(s)	Title	Advisor(s)/Discipline
Lily Fithian	Preschool Teachers' Knowledge, Understanding, and Beliefs Regarding Children with Speech Sound Disorders and Inclusion in the General Education Setting: A Replication Study	Alice Henton <i>Speech Language Pathology</i>
Blake Godwin	Creativity & Code: How Art Experts See AI	Kelly Wacker <i>Art</i>
Macie Mathers	Effects of Virtual Care on Client Dishonesty	Brendan Beal <i>Social Work</i>
Mads Owens	Preserving Characteristic Species of Coastal Dunes: Evolutionary and Conservation Genetics of <i>Helianthus debilis</i>	Anthony Melton <i>Biology</i>
Hiromi Rodriguez	The Impact of the US-China Trade War on USMCA, Political Relationships, and the Automobile Industry	James Montgomery <i>Business</i>
Victoria Shorter	Quantifying the Grind: A Descriptive Profile of GPS-Derived Training Loads in DII Women's Lacrosse Practices	Robert Herron <i>Exercise & Nutrition Science</i>
Kaitlyn Shulch	Effects of Breathing Strategies on Pain Perception	Elizabeth Richardson <i>Psychology</i>

Poster Presentations

Harman Hall First Floor 12:00-2:15 p.m.

Presenter(s)	Title	Advisor(s)/Discipline
Katlyn Smith	The Physiology of Stress: Exploring Correlations Between Body Composition, Physical Activity, and Perceived Stress in College Females	Robert Herron <i>Exercise & Nutrition Science</i>
Alexis Valentine	Pre-Competition Hydration Status: A Game Day Assessment of Urine Specific Gravity in NCAA DII Athletes	Robert Herron <i>Exercise & Nutrition Science</i>
Corrine Wilcox	Ultra-Short Heart Rate Recovery Dynamics as a Predictor of Estimated VO2max in Young Adults	Robert Herron <i>Exercise & Nutrition Science</i>
Claire Withington	Characterization of the Presence and Activity of O-glycosylation Enzymes COSMC and T-Synthase within the Neuro-2a Cell Line	Richard Cummings <i>Harvard Medical School Center for Glycoscience</i>
Claire Withington	Relationship Between B4GALT3 and PD-L1 and Their Role in Immune Evasion of Cancer	Heather Tinsley <i>Biology</i>
Ashley Zapata-Rabadon	Latino Experience Across Pharmacy: The Value in Representation	Robert Herron <i>Exercise & Nutrition Science</i>

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO DR. CHRISTINE SESTERO

Dr. Sestero kindly coordinated printing for many of today's posters. We are deeply grateful for her longstanding support of our undergraduate research program.

<u>REMAINING DATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM FOR THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2025-2026</u>	
Undergraduate Research Proposal for Summer 2026 Projects Due by 5:00 pm (with completed HASRC IRB Approval as needed)	April 10, 2026
Undergraduate Research Proposal for Fall 2026 Projects not requiring HASRC approval Due by 5:00 pm	August 7, 2026
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2026-2027	
UR Applications needing IRB approval for Spring 2027 Projects Due to HASRC	October 9, 2026
Online Registration for Undergraduate Research Day Opens	November 2, 2026
First day to submit applications for Regional COPLAC Conference	November 2, 2026
Undergraduate Research Proposal for Spring 2027 Projects Due by 5:00 pm (<i>Summer and Fall 2027 applications can be submitted at this time as well.</i>)	November 13, 2026
Online Registration for Undergraduate Research Day Closes	February 1, 2027
Last day to submit application for consideration as a UM Student Undergraduate Research Representative for COPLAC Conference	February 1, 2027
UR Applications needing IRB approval for Summer and Fall 2027 Projects Due to HASRC	March 8, 2027
Undergraduate Research Day in Harman Hall	March 10, 2027
Undergraduate Research Proposal for Summer 2027 Projects Due by 5:00 pm (with completed HASRC IRB Approval as needed)	April 9, 2027
Undergraduate Research Proposal for Fall 2027 Projects requiring HASRC approval Due by 5:00 pm (with completed HASRC IRB Approval)	
Undergraduate Research Proposal for Fall 2027 Projects not requiring HASRC approval Due by 5:00 pm	August 6, 2027

The generosity of the University of Montevallo Foundation, Alumni Association and friends in supporting Undergraduate Research is gratefully acknowledged. Special thanks to Dr. Jo A. Rayfield '62 for her continued interest and support.



For more information, visit: <http://www.montevallo.edu/undergraduate-research>
or contact: Dr. Cynthia Tidwell at URProgram@montevallo.edu

With Deep Gratitude

As we gather to celebrate the scholarship and accomplishments of our students on Undergraduate Research Day, I am mindful that opportunities like these are made possible through the generosity, dedication, and encouragement of many.

In Special Appreciation

For nearly twenty years, Dr. Jo Rayfield has faithfully supported the Undergraduate Research Program, creating transformative opportunities for students to pursue inquiry, grow in confidence, and share their work with our university community. Because of this enduring commitment, doors have been opened and lives have been shaped.

We are sincerely and deeply grateful to Dr. Rayfield for the quiet consistency of her unwavering support over the years. Every student in the program since 2007 has benefited from her generosity.

To Our Faculty Mentors

Thank you for the time, expertise, and care you invest in guiding student research. Mentoring these projects is a significant commitment, and the impact is lasting. For many students, undergraduate research is a truly transformative experience — one they will value for a lifetime.

To Our Respondents

Your presence today affirms the value of our students' work. Thank you for engaging with their scholarship and encouraging them through your thoughtful participation.

To Our University Leadership and Administrative Support

Your steadfast belief in undergraduate research — expressed through generous support and the countless details that make this day possible — strengthens this program in immeasurable ways.

With heartfelt thanks,

Cindy Tidwell

Undergraduate Research Coordinator