I want to extend a warm welcome to the 2016 NU Undergraduate Research Conference sponsored by the University Honors Program. Niagara University’s dedication to research and academic excellence will be on full display during today’s conference. I encourage you to attend as many of the panel and poster presentations as you can in order to show your support for the young scholars in our midst and to learn about the exciting research taking place here at Niagara. I am confident that the presentations will be informative and educational.

I want to thank Ms. Kathy Sydor, administrative coordinator for the honors program, who has done most of the behind-the-scenes work necessary to make this conference a reality. Without her, there would be no conference. Finally, I want to thank all the participants and their sponsors for their hard work. The University Honors Program wishes them all the best in their future research and endeavors.

Dr. Michael Barnwell
Director, University Honors Program
PANEL PRESENTATIONS

8:30-11:00 A.M.  St. Vincent’s Hall 407

**Professor Mitchell Alegre, Moderator**


Dr. Jay Walker, Moderator

Accounting  Justin Flynn: “Breaking the Code: Properly Deciphering Market Volatility”

Business Management  Heather Burley: “Bears and Bulls behind the Wheel: Explaining Trends in Traffic Fatalities through Stock Prices in Japan”

Economics  Mai Ngoc Tran: “ASEAN Effects on Member’s Economy Growth”

Economics  Jeffrey Wojtkowski: “Green Energy Initiatives: New Direction or Lost Cause?”

Finance  Lirim Hajrullahu: “Does FIFA Facilitate Underdeveloped Host Countries Economic Growth?”

Finance  Dan Huang: “Econometrics Analysis on Domestic Tourism Revenue in China”


Finance  Peter Mrazik: “Bringing Oil to the Party”

Supply Chain  Kevin Lease: “Does Going to Church Influence Cheating?”

8:45 – 9:15 A.M.  St. Vincent’s Hall 301

**Dr. William Martin, Moderator**


9:00 – 9:30 A.M.  St. Vincent’s Hall 306

**Professor Marian Granfield, Moderator**

Art History & Museum Studies  Audrey Clark: “Combat Art of the Vietnam War”
9:00 – 9:30 A.M.  
**St. Vincent’s Hall 212**

*Dr. Walter Steiner, Moderator*

**Biology**  
Steven Foulis: “Systematic Mutagenesis of a Meiotic Recombination Hotspot”

9:00 – 10:00 A.M.  
**St. Vincent’s Hall 305**

*Dr. Timothy Osberg, Moderator*

**Psychology**  
Taylor Edmonds: “Factors Associated with Psychological Help-Seeking Stigma in College Students”  
Melissa Leone: “Generalized Anxiety, Social Sensitivity, and Social Networking Usage in College Students”

9:00 – 9:30 A.M.  
**St. Vincent’s Hall 307**

*Dr. Kurt Stahura, Moderator*

**Tourism Management**  
Marie-Christine Mueller: “Analysis of the Potential of Niagara Falls, New York to Become a MICE Tourism Destination”

9:15 – 10:00 A.M.  
**St. Vincent’s Hall 215**

*Dr. Michael Barnwell, Moderator*

Julian Sharp: “Failure of Craig’s Kalam Cosmological Argument”

9:30 – 10:00 A.M.  
**St. Vincent’s Hall 211**

*Dr. Doug Tewksbury, Moderator*

**Communication Studies**  
Kristen Cavalleri: “The Mysterious Case of Females in Media: The Progression of Females’ Portrayal as Seen through Nancy Drew”

9:30 – 10:00 A.M.  
**St. Vincent’s Hall 301**

*Dr. Daniel Pinti, Moderator*

**English**  
11:45 – 12:15 P.M.  St. Vincent’s Hall 212  
**Criminal Justice**  
Rebecca Coleman: “The Roles and Hurdles of Victim Advocates: What are the Perspectives of Victim Advocates on Sexual Assault Victims?”

12:30 – 1:00 P.M.  St. Vincent’s Hall 309  
**History**  
Elisha Teibel: “A Black Woman's Body was Never Hers Alone’ - The Untold Story of Rape and Resistance in the American South”

12:30 – 1:00 P.M.  St. Vincent’s Hall 307  
**International Studies**  
Steven Randall: “Nuclear Peace in our Time?”

12:30 – 1:00 P.M.  St. Vincent’s Hall 306  
**TESOL**  
Brooke Boutwell: “The Cat in the Hat Gets a Passport: Children Translating Literature for Children”
POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Biochemistry, Chemistry, Physics: Dr. Robyn Goacher

Zachariah A. Gernold, Laura D. Brunelle: “Removal of Surface Contaminants from Wood Polymer Composites (WPCs) for Analysis using Time-of-Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (ToF-SIMS)”

Matthew R. Michienzi, Courtney L. Whitney: “Thermogravimetric Analysis of Extracted and Unextracted Lignocellulose after Laccase and Xylanase Treatments”

Christopher Swagler, Emilee Welton, Kevin Lucas, Sarah Gehl: “Determining Sugars in Enzyme-Treated Wood Supernatants: Effect of Buffer on the 3,5-Dinitrosalicylic Acid (DNS) Assay”

Lauren G. DiFonzo, Kathleen C. Lesko: “What Came First? The Black Ink or the Black Ink? That is the Question”


Biochemistry, Chemistry, Physics: Dr. Mary McCourt

Jennifer Kahi, Thao Huynh: “Cholestosomes™: A Novel Approach of Antibiotic Delivery Against Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus”

Biochemistry, Chemistry Physics: Dr. Luis Sanchez

Samer Isa, Rebecca Ford, Ethan DeCicco: “Studies Toward an Affordable Preparation of D-Vinylglycine”

Emily York, Samer Isa: “Reaction Optimization for the Synthesis of Novel Vinylglycine Derivatives”

Biology: Dr. Peter Butera

Emilia Federice, Nicholas Palisano: “Effects of 17-Alpha-Estradiol on Food Intake, Meal Patterns, and Body Weight in Female Rats”

Biology: Dr. Mark Gallo

Bianca Marrara: “Plasmid Characterization in Staphylococci Isolated from White Tail Deer”

Thomas Raleigh, Mia Byrd, Gabrielle Wind, Haley Parker: “Paenibacillus and its Potential for Antibiotic Production”

Anh Tran: “Cephalosporin Resistant Staphylococcus Strains Obtained from White Tail Deer”

Francesco DiVito, Jeffrey Gansworth: “Isolation of PVC/ISN Gene Homologs from Uncharacterized Pseudomonas Species”
James Smith, Brian Aldrow, Greg Eusanio: “Discovery of the PVC Gene in Enterobacteriaceae”

Sonja Opper: “Differentiation of SCCmec Types in Staphylococcus spp. In Non-Clinical Isolates”

Christopher Campomizzi, Matthew Rice, Samantha Sauer: “Isolation of Staphylococcus Bacteriophage”

Adam Siedlecki: “Small Colony Variant Switching Phenomenon in Staphylococci”

Andrea Buitrago, Tavion Williams: “What's on your Showerhead?”

Matthew Lanning: “Phylogenetic Characterization of Plastic Biofilm Communities in the Niagara River”

Eric Ebert, Shawn Warner: “Genomic Analysis of CAS Genes Isolated from Staphylococci in White Tail Deer Populations”

Biology: Dr. Robert Greene

Ashley Jarkowski: “Induction of Apoptosis in CAL-27 and HeLA Cancer Cell Lines Using Berry Extracts”

Korinne Thorne: “Synergistic Effects of Curcumin and Direct Photodynamic Therapy in Cervical and Oral Cancers”

Biology: Dr. Walter Steiner

Steven Foulis: “Systematic Mutagenesis of a Meiotic Recombination Hotspot”

Biology: Dr. Donna Thompson

Melissa Wright: “Differences in Visual Activity in Different Breeds of Goldfish”

Communication Studies: Dr. Mark Barner

Katie Bianchi: “The 9/11 Generation”

Kimberly Milleville: “Save the Sea Otters: A Monterey Bay Aquarium Public Relations Campaign”

Catherine Moynihan: “Mirror Mirror . . . . . Girls Internalization of Feminine Beauty through their Television Characters”

Communication Studies: Dr. Carrie Teresa

Lucas Koziol: “Shades of Media Reporting”

Communication Studies: Dr. Doug Tewksbury

Chelsea Anderson: “‘Oh! Just Text Me!’: Motivations for Texting Amongst University Students”
Hayley Beesaw: “Emojis in the Media”

DeAnna Kajfasz: “‘Inside Amy Schumer’: Female Body Image and Gendered Norms”

Computer and Information Sciences: Dr. Yonghong Tong

Connor Wolfe, Danielle Allan, Rishi Kumar, Joseph Sansone: “Android Wearables”

Colin Monroe: “Mobile Security”

Freddie Liederbach: “Citibike InfoVis”

Danielle Allan: “Smart Campus”

Brett Smith, Megan Baker: “STEM Lab”

Prince Fatunmbi: “NU ITHelpDesk”

Nicholis Bachan: “NU Conference”

Christopher Martin: “Compatible DogApp”

History: Dr. Michael Durfee

Marc Notaro: “The Local and National Roots of Federal Marijuana Prohibition”

Hospitality: Dr. Patricia Millar

Amanda Jacek: “Exploring Consumer Motivation at Small Scale Ski Resorts”

International Studies: Dr. David Reilly

Dustin Schulz: “Democracy and Terrorism”

Charles Shiah: “Racism in America: Implicit Racial Bias in the Criminal Justice System”

Marketing: Dr. Marlo Brown

Alisha West: “Ecommerce Internship: Sheraton at the Falls Hotel”

Marketing: Dr. Peggy Choong


Mathematics: Dr. Marlo Brown

Political Science: Dr. Jamie Pimlott

William Doherty: “PACs: Their Influence on the House in the 21st Century”


Katelyn Werner: “The Impact of Biological Weapons on International Relations”

Political Science: Dr. David Reilly

Christina R. Beauvoir: “Linguistic and Cultural Imperialism: Haiti”

Clare Curran: “Characteristics of Citizens and their Involvement in Political Activities”

John W. Gannon: “Democratic and Autocratic States and the Likelihood of International Conflict”

Ryan Hoose: “Because the Pope Says So: Members of Congress and Environmental Policy”

Nataisia Johnson: “Stop and Frisk”


Seunghee Oh: “Social Media Use Among Young People and Political Participation: Does Social Media Increase a Political Participation of Young People?”

Shannon Olsen: “Celebrity Endorsement and Age”

Warren Solomon: “Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf: Drones and U.S. Foreign Policy”

Stephanie Vargas: “Ladies in the House and Senate”

Psychology and Gerontology: Dr. Susan Mason

Allison Steger: “Age Differences in Attitudes About Euthanasia”

Psychology: Dr. Susan Mason

Sarah Battaglia: “Parents’ Marital Status Affecting Children's Outlook on Marriage”

Psychology: Dr. Timothy Osberg

Taylor Edmonds: “Factors Associated with Psychological Help-Seeking Stigma in College Students”

Miranda Lauher, Courtney Doxbeck: “Mindfulness, Personality, Smartphone Addiction, and Mental Health Among College Students”

Melissa Leone: “Generalized Anxiety, Social Sensitivity, and Social Networking Usage in College Students”
Loren Romano: “Faculty Experiences with Encountering College Student Mental Health Illness: Gender Differences in Referring Students to Campus Mental Health Services”

Kelly Zaky, Nicholas Albano: “Gender Differences in the Correlates of Psychological Help-Seeking Stigma”

Psychology: Dr. Burt Thompson

Melinda Drabant: “The Corrupt Side of Creativity”

Psychology: Dr. Donna Thompson

Lisa Bartolomei-Kelly, Loren Romano, Kelley Biro: “Then and Now: Generational Changes in Cultural Stereotypes About Gender”

Public Health: Dr. Deborah Leonard

Jenna DiMartile, Kelly Derleth, Riley Gorman, Megan Farnham: “Health Habits”

Benjamin Palermo, Andrew Parsnick, Taylor Mager, Enuel Caraballo: “Niagara Falls - A Walkable Community?”

Sophia Smith, Genna Riddle, Jessie Lesinski, Allison Emborsky: “Niagara Falls Population Loss - Impacts on Health and the Economy”

Taylor Sanders, Ellie Markarian, Justice Marshall, Katie Bookmiller: “Drug Abuse in Niagara Falls”

Allan Stanton, Shawn Bouchard, Dylan Pachla, Matt Bell: “Exercise and the Elderly”

Tourism: Dr. Jan van Harssel


Tourism: Dr. Kurt Stahura

Carolin Hardt: “The Role of Nationality in Tourist Motivations - A Case of Indian Tourists Visiting Niagara Falls”

Jaclyn Schreiber: “Medical Tourism”