



SPU HONORS

The SPU Honors Research Symposium is an academic conference where graduates present their independent Honors Research Projects in the context of the liberal arts learning at the heart of the Honors BA degree.

MAY 17, 2025 OTTO MILLER HALL

5th Annual

SPU

HONORS

RESEARCH

SYMPOSIUM

SPU HONORS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

May 17, 2025

Overview: Schedule of Events

9:30 am	Arrival and Refreshments	OMH Lobby
10:00 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	OMH 109 Lecture Hall

10:30-12:00 Morning CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION

Panel #1	OMH 118
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Peripheral Visions: Reframing How and Where We Learn

Savannah Meyer, Sarah Garvin, Henry Moe

Panel #2	OMH 128
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Reformation and Realization of Human Nature: Thriving in the Modern World

Gigi Griep, Sonetta Ty, Caleb Cissna, Alysia Meyer

Panel #3	OMH 127
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Reimagining the Known: Tools, Technologies and the Expanding Edge of Human Understanding

Blair Graves, Yenni Gaspar, Shukra Nankabirwa

12:00 pm	All-Honors Luncheon	OMH Lobby
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1:30-3:00 Afternoon CONCURRENT PANEL SESSION

Panel #4	OMH 118
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This Barbie Wrote an Honors Project: Uncovering Gender Disparities in the Everyday Life

Abigail Livengood, MacKenzie Chen, Mary Goodhew, Elly Stehle

Panel #5	OMH 128
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Lenses for Equity: Visions for Increased Access and Novel Methodology in Healthcare

Suzanna Gill, Marie Hafez, Eli Shriner, Jonathan Savell

Panel #6	OMH 127
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Structures of Power, Voices of Resistance

Olivia Pederson, Charlotte Choat, Julia Lats, Nathan Parks

Panel #7	OMH 126
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From the Seas to the Trees to the Tribes: Exploring the Diversity of the Pacific Northwest

Carrie Cox, Maxwell Hayden, Parker Landon

3:00	Honors Class of 2025 Award Celebration	OMH 109 Lecture Hall
	All-Honors Dessert Reception to Follow	OMH Lobby

Honors Research Symposium 2025

Seattle Pacific University

Detailed Schedule



Arrival and Refreshments

9:30 am – 10:00 am

Otto Miller Hall Lobby

Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:00 am – 10:30 am

Dr. Joshua Tom, Honors Director

OMH 109 Lecture Hall

Morning Concurrent Session

10:30 am -12:00 pm

Panel #1

Location: OMH 118

Peripheral Visions: Reframing How and Where We Learn

What if the spaces, tools, and systems around us shape how and what we learn in ways we rarely consider? This panel examines how the often-unseen structures within education – such as digital learning applications, classroom acoustics, and the role of student researchers in scientific discovery – shape the educational experience. From an elementary school to an undergraduate campus, attending to these peripheries gives insight into how knowledge is constructed in classrooms.

Panelists:

Savannah Meyer

Honors Research Project Title:

Adapting Protein Production Techniques to Make Diverse Immunoproteins in the Undergraduate Lab: Antigen Fragments and Siderocalins

Sarah Garvin

Honors Research Project Title:

Maybe It Really Is Those Damn Phones

Henry Moe

Honors Research Project Title:

Can You Hear a Pen Drop? A Study of Classroom Acoustics and Aural Experience

Panel #2

Location: OMH 128

Reformation and Realization of Human Nature: Thriving in the Modern World

As knowledge advances, the structures and systems we create and interact with carry unintended consequences, affecting human well-being in complex ways. This panel explores the vast networks of knowledge, discourse, and perception that shape how we understand ourselves, others, and the world around us. At its core, this group of interdisciplinary thinkers seeks to contribute to the pursuit of human thriving. By reimagining concepts such as revolution, morality, creativity, and human health, the panel aims to move toward a more inclusive and holistic model of the human experience.

Panelists:

Gigi Griep

Honors Research Project Title:

Effects of Cerebral Tumor Necrosis Factor Alpha on Systemic Glucose Homeostasis in Obese Mice

Sonetta Ty

Honors Research Project Title:

The Sound of Music: Why do humans find enrichment in music while non-human primates do not?

Caleb CissnaHonors Research Project Title:*From Answer Questions to Replacing Staff: Analyzing the Effect and Possibilities of Artificial Intelligence on the Structure of Organizations***Alysia Meyer**Honors Research Project Title:*Maxim Gorky's Illusionary Reformation of Human Nature and the Rise of the Soviet Citizen: Socialist Realism as a Constructive Force in Mother*

Panel #3

Location: OMH 127

Reimagining the Known: Tools, Technologies, and the Expanding Edge of Human Understanding

This panel brings together diverse explorations at the intersection of science, technology, and what it means to know and act in the world. From the lab bench to the classroom to the forest, our projects engage with tools both digital and biological as agents of transformation. Together, these works reflect the shifting boundaries of humanness and knowledge across disciplines.

Panelists:**Blair Graves**Honors Research Project Title:*Sex, Skulls and Selection: Genetic Approaches to Juvenile Sex Determination in Columbian Black-Tailed Deer Crania***Yenni Gaspar**Honors Research Project Title:*Assessing the Efficiency of Methotrexate (MTX) as an Antiviral Drug***Shukra Nankabirwa**Honors Project Research Title:*How High School and College Students are Shaping AI's Role in Education***All-Honors Luncheon****12:00 pm -1:15 pm****Otto Miller Hall Lobby****Afternoon Concurrent Session****1:30 pm -3:00 pm**

Panel #4

Location: OMH 118

This Barbie Wrote an Honors Project: Uncovering Gender Disparities in the Everyday Life

Our panel interrogates the socially embedded, omnipresent, and invisible experiences of women, from rowers to readers. This is done through the fields of exercise science, literature, nursing, sociology, and theology, considering issues humans face through a distinctly female lens. Whether trivial or traumatizing, physical or mental, spiritual or sexual, we hope to shed light on the harmful gender inequality that permeates women's lives.

Panelists:**Abigail Livengood**Honors Research Project Title:*"Don't take St. Anselm for a Marriage Therapist: The Utility of Substitutionary Atonement Theology in Light of Feminist Critiques"***MacKenzie Chen**Honors Research Project Title:*Silly Little Romance Books: Analyzing the Value and Function of the Popular Romance Genre***Mary Goodhew**Honors Research Project Title:*Postural Deficits in Female Rowers***Elly Stehle**

Honors Research Project Title:

Sexy in Scrubs: How the Media and Cultural Perception of Nurses Leads to Sexual Harassment and Violence in the Workplace

Panel #5

Location: OMH 128

Lenses for Equity: Visions for Increased Access and Novel Methodology in Healthcare

This panel examines health from several angles—biological, social, and psychological—to help clarify areas where methodology and accessibility require revision. We recognize that successful healthcare not only requires innovation in the care being provided but also increased access. Panelists will discuss neuroinflammation associated with chronic stress, practices in narrative therapy, methodology in RNA detection, and development of vision care programs.

Panelists:

Suzanna Gill

Honors Research Project Title:

Guidelines for the Creation and Implementation of a School-Based Vision Program for the Greater Seattle Area

Marie Hafez

Honors Research Project Title:

Neuroinflammation in the Ventral Tegmental Area of Chronically Stressed Rats

Eli Shriner

Honors Research Project Title:

Changing the Narrative: A Meta-Analysis of Narrative Therapy and It's Development

Jonathan Savell

Honors Research Project Title:

Lighting up the Cell: Development of a Luminescent Lanthanide Probe for RNA Detection

Panel #6

Location: OMH 127

Structures of Power, Voices of Resistance

What does it mean to be human in systems that limit voice, agency, and dignity? This panel investigates how structural inequities across religious, educational, linguistic, and political systems shape how marginalized groups experience, resist, and transform these systems in pursuit of justice. The presentations address faith-based peacebuilding in Ukraine and Palestine, systemic challenges and educational reform in Kenya's education system, the suppression of linguistic diversity in U.S. immigration communities, and the long-term economic impacts of civil unrest.

Panelists:

Olivia Pederson

Honors Research Project Title:

Beyond the Exam Score: An Examination of the Kenyan Education System, its Reforms, Inefficiencies, and Impact on Individuals and Society at Large

Charlotte Choat

Honors Research Project Title:

Problematizing a Hegemonic English: An Assessment of Language Use and Diversity in a Nation of Immigrant Communities

Julia Lats

Honors Research Project Title:

Faith in Conflict: The Role of Religion in Conflict and Peacebuilding among Minority Christian Communities in Ukraine and Palestine

Nathan Parks

Honors Research Project Title:

Blood and Mettle: The Effect of Civil Unrest on Economic Mobility

From the Seas to the Trees to the Tribes: Exploring the Diversity of the Pacific Northwest

This panel explores several aspects of the natural beauty here in the Pacific Northwest. By examining the movements of gray whales in Puget Sound, chemical signaling among some of our native plants, and the language revitalization programs of local tribes, we gain a better understanding of the diversity of life in this unique region of the world. Through studying these linguistic and ecological niches, our humanity itself is examined, shining a light on our inquisitive and passionate nature.

Panelists:**Sara Mach**Honors Research Project Title:*Distribution and Habitat Use of Sounders Gray Whales from 1990 to 2023***Lainey Mendoza**Honors Research Project Title:*Allelopathy of Western Red Cedar, Douglas Fir, and Western Hemlock on Seed Germination***Erin Hallquist**Honors Research Project Title:**HONORS Class of 2024 AWARD CELEBRATION****3:00 pm****Otto Miller 109 Lecture Hall****Dessert Reception to Follow****OMH Lobby**