Office of Undergraduate Research

Annual Conference on Student Research and Creativity at Berry College

Saturday, November 14, 2026

Office of Undergraduate Research

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Check-in & Pick up Conference Badge (outside Krannert Ballroom A)**

Continental Breakfast - Conference badge required for entry (Krannert Ballroom A)

9:45 a.m. **Welcome (Krannert Ballroom A)**
Dr. Kristen Diliberto-Macaluso, Director, Office of Undergraduate Research

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Pre-Conference Workshop for Students** (Krannert Ballroom A)
Workshop Facilitator: Ms. Hope Willoughby, Associate Director of Career Education & Development, Berry College Center for Personal and Professional Development

Optional Tour of Main Campus – Admissions Staff

Concurrent Oral Presentation Sessions:

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Session 1-A (McAllister Hall Auditorium–Room 119)**
Topics: Nursing and Evidence-Based Patient Care
Moderator: Dr. Carolyn Reilly

Marissa Green, Sarina Astorga, Rhylee Gallups
Berry College
Evidence for Animal-Assisted Therapy for Pediatric Anxiety, Pain, and Discomfort
Mentors: Dr. Carolyn Reilly and Dr. Danielle Gunter

Laura Davidson, Amelia Taylor, Alexis Whaley
Berry College
Improving Outcomes for Infants with Extremely Low Birth Weights through Skin-to-Skin Contact
Mentors: Dr. Carolyn Reilly and Dr. Danielle Gunter

J.T. Painter, Caden Averill, Will Van Leuven, Austin Stacy
Berry College
A Comparison of Chlorhexidine Gluconate Bathing Methods In High Acuity Hospital Units
Mentors: Dr. Carolyn Reilly and Dr. Danielle Gunter

Sofia Milner Calvo
Oxford College of Emory University
Beyond Translation: Linguistic, Cultural, and Socioeconomic Barriers in Hispanic Patients' Experiences with the U.S. Healthcare System
Mentor: Dr. Maria Davis

Session 1-B (Briggs Hall–Room 115)
Topics: Culture, Media, Rhetoric, and Community
Moderator: Dr. Whitney Adams

Jen Williams
Oglethorpe University
Take All of Me: Fat Fetishization in 1980s Hustler
Mentor: Dr. Anna Ziering

Giselle Silva
Sewanee: The University of the South
Who Controls AI? Examinations on a Language of Servility
Mentor: Dr. Terry Papillon and Dr. Sean O'Rourke

Patrick Meadows *Berry College*	When in Rome: Stop a Data Center – Using Film for Advocacy *Mentor: Dr. Brian Campbell*
William Perry *Oxford College of Emory University*	Más que Negocios: the Economic and Community Impact of Hispanic, Immigrant-Owned Businesses in the Atlanta Area *Mentor: Dr. Maria Davis*
12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	**Buffet Lunch–Conference badge required for entry (Krannert Ballroom C & D) Plenary Talk titled, "The ABCs of Mentorship in Undergraduate Research"–Dr. Miguel Ampuero, Associate Professor, Department of Psychological Science and Applied Behavior Analysis**
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	**Session 2-A (McAllister Hall Auditorium–MAC 119)** ***Topics: Genetics, Gene Regulation, and Molecular Biology*** ***Moderator: Dr. Aridany Suarez-Trujillo***
Griffin Reeves, Joseph Myers *Berry College*	Chemical Modification of the Rieske Protein *Mentor: Dr. Kevin Hoke*
Glory Dada, Pierra Mutavu *Sewanee: The University of the South*	Determining the Role of APETALA Genes in Saffron Flower Development *Mentor: Dr. Kevin Rodriguez*
Hoa Nguyen, Valeria Kogotkova *Oglethorpe University*	The Fmr1 Gene Exhibits Strong Conservation at the Chromosomal Level but Not at the Gene Level Across Drosophila Evolution *Mentor: Dr. Karen Schmeichel and Dr. Lea Alford*
Daniel Leard *Oglethorpe University*	SPR-2 is Necessary for Epigenetic Maintenance and Normal Gene Expression in C. elegans *Mentor*: *Dr. Karen Schmeichel*
	Session 2-B (Briggs Hall–Room 115) ***Topics: Applied Research in Economics, Environment, and Animal Science*** ***Moderator: Dr. Ryan Saylor***
Andrew McAdams *Berry College*	Suds Down South: Causal Analysis of Alcohol Availability and SEC Football Attendance *Mentor: Dr. Frank Stephenson*
Payton Beaver *Berry College*	Do Buc-ee's Make Bad Neighbors? *Mentor: Dr. Frank Stephenson*
C. Eros Kubicki *Sewanee: The University of the South*	Why is our Forest Disappearing? *Mentor: Dr. Jon Evans*
Emma Cate Rutledge *Berry College*	Trends in Stray Canine and Feline Data Over the Last 5 Years in Georgia *Mentor: Dr. Ryan Saylor and Dr. Sunday Peters*

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	**Session 3-A (McAllister Auditorium–MAC 119)** ***Topics: Behavioral Skills, Training, and Implementation*** ***Moderator: Dr. Jackson Colvett***
Lauren Cothern, Abigail Woznicki, Olivia Morgan *Berry College*	Improving Adoption and Adherence to the ABCDEF PICU Liberation Bundle in Pediatrics *Mentors: Dr. Carolyn Reilly*
Emma Wilson, Kennedy Moody *Berry College*	Using Behavioral Skills Training to Teach Consent Skills in an Inclusive Postsecondary Setting *Mentor: Dr. Miguel Ampuero*
Alyia Carroll, Emma Wilson Joseph Leslie *Berry College*	"If Something Feels Wrong, We Dash Along." Teaching Preschoolers Abduction Prevention Skills using a Computer-Based Behavioral Skills Package *Mentor: Dr. Miguel Ampuero*
Emma Brucker, Reece Harper *Berry College*	Teaching Interview Skills to Undergraduate Students through a Computer-based Behavioral Skills Package *Mentor: Dr. Miguel Ampuero*
	Session 3-B (Briggs Hall-Room 115) ***Topics: Literature, Visual, and Cultural Interpretation*** ***Moderator: Dr. Abhipsa Chakraborty***
Hobie Brabson *Lee University*	Democracy Rhetoric as the Tragedy of the Commons *Mentor: Dr. Thomas Pope*
Kenneth Pautsch *Oglethorpe University*	Messenger: An Analysis of Hermean Intervention *Mentor: Dr. Lea Alford*
Sophia Bigelow *Sewanee:* *The University of the South*	The Web of Creation: An Iconographic Analysis on Poverty Point Artifacts *Mentor: Dr. Emily Sharp and Dr. Maggie Spivey-Faulkner*
Katelyn Wilburn *Berry College*	A Multimedia Analysis of Bhimayana: Experiences of Untouchability: Messages of Social Justice *Mentor: Dr. Abhipsa Chakraborty*

Poster Session & Art Display
Krannert Ballroom A and B
November 14, 2026, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Animal Science

Emma Cate Rutledge *Berry College*	Comparison of the Milk Fat Globule, Extracellular Vesicles, and Somatic Cell Lipidomes *Mentor: Dr. Aridany Suarez-Trujillo*

Chemistry and Biochemistry

Howard Bew *Berry College*	Crystal Structure of Benzodiazetine: Then vs. Now *Mentor: Dr. Ken Martin*
Addison Drinnon *Berry College*	Optimization of Aryl Amide Coupling Procedure and Application to Other Substrates *Mentor: Dr. Savannah Post*
John Harris *Berry College*	Development of VX-809 Electrostatic Potential Map Through X-ray Crystallography *Mentor: Dr. Ken Martin*
Matthew Trinidad, Naeche Anamege, Azan Chaudary *Berry College*	The Impact of the D111N Mutation on the Reactivity of CuA *Mentor: Dr. Kevin Hoke*

Biology

Keegan Congleton *Sewanee: The University of the South*	Flora of Head of the Crow State Park *Mentor: Dr. Jon Evans*
Christina Diaz Marquez *Lee University*	Yarrow: Bridging Traditional Healing and Modern Science *Mentor: Dr. Thaddeus McRae, Ms. Courtney Delay*
Norrie Keenan *Oglethorpe University*	Intersexual Selection and Female Preference for Male Coloration in Pimephales promelas *Mentor: Dr. Charles Baube*
Bella Kelly-Stewart *Oglethorpe University*	FAP93 Contributes to Proximal Axonemal Integrity in Chlamydomonas Reinhardtii Cilia *Mentor: Dr. Lea Alford*
Isaac Tomanguilla, Jada Klick *Oglethorpe University*	The Genomic Neighborhood of the Rolled Gene has Evolved from D. Melanogaster to D. Arizonae *Mentors: Dr. Lea Alford, Dr. Karen Schmeichel*
Lilah von Gruenigen *Sewanee: The University of the South*	Growing New Saffron from Stem Tissue: Building a Tissue Culture System *Mentor: Dr. Kevin Rodriguez*

Economics

Allison Fried
Oxford College of Emory University

The Relationship Between 340B Program Eligibility and Hospital Acquisition of Independent Physician Practices
Mentor: Dr. Dan Ludwinski

Environmental Science and Studies

Giselle Salazar
Emory University

Hongos y Hongueros: Logging, Reforestation, and Impacts on Wild Food Systems
Mentor: Dr. Jessica Ham

History

Jessica Cheak
Sewanee: The University of the South

The Sewanee Summer Seminar Oral History Project
Mentors: Dr. Bethel Seballos and Dr. Andrew Maginn

Physics and Technology

Madeline Greco
Georgia Institute of Technology

Modeling Mixing Dynamics for Waste Gasification
Mentor: Dr. Jorge Gatica, Cleveland State University

Brooke Sikes
Berry College

Experimental Investigation of Resistance and Resistivity in the Physics Classroom using Play-Doh
Mentor: Dr. Zachary Lindsey

Political Science

Katherine Cunningham
LaGrange College

Does the World Cup Favor Democracies or Autocracies? An Analysis of FIFA Hosts and Winners
Mentor: Dr. John Tures

Lucy McCoy
LaGrange College

Immigration Customs Enforcement, ICE Training, Trends since 2009 and Ties to Political Party
Mentor: Dr. John Tures

Jonathan Wible
LaGrange College

Public Versus Private Attorneys—Duel of the Fates!
Mentor: Dr. John Tures

Psychological Science

Lacy Bowling, Kasey Fitzgerald
Berry College

Teaching Preschool Children to Mand for Help using Effective Prompting Strategies: A Case Study
Mentor: Dr. Miguel Ampuero

Mariana Damron
Sewanee: The University of the South

The Link between ADHD & Cannabis Use: Perceptions Versus Reality
Mentor: Dr. Katherine Cammack

Emily Hills, Isabella Edwards, Havily Weaver, Kathryn Gaertner
Berry College

Does Notecard Use Predict Performance on Introduction to Psychology Exams?
Mentor: Dr. Jackson Colvett

Gracie Poole, Sarah Talley
Berry College

Scratcher No Scratching: The Effect of Differential Reinforcement of Other Behavior, Goal Setting, and Feedback on Skin Damaging

Behaviors
Mentor: Dr. Miguel Ampuero

A special thank you to all the presenters and faculty mentors from the following colleges and universities:

Berry College
Emory University
Georgia Institute of Technology
LaGrange College
Lee University
Oglethorpe University
Oxford College of Emory University
Sewanee: The University of the South

Thank you to members of the Council on Student Research:
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Dr. Caitlin Conn
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Dr. Adrienne Ernst
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Dr. Margaret Ndwandwe
Dr. Jonathan Reed
Dr. David Slade, Provost, *ex officio*
Ms. Laura Taylor, *ex officio*

Thank you to Lifeworks Student Workers:
Mia Delgadillo
Evan Grimes

Save the date and spread the word!

The 2027 Conference on Student Research and Creativity will be held on Saturday, November 13th.