



Research Days 2026

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

April 9 – 10



2026 Program



Governors State
UNIVERSITY

An Illinois Public University

Thursday, April 9th | GovState Campus

MORNING PRESENTATIONS

- 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Teaching and AI – Penalty Vs. Process**
Scott B. Thesen
D34011
- 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Teaching and Learning in the Age Of AI: Reversed Bloom's Taxonomy, Relational Teaching, And Socially Engaged Pedagogy**
Erica Ceka
D34012

11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. THURSDAY MORNING POSTER SESSION - LIBRARY

1. **The Influence of Fairytales on American Children's Literature**
Victoria Gómez (CAS/DAL)
2. **Trust In Expertise and Deflection of Counterevidence: A Bayesian Analysis**
Ben Almassi (CAS/DAL)
3. **Floating Objects Detection Using Drones**
Yunchuan Liu, Harshavardhan Varma Datla (CAS/DSMT)
4. **Presence And Distribution of Enteric Microbes Associated with Peromyscus Leucopus Feces and Surrounding Soil Environments Across a Latitudinal Gradient in the Upper Midwest**
Nandakishore Sriram Kondepudi, Timothy Gsell, John Yunger (CAS/DSMT)
5. **Automatic Labeling of Real-World PMU Data: A Weakly Supervised Learning Approach**
Yunchuan Liu (CAS/DSMT)
6. **Comparative Analysis of Lactotransferrin Nucleotide Sequences in the Florida Manatee and Other Mammals**
Sara Lello, Melissa Plakke (CAS/DSMT)
7. **Thriving Against the Odds: A Phenomenological Study of Adults Who Overcame Childhood Socioeconomic Hardship and Achieved Success in Adulthood**
Dennis Clotworthy, Ahmet Can (CEHD/PSCO)
8. **How COVID-19 Masking Shaped Children's Emotion Recognition**
Stephanie Cazares (CEHD/PSCO)

9. **Adolescent Skill Preparation Impact on Transition to Adulthood**
Alyssa Voss, Ian Telschow (CEHD/PSCO)
10. **Supporting Independence: Wearable Technology Effectiveness for Individuals with Mild Cognitive Impairment**
Emma Talamonti (CEHD/PSCO)

Opening Keynote Panel Presentation

Thursday, April 9 | 1 – 2:15 p.m. | Engbretson Hall

AI As a Teaching Partner: Augmenting, Not Replacing, Relational Learning

Using AI To Deepen Interaction, Dialogue, And Connection in Ways That Technology Alone Cannot Replace



Dr. Beverly Schneller
Moderator



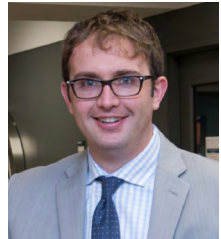
Jason Zingsheim
Panelist



Katherine Carl
Panelist



Amanda Evans
Panelist



Matthew Cooney
Panelist

THURSDAY AFTERNOON PRESENTATIONS

- 2:30 – 3:15 p.m. **From Imposter to Expert: Building Students Confidence and Professional Identity**
Megan Rodgers
C3330
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **From Algorithmic Output to Academic Judgment: The Relational Role of Librarians In AI-Mediated Learning**
Michel Nguessan
C3331
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Leadership in Action: Insights from the Tau Sigma National Leadership Conference**
Victoria Gómez & Jada Morgan
C3380
- 2:30 – 3:15 p.m. **Research in Literary Studies, Panel 1**
Angelika Babicz, Emma Marcukaitis, Jessica Nephew
D2441
- 2:30 – 3:15 p.m. **The Heart in the Machine: Exploring Digital Empathy and “Artificial Presence” in AI-Supported Relational Teaching**
Mohammed Abdul Salam, Richard Manpriso, Abbas Toure
D34190
- 3:15 – 4:00 p.m. **Research in Literary Studies, Panel 2**
Tasneem Ahmad, Danielle Martin, Mariana Ayala
D34011
- 3:15 – 4:00 p.m. **Service Beyond the Classroom: 2026 Alternative Spring Break-San Diego, CA**
Danielle Austin, Shivani Rajesh, Jonathan Cooper, Sean O'Brien, Journey Manuel, Narendra Vamsi Krishna Reddy Resapu, Brett Porter, Pranav Minumula, Sogol Saadat
D34160
- 3:15 – 4:00 p.m. **Reflection on Two Research Studies in Mathematics Education Through the Lens of Relational Teaching in the Age Of AI**
Valentina Postelnicu, Xiaobo She; Andrius Tamulis, Christopher Tweddle
D34170

2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

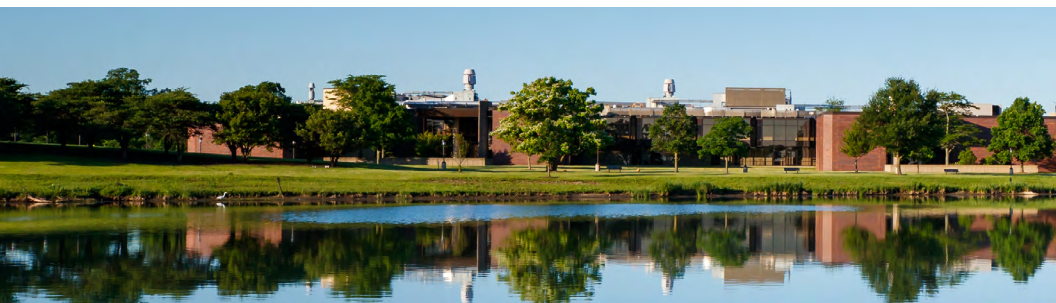
THURSDAY AFTERNOON POSTER SESSION - LIBRARY

- 1. Wired For Connection, Struggling to Connect: Social Anxiety in Gen Z**
Yoselin Gomez (CAS/DAL)
- 2. Compiling The Future: Navigating The Glitch in the “Path to Success”**
Arianna Mcghee (CAS/DAL)
- 3. Jaguar Pride in Action: Learning Leadership Through Model Illinois Government and American Model United Nations**
Andrew Schott, Jonathan Cooper, William Fulth (CAS/DAL)
- 4. Geographical Information Systems: Abundance Of Bird Strikes in Chicago Is Influenced by Building Height and Luminosity**
Rachael Muenchow, John Yunger (CAS/DSMT)
- 5. Geographical Information Systems: Landscape Patterns and Habitat Associations of Mammals**
Desire Sosa, John Yunger, Daniel Lizzandro-McPherson (CAS/DSMT)
- 6. Geographical Information Systems: Climatic and Landscape Patterns Associated with Cicada Emergence in Eastern North America**
Krystilyn Bauske, John Yunger (CAS/DSMT)
- 7. Geographical Information Systems: Land Fragmentation Impact on the Spread of Emerald Ash Borer**
Katherine Brown, Xiaoyong Chen, John Yunger, Tony Del Valle (CAS/DSMT)
- 8. Geographic Information Systems: Investigating Anthropogenic Effects on Woodpecker Foraging**
Christopher Groesbeck, John Yunger (CAS/DSMT)
- 9. Geographical Information System: Seasonal Dynamics of Microbial Indicators and Antimicrobial Resistance Patterns in Suburban and Agricultural Row Crops Freshwater Stream Environment**
Jesse Osei Assibey, Timothy Gsell, John Yunger (CAS/DSMT)
- 10. Incubation Temperature-Driven Changes in Gallus Eggshell Calcium Composition and Mechanical Integrity**
Morgan Krause, Melissa Plakke (CEHD/DSMT)
- 11. Seasonal Similarities and Differences in Sediment Microbial Communities Counts from Industrial, Suburban Park and Forest Preserve Sites in Elgin, IL**
Morgan Krause, Timothy Gsell (CAS/DSMT)

2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON POSTER SESSION (continued)

12. **Associations Between Testes Size and Polyandry in Illinois Magi Cicada Spp.**
Alexa Fortu, Melissa Plakke (CAS/DSMT)
13. **Geographical Information Systems: Land Fragmentation Impact on the Spread of Emerald Ash Borer.**
Katherine Brown, Xiaoyong Chen, John Yunger, Tony Del Valle (CAS/DSMT)
14. **The Effect of Cue Format on Associative Memory**
Laretta Graves (CEHD/PSCO)
15. **How Childhood Experiences Shape Adult Relationships**
Nadeen Beituni (CEHD/PSCO)
16. **Investigating how Personality Traits influence the Development of Educator-Student Bonds**
Elda Cruz, Shaalein Lopez (CEHD/PSCO)
17. **Balancing The Mind: From Regret to Equanimity**
Christina Zahorik, Samantha Desantis, Olivia Jeziorczak (CEHD/PSCO)
18. **Raised By Style: How Parenting Shapes Children's Self-Esteem**
Jessica Youssef (CEHD/PSCO)
19. **Not All Regrets Are Created Equal**
Elena Popovic, Samantha Desantis, Olivia Jeziorczak (CEHD/PSCO)
20. **The Impact of Low-Income Status On Co-Curricular Engagement in First-Generation Students**
Rebecca S. Fassbender (CEHD/PSCO)
21. **Exploring Reentry and Recovery Among Formerly Incarcerated African Americans with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders**
Trinity Jones (CHHS/SOCW)



Friday, April 10th | GovState Campus

FRIDAY MORNING PRESENTATIONS

- 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.** **Using AI As a Load Management Tool in Baseball Pitchers**
David Snedden, Soon-Ok Park
C3331
- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.** **Relational Teaching in the Age Of AI: A Pilot Study of Learning Analytics and Student - Faculty Engagement**
Yamunasrivalli Akki
C3380
- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.** **Using AI Tools Through a Human-Centered, Linguistic Justice Lens to Support Biliteracy for Multilingual Learners with Disabilities**
Sara Jozwik, Camille O'Quin, Steven Sharp
D2444
- 10:00 – 10:15 a.m.** **Mental Freedom: The Traveler's Map to Wellbeing**
Kathryn Collins, Olivia Jeziorczak, Dr. Figen Karadogan
D34115
- 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.** **Interprofessional Education Research and Practice Showcase**
Rebecca Kvasnicka, Keith Werosh, Somi Nagaraj
D34160
- 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.** **Research in Literary Studies, Panel 3**
Gabrielle Bierdz, Taji Lacy, Shannel Owens
D34182
- 10:00 – 10:45 a.m.** **Research in Writing Studies, Strategic Communication, And Literary Culture**
Victoria Gomez, Alexander Randak, Christina Williams
D34190



Friday, April 10th | GovState Campus

11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. **FRIDAY MORNING POSTER SESSION - LIBRARY**

- 1. The Maya and Their Significance in The World Today**
Ayhlana Jackson (CAS/DAL)
- 2. Older Adults and Emerging Technology Fraud in the AI Deepfake Era**
Thiago Neves (CAS/DAL)
- 3. Development Of An AI-Coded Protein Quantitation Analyzer for Biochemistry Research and Instruction**
Walter Henne, Adil Iqbal (CAS/DSMT)
- 4. Rapid Prototyping of A C-Reactive Protein Lateral Flow Assay Using Commercial Reagents and Pre-Manufactured Test Strips**
Walter Henne, Rachel Myers (CAS/DSMT)
- 5. A Framework For AI-Integrated Pedagogy in Computer Science**
Priyanshi Garg (CAS/DSMT)
- 6. Development of an AI-Coded Size Exclusion Chromatography Modeling Application for Biochemistry Research and Instruction**
Walter Henne, Ahren Kirschbaum (CAS/DSMT)
- 7. Development of an AI-Coded Protein-Dye Labelin Calculator and Protocol Generator for Research and Instruction**
Walter A. Henne, Morgan Krause (CAS/DSMT)
- 8. Educator Advocacy and Postsecondary Readiness Politics**
Chastinee C. McNeil (CEHD)
- 9. Finding Life Satisfaction Through a Week of Gratitude**
Samantha Desantis, Ipek Uzumcu (CEHD/PSCO)
- 10. From Past Burdens to Finding Peace Through Spirituality**
Samantha Desantis, Christina Zahorik, Elena Popovic (CEHD/PSCO)
- 11. From Feelings of Belonging to Academic Success at GovState**
Christina Zahorik, Samantha Desantis, Olivia Jeziorczak (CEHD/PSCO)
- 12. Impacts Of Von Restorff Effect on Memory**
Emily Estrada (CEHD/PSCO)
- 13. Discovering And Letting Go**
Elena Popovic, Samantha Desantis, Olivia Jeziorczak (CEHD/PSCO)

- 14. Expert Insights: Identifying Knowledge Gaps in Driver Rehabilitation and Community Mobility Beyond ACOTE Standards**
Luther King, Madysen Gaus, Arthur Katzmann, Lia Shomaly, Keniya Smith, And Tina Tindall (CHHS/OT)
- 15. Investigating Best Practices in Diagnostic Reasoning and Differential Diagnosis: Implications for Occupational Therapy**
Frank Czuba Drot, OTR/L; Laila Atra-Yassin, OTS; Cassidy Green, OTS; Shaylynn Krause, OTS; Stephanie Petersen, OTS; & Alisia Robinson, OTS (CHHS/OT)
- 16. Graduate Students' Perceptions of Generative AI's Impact on Critical Thinking Development**
Erin Simpson, Chloe Berns, Grace Foley, Nicole Hill, Samantha Mantoan, Kevin Murney (CHHS/OT)
- 17. Health Care Graduate Students' Perceptions of University Resources and Strategies to Support Stress Management and Well-Being**
Rebecca Kvasnicka, Jessica Brizuela OTS, Taylor Brown OTS, Ciara Golden OTS, Diana Guzman OTS, And Lauren Kelly OTS (CHHS/OT)
- 18. Understanding And Applying Multi-Sensory Strategies: Stakeholder Perspectives in Adult Day Settings**
Dustin Hogan, Jillian Rancatore Drot MOT, OTR/L Mia Barton OTS, Zahria Edwards OTS, Brent Fitzgerald Jr. OTS, Jady Powell-Cork OTS, Sandra Sowa OTS (CHHS/OT)
- 19. Care Partner Perspectives of The Transition Process from School-Based Services to Adulthood for Young Adults with Severe Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**
Samantha Rietveld (CHHS/OT)
- 20. AI-Fueled Client-Centric Project-Based Learning**
Jan Figa (Library)

Research Days 2026 Recognition Luncheon

Friday, April 10 | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | E-Lounge

The awards ceremony will recognize individuals who submitted research for Research Days, along with Intellectual Life Grant recipients and first-time grant recipients.

Sponsored By the Office of the Provost

By Invitation Only

Friday, April 10th | GovState Campus

Day 2 Keynote Panel Presentation

Friday, April 10 | 1:00 – 2:15 p.m. | Engbretson Hall

Redesigning Learning for The AI Era: From Assignments to Career Advantage

How We Must Redesign Assignments and Learning Experiences in a World Where AI Can Generate Outputs, While Ensuring Students Develop the Capabilities Needed to Gain and Sustain Career Advantage in an AI-Driven Economy



Dr. Stephen Wagner
Moderator



Clare Tang
Panelist



Erika Ceka
Panelist



Mohammed Salam
Panelist



Nikki Lagrone
Panelist

FRIDAY AFTERNOON PRESENTATIONS

- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **What Disappears Quietly: Gentrification and Childhood Memory**
Victoria Gómez
C3331
- 2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **Learning to Be Heard**
Hannah Stroh
C3380
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Relational Teaching in The Age Of AI: Promoting Hemp and Cannabis Literacy Through an Interdisciplinary Community Partnership Model**
Tonya S. Roberson, Raven Worthy-Sutton
D2444
- 2:30 – 3:15 p.m. **Soil Organic Carbon Stocks and Vertical Distribution in Upland and Floodplain Forests of Thorn Creek, Northeastern Illinois**
Krystilyn Bauske, Christopher Groesbeck, Eric Nelson, Xiaoyong Chen
D34190

2:00 – 3:15 p.m. FRIDAY AFTERNOON POSTER SESSION - LIBRARY

1. **Not So Glamorous: The Downsides of Fame**
Kaylee Piszro (CAS/DAL)
2. **Relational Teaching in The Age Of AI: A Model for Feedback-Driven Learning**
Natalie Coleman (CAS/DSMT)
3. **Prowler**
Julio Galan (CAS/DSMT)
4. **Skywatch**
Fridaas Opoola (CAS/DSMT)
5. **Microbial Abundance and Physiology: Variation in Carbon Use Patterns Along a Latitudinal Gradient from the UP of Michigan to Chicago**
Navya Sri, Tadepalli Naga Venkata (CAS/DSMT)
6. **Beyond The Margins**
Sara Pozdal (CEHD/DEL)
7. **Work Life Balance Amongst Americans**
Kyah Moore (CEHD/PSCO)

Friday, April 10th | GovState Campus

2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON POSTER SESSION (continued)

- 8. The Choices Athletes Make, And the Regret They Face**
Olivia Jeziorzak (CEHD/PSCO)
- 9. The Power of Patience: Delayed Gratification and Regret**
Christina Zahorik, Elena Popovic, Samantha Desantis (CEHD/PSCO)
- 10. The Psychological Impact of the Relationship Between Emotional Intelligence and Perceived Leadership Effectiveness Among African American Women in Social Service Leadership**
Shereeta Little (CHHS/SOCW)
- 11. How Boring Is This? Examining Psychometric Properties of The Job Boredom Index**
Stephen Wagner (COB/MME)

PRERECORDED, ON-DEMAND

- 1. Short-Form Content and the Long-Term Effects**
Grace Brown (CAS/DAL)
- 2. Economic Analysis on Healthcare Costs With AI**
Kara Daramola (CAS/DAL)
- 3. Beyond Dashboards: Leveraging AI To Revolutionize Information Visualization in Power BI**
Soon-Ok Park (CAS/DSMT)
- 4. Restorative Literacy: Designing Human-Centered Learning in Technological Times**
Camille O'Quin (CHHS/CDIS)
- 5. From Framework to Function: Developing An AI-Generated Workload App for School-Based Speech-Language Pathologists**
Danielle R. Osmelak, Walter Henne (CHHS/CDIS)
- 6. Navigating The Level of Review for IRB Submissions**
Scott Getsoian, Sahsha Cervantes (IRB)

Scan the QR code to view the On Demand programs:



FIRST TIME GRANTS

1. **Child Care Provider Will Co. FY25**
Erin Gutierrez (CAS/CDC)
2. **Prevention Initiative FY25**
Erin Gutierrez (CAS/CDC)
3. **Quality Improvement Grant FY25**
Erin Gutierrez (CAS/CDC)
4. **Child Care Provider Will Co FY26**
Erin Gutierrez (CAS/CDC)
5. **Tree Campus Challenge FY26**
Erin Gutierrez (CAS/CDC)
6. **Southland History Collective**
Elliot Fackler (CAS/DAL)
7. **Rise Grant Thenate FY25**
Jeff Stevenson (CAS/DAL)
8. **Rewriting The Declaration FY25**
Quenna Barrett (CAS/DAL)
9. **IIN: Humanities Futures**
Vida Owusu-Boateng (CAS/DAL)
10. **Ubitrix 2025**
Kazi Shaiful Alam (CAS/DSMT)
11. **BRC-BIO: Evolutionary Drivers of Dimorphic Sperm Function and Development**
Melissa Plakke (CAS/DSMT)
12. **Sustaining IL: Autoimmune Disease**
Walter Henne (CAS/DSMT)
13. **Medivalair: Innovative Drone Delivery FY25**
Xueqing Tang (CAS/DSMT)
14. **Functional Mobility & Spasticity Research FY25**
Maryleen Jones (CHHS/PT)
15. **Developing Mandarin Curriculum**
Feng Tian (COB/MME)
16. **Pluralism Cohort**
Joi Patterson (Exec Admin)
17. **Healing Through Dialogue FY26**
Joi Patterson (Exec Admin)
18. **Transferplus FY26**
Cesar Flores (SAEM)
19. **GSU Self-Help Legal Assistance Clinic FY26**
Phyllis West (SII)
20. **GSU Self-Help Legal Assistance Clinic FY26**
Phyllis West (SII)
21. **Dollar General Financial Literacy**
Aikiko Ota (SXL)
22. **Apprenticeship Expansion Grants FY26**
Craig Schmidt (SXL)
23. **Jaguar Jumps: Building The Dream FY25**
Michelle Sebasco (SXL)



Research Days

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Click on the links below to find out more and view the presentation sessions online!

Research Days 2026

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On-Demand Sessions

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