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# Honors Council of the Illinois Region

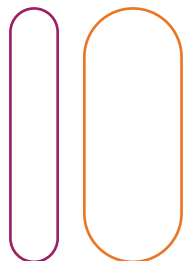
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## Spring Symposium



**Governors State**  
UNIVERSITY

An Illinois Public University



**2025 PROGRAM**  
March 1, 2025

# Schedule of Events – Saturday, March 1

**8:00am-8:30am Breakfast and Registration – GovState Café Area**

**8:30am-9:00am Welcome and Keynote Session – Hall of Governors**

Dr. David Rhea, Dean & Event Emcee, Governors State University  
Dr. Beverly Schneller, Provost, Governors State University

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Maria Murray Svidronova, Visiting Fulbright Scholar**

Maria Murray Svidronova, PhD. is an associate professor at the Faculty of Economics, Matej Bel University in Slovakia. Her professional focus is on the management of nonprofit and civil society organizations. She is interested in social innovations in public service provision, e.g. through co-creation, behavioral interventions and civic activism. She has been involved in several international research projects dealing with such innovations (H2020, COST). She is a recognized expert also in practice - she participated on legislative proposals for providing social housing by nonprofit sector, as well as in the preparation of legislative changes in the financing of nonprofits.

**9:00am-9:50am Oral Presentation Panel Session A**

**Addressing Social Challenges in the Family**

**Room: D34000**

**Moderator: Dr. Yeojin Rho**

***The dangers of daycares in Illinois***

Courtney E. Thomsen, Harper College  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Alicia Tomasian

***Effects of food insufficiency and family structure on parental aggravation and child outcomes***

Angel E. Juarez, Northeastern Illinois University  
Faculty Sponsor: Nadia Silverthorn

***What reason justifies a man beating his wife?***

Cassaundra Garcia & Jocelyn Hrubec, Northeastern Illinois University  
Faculty Sponsor: Beverly Gonzalez

**Projects Exploring the Constructs of Space and Time**

**Room: D34005**

**Moderator: Dr. Shaalein Lopez**

***An inquiry into stellar class and stellar activity***

Samuel Salvador & Brian Vargas, College of DuPage  
Faculty Sponsor: Joseph DaSanto

***Stellar chemistry: Unraveling mysteries across the cosmos***

Kyle Enkhzul, Harper College

***The crumbling of time***

Lucille Sugarman, College of DuPage  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Raul Barrea

## Language and Behaviors Studies and their Impact on Us and the U.S.

Room: D34011

Moderator: Prof. Laura White

### *The role of Christian nationalism in shaping U.S. policies*

Kendalla Puckett, College of DuPage

Faculty Sponsor: Trina Sotirakopoulos

### *Pro-social behavior in post-pandemic life in Emily St. John. Mandela's Station Eleven*

Jenna Koniewicz, Harper College

## Work in Progress: History, Memory, and Representation of Black America

Room: D34115

Moderator: Dr. Justin A. Pariseau

Aquiya Hasty, Alejandro Herrera, Kayla Lee & Calvin Wiley, Prairie State College

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Justin A Pariseau

## 10:00am -10:50am Poster Session A – GovState Library

### Posters on Arts, Humanities, Life and Health Sciences

Wandering Scholars: Dr. Ali Dembras, Prof. Chris Greiner

- 1. *That funny feeling hasn't faded: How fan rewrites take a stance***  
Morgan Hokanson, Governors State University  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Christopher White
- 2. *Should artists on social media specify if they use A.I. in their works publicly?***  
Hugo Sebastian Perez, Governors State University  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Christopher White
- 3. *The muse revolution: How women took their bodies back***  
Ava Esparza, Governors State University  
Faculty Sponsor: Chris Greiner
- 4. *Jailers, not leaders: Why leaders do not represent the people***  
Ahren Kirschbaum, Governors State University  
Faculty Sponsor: Chris Greiner
- 5. *A dramaturgical examination of the life of King Henry the Fifth by William Shakespeare***  
Emma Selle, Elmhurst University  
Faculty Sponsor: Andrew Behling
- 6. *Variety and feedback in digital game design: A literature review***  
Arthur Peterson-Veatch, Elmhurst University  
Faculty Sponsor: Owen Schaffer
- 7. *The qualities of bentonite and kaolin clay in relation to the adsorption of textile dyes***  
Moises Gomez & Amina Ali, Elmhurst University  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Kimberly Lawler-Sagarin

- 8. *Polylactic acid (PLA): Chemical breakdown of a plant-based plastic to enable more effective recycling efforts***  
Numa Syed & Sameer Khan, Elmhurst University  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Colleen Munro-Leighton
- 9. *The importance of amateur astronomers in furthering astronomical research via data collection and processing***  
Naomi Riley, Harper College  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Bhasker Moorthy, Dr. Kelly Page, Professor Margaret Geppert, Dr. Alicia Tomasian, Professor Magdalen McKinley
- 10. *Developing a science-driven lunar rover: A systems engineering approach to the VILE design concept***  
Krupal Patel, Harper College
- 11. *The benefits of physician-assisted suicide and government regulation of proper use***  
Emily Estrada & Morenike Balogun, Governors State University  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Christopher White
- 12. *The importance of milkweed in Illinois***  
Fatima Jaramillo, Harper College  
Faculty Sponsor: Alicia Tomasian
- 13. *The future of artificial intelligence in healthcare***  
Fox Weymouth, Elmhurst University  
Faculty Sponsor: Kathy Rossi
- 14. *Escape room – Health assessment***  
Julia Wozniak, Elmhurst University
- 15. *Deciphering transcription factor interplay: The role of NR3C1 in FOXO1 and PIT1 regulation in pituitary development***  
Prisha Shuramahay Kittu, Pratyusa Das, Dania Abou Jabal, Dale Ann Sunny & Dr. Buffy Sue Ellsworth, Southern Illinois University – Carbondale  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Buffy Sue Ellsworth
- 16. *The health industry: Why isn't black women pain taken seriously?***  
Kanaijah McGee, Governors State University  
Faculty Sponsor: Chris Greiner

## 11:00am-11:50am Oral Presentation Panel Session B

### Addressing Medical Issues and Mental Health – Past and Present

Room: D34000

Moderator: Dr. Yeojin Rho

#### ***Importance of translation services for Haitian immigrants throughout Illinois***

Madeline Adams & Elizabeth Ziemer, Eastern Illinois University

Faculty Sponsor: Jessica Tindira

#### ***Digestive parasites: The mental effects of their misdiagnosis on patients***

Addison Prokop, Governors State University

Faculty Sponsor: Chris Greiner

#### ***The impact of Henry VI's mental illness on politics and religion in England***

Dylan Walker, Elmhurst University

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Robert Butler



## Looking at Economics and Ethics in Literature and in Our World

Room: D34005

Moderator: Prof. Laura White

### ***Nuclear vs. coal: An ethical comparison***

Yusuf Hussain, College of DuPage

Faculty Sponsor: Danny Khananisho

### ***The cost of Dracula's vampirism: Investigating Dracula through the lens of capitalism***

Priyanka Saroya, Harper College

### ***Does majoring in business-related fields relate to the practice of personal financial management skills among college students?***

Rodney Katushabe, Northeastern Illinois University

Faculty sponsor: Dr. Sara Aliabadi

### ***What comes first? language or thought? How linguistics offers insight into our realities***

Yosephine Lee, Harper College

## Looking at the Impact of Social Media in Our Society

Room: D34011

Moderator: Isa Olugbile-Muhammad (Student)

### ***Misogynoir in the media: The ways in which the media portrayals and stereotypes contribute to the degradation of black women***

Preye Indinamaowei, Harper College

### ***How to become a workaholic: Mastering motivation***

Franklin McKinney, Governors State University

Faculty Sponsor: Chris Greiner

### ***Break the silence: Discursive opportunities and collective identity in domestic violence awareness***

Swapna George, DePaul University

Faculty Sponsor: Eulalie Laschever

**11:50am -12:30pm Student Lunch – GovState Café Area**

**Director's & Dean's Lunch – D34115**

**12:40pm -1:30pm Poster Session B – GovState Library**

## Posters on the Social Sciences & Economics

Wandering Scholars: Dr. Figen Karadogan, Dr. Shaalein Lopez

### **1. *Exploring the gap between pro-environmental attitudes and behaviors: A scoping review of the published literature in psychology***

Lindsay Brisley, DePaul University

Faculty Sponsor: Kim Quinn, Jocelyn Carter

### **2. *Can children's cognitive reflection be enhanced via social evaluation?***

Anabelle Jimenez, John Sayson, Christina Esparza-Cassidy, Jennifer Varga & Andrew G. Young, Northeastern Illinois University

Faculty Sponsor: Andrew G. Young

3. ***The master and his emissary: Power struggle of the two hemispheres affecting philosophy***  
Jade Cano, Jamie Sticha, Polia Deriy, College of DuPage  
Faculty Sponsor: Scott Bryant
4. ***The science behind trusting your gut: The role of cognitive biases in decision-making***  
Gwen Oswald & Halie Jernigan, Governors State University  
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Christopher White
5. ***Connect 2 cope - Stress and coping associated with college honors students***  
Anna Rodgers, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale  
Faculty Sponsor: Jyotsna Kapur
6. ***Patriotism as a concept v. a political tool***  
Grace Fitzgerald, DePaul University  
Faculty Sponsor: Alexis Guilbault
7. ***The impact of globalization on the growth of the American sports industry and the pathway of international student-athletes into college and professional sports.***  
Netochukwu Kalu, Elmhurst University  
Faculty sponsor: Dr. Michael Bryant
8. ***Inside the mind: What drives a person to be a serial killer?***  
Angelina Hughes, Governors State University  
Faculty Sponsor: Chris Greiner
9. ***The presidential thorns in my olive tree***  
Mariam Samara, Governors State University  
Faculty Sponsor: Chris Greiner
10. ***The impact of terrorist attacks on immigration policies in the United States***  
Kelly Gonzalez, Governors State University  
Faculty Sponsor: Chris Greiner
11. ***Navigating new horizons: An intersectional analysis of challenges faced by Latina mothers in the United States***  
Melanie Lopez, DePaul University  
Faculty Sponsor: Martha Martinez-Firestone
12. ***Sagallo: Russia's forgotten African colony and its modern implications***  
Kadee Swanson, College of DuPage  
Faculty Sponsor: Trina Sotirakopoulos
13. ***The impact of gas prices due to the Ukraine-Russia war on wheat production: A comprehensive microeconomic analysis***  
Priyanka Saroya, Hala Noureldin, Jose Campos, Kailynn Scully & Brandon Saam, Harper College
14. ***Underrepresented and misrepresented: Examining minority portrayals in mass media***  
Victoria Rios & Crystal Ancira, Governors State University  
Faculty Sponsor: Chris Greiner
15. ***Black Chicago trajectories***  
Iman Williams, DePaul University

**1:40pm -2:00pm Closing Session – Hall of Governors**

## Acknowledgements and Thanks to...

### 2025 Honors Council of the Illinois Region Spring Symposium Organizing Committee at Governors State

David Rhea  
Figen Karadogan  
Jordan Payne  
Angela Lage

### 2025 Honors Council of the Illinois Region Spring Symposium Logistics Team

Monica Holden  
Lily Morgan  
Erin Sheffner

Office Of Marketing & Communications

Governors State University Honors College

Governors State University Honors College Student Council



...And Thank You  
to President  
Cheryl F. Green  
for your service  
and leadership to  
Governors State  
University.





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