2012 Honors Capstone Research Conference
Wednesday, April 11, 8:45 a.m.-4:15 p.m., MGC 4-6

Opening Remarks: 8:45 a.m., Scott A. Bass, Provost

Session 1: Oral Presentations from KSB and CAS-Natural Sciences – 8:55-10:10 a.m.

Robert Grell (CAS: Mathematics)
"A Differential Equations Analysis of Pandemic Disease Spread in an Apocalyptic State"
Advisor: Stephen Casey, Mathematics and Statistics

Toby Kearn (CAS: Economics)
"Industrial Concentration and Equity Returns"
Advisor: Michel Robe, KSB

Steven Moss (CAS: Biochemistry)
"A Mechanistic Study of Novel Beta-lactam Antibiotics"
Advisor: Monika Konaklieva, Chemistry

Casey Petroff (CAS: Mathematics and Economics)
"An Examination of Crude Oil Benchmark Pricing, 2010-Present"
Advisor: Michel Robe, KSB

Sarah Teitel (KSB: Business, Language, and Culture Studies; SIS: International Studies)
"Applying Business Productivity Tools to Educational Institutions"
Advisor: Richard Linowes, KSB

Session 2: Oral Presentations from SOC and CAS-Arts and Humanities – 10:20-11:35 a.m.

Lindsey Anderson (SOC: Journalism)
"Sexual Assault on D.C. University Campuses"
Advisor: Lynne Perri, SOC

Alex Burchfield (CAS: Philosophy; SIS: International Studies)
"Heidegger, Romanticism, and Affect"
Advisor: Richard Sha, Literature

Jett Choquette (SOC: Public Communication; CAS: Spanish Studies)
"Family Is the Difference: *La familia es la diferencia*"
Advisor: Gemma Puglisi, SOC

Jordan Hillman (CAS: Art History)
"Undecided: Picasso's Harlequin Women"
Advisor: Juliet Bellow, Art

Thomas Simpson (CAS: History; SIS: International Studies)
"The 1937 Exposition Internationale and the Eclipse of French Foreign Policy"
Advisor: Mary Giandrea, History

Session 3: Oral Presentations from SPA and CAS-Social Sciences – 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Julianna Flanagan (CAS: Economics)
"Government Spending and the Equality of Growth and Poverty Reduction in Kazakhstan"
Advisor: Mary Hansen, Economics

Carol Foster (SPA: Communication, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government)
"Holding America Back: Crumbling Water and Transportation Infrastructure (and How Public and Private Investments Could Turn It All Around)"
Advisor: Daniel Fiorino, SPA

Margaret Fowler (CAS: Economics; SIS: International Studies)
"NERICA Adoption Analysis and Impact Evaluation in The Gambia"
Advisor: Paul Winters, Economics

Brian Hanson (SPA: Political Science)
"Tax or Cut? The Role of Rainy Day Funds in State Budgetary Responses to Fiscal Crises"
Advisors: Laura Langbein, Jocelyn Johnston, and Kimberly Cowell-Meyers, SPA

Stephen Plascyk (SPA: Political Science)
"Theories of Violence: A Comparison of Hobbes, Schmitt and Girard"
Advisor: Alan Levine, SPA

Session 4: Oral Presentations from SIS – 1:10-2:25 p.m.

Lauren Aitken (SIS: International Studies; CAS: Economics)
"Lost in Translation: The World Bank's Support of Mother Tongue Literacy in Senegal and Niger"
Advisor: Daryn Cambridge, SIS

Kevin Gatter (SIS: International Studies)
"Isla de Pascua or Rapa Nui? Easter Island and the Prospects for Independence"
Advisor: Brian Norris, SIS

Emily Hoerner (SIS: International Studies)
"Worlds of Potential: Funding for Community-Based Organizations in Nairobi, Kenya"
Advisor: Eve Bratman, SIS

Jesse Hubbard (SIS: International Studies)
"Hegemonic Governance: An Empirical Analysis"
Advisor: Christopher Rudolph, SIS

Allison Sylvester (SIS: International Studies; CAS: Economics)
"Collective Memory of Villa Grimaldi: Contentious Frameworks for Understanding Torture after Transition in Chile"
Advisor: Elizabeth Cohn, SIS

Session 5: Poster Session – 2:35 – 3:50 p.m.

CAS-Natural Sciences

Taylor Dempsey (CAS: Biology)
"Investigating the Links between Squamous Cell Carcinoma, an Inflammatory Microenvironment, and the MAPK Signal Transduction Cascade"
Advisor: Kathleen DeCicco-Skinner, Biology

Stevia Morawski (CAS: Environmental Studies)
"Nitrogen Distribution in Sea Grass and Effects of Epiphyte Growth"
Advisor: Kiho Kim, Environmental Science

Monica Yasunaga (CAS: Marine Biology)
"A Study of Sexually Dimorphic Traits and Allometric Growth Patterns in a Species of Freshwater Prawn, *Macrobrachium americanum*"
Advisor: Christopher Tudge, Biology

CAS-Social Sciences

Tonei Glavinic (SPA: Political Science; CAS:Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies)
"The TONI Project: Transgender On-Campus Nondiscrimination Information"
Advisor: Eileen Findlay, History

David Falco (CAS: Psychology; Statistics)
"Dilution Hypothesis and Overgeneral Memory"
Advisor: Zehra Peynircioglu, Psychology

Kogod School of Business

Alica Bachledova (KSB: Accounting)
"WhipTail Technologies: Revolutionizing IT through Solid-State Storage"
Advisor: Richard Linowes, KSB

Ashley Rose Stumbaugh (KSB: Business Administration)
"Student Managed Investment Fund: Benchmarking"
Advisor: Richard Linowes, KSB

School of International Service

Matthew Espie (SIS: International Studies)
"Biodiversity in the Fray: The European Union's Struggle to Protect a Shared Resource"
Advisor: Michelle Egan, SIS

Ellie Ezzell (SIS: International Studies; SPA: Political Science)
"Bonds of Interdependence: Tibet & the World"
Advisor: Dr. Reina Neufeldt, SIS

Andrew Feierman (SIS: International Studies)
"Measuring Progress through LEED: A Closer Look at the New School of International Service's Energy Use"
Advisor: Victoria Kiechel, SIS

Nick Hajek (SIS: International Studies)
"Disarming the Soviet Legacy: Cooperation and Contention in US-Russian Threat Reduction and Nonproliferation Assistance beyond the 'Reset'"
Advisor: Svetlana Savranskaya, SIS

William Hea (SIS: International Studies)
"The Sinjar Records: A Case Study of the Origins and Motivations of Al Qaeda in Iraq Recruits"
Advisor: Daniel Schneider, SIS

Miranda Schaeffer (SIS: International Studies)
"Opening the Door to Employment: An Evaluation of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area's Refugee Employment Services Program"
Advisor: Maria De Jesus, SIS

Joe Wenner (SIS: International Studies; CAS: Economics)
"Playing the Possession Game: Development through Hosting the FIFA World Cup"
Advisor: Christine Chin, SIS

School of Communication

Katherine Vanlent (SOC: Public Communication)
Emily Heltzel (SPA: Justice)
"Voices of Justice: Informing the Public and Transforming America's Capital Punishment"
Advisors: Gemma Puglisi, SOC, and Robert Johnson, SPA

School of Public Affairs

Melissa Chang (SPA: Communication, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government)
"Stephen Colbert's Super PAC and the Growing Role of Comedy/Entertainment in the Political Discourse"
Advisor: Chris Edelson, SPA

Joe Patterson (SPA: Political Science)
"Comparing the Substantive Nature of Media Coverage of Elections in the United States and United Kingdom"
Advisors: Danny Hayes and Kimberly Cowell-Meyers, SPA

Rosie Romano (SPA: Political Science; CAS: American Studies)
"Interest Group Campaigns in Judicial Retention Elections: A Case Study"
Advisors: Kimberly Cowell-Meyers and Candice Nelson, SPA

Kelsey Sherbondy (SPA: Political Science)
"Restructuring Equality: Assessing the Effects of Centralized and Decentralized Education Systems on Student Performance Cross-Nationally"
Advisors: Carol da Silva, CAS: Education; and Kimberly Cowell-Meyers, SPA

Ty Tillett (SPA: Political Science)
"The Impact of Post-Secondary Education on Income for Individuals with Autism and Learning Disabilities"
Advisors: Alison Jacknowitz and Kimberly Cowell-Meyers, SPA

Closing Remarks: 4:00 p.m.