



RESEARCH DAY

Friday, November 7, 2025 – Thad Cochran Center

8:45 am	Opening Remarks	Kelly Lucas <i>Vice President for Research</i>	Hallway
9:00 am	Creative Voices: Art, Storytelling, and the Human Experience	Lance Nail, Moderator <i>Provost</i>	TCC 214
	<p>“Beyond the Fourth Wall: Exploring AI in Theatrical Performance” Hillary Scales-Lewis, Assistant Professor <i>School of Performing and Visual Arts</i></p> <p>“The Shamanism of Eco-Tourism” James Andrew Whitaker, Assistant Professor <i>School of Social Science and Global Studies</i></p> <p>“You understand, so I understand: How a ‘Community of Knowledge’ shapes trust and credibility in expert testimony evidence” Ashley Jones, Assistant Professor <i>School of Psychology</i></p> <p>“Operation Homecoming: Searching for America's Missing in Action” Andrew Pace, DPAA Research Partner Fellow <i>School of Humanities</i></p>	<p>Kaycee McMullen, Asst. Moderator Assistant Director, RIGSA <i>Office of Research Support & Development</i></p>	
9:00 am	Innovations in Health and Human Wellness	Jennifer Lemacks, Moderator Associate Dean <i>College of Nursing & Health Professions</i>	TCC 216
	<p>“Unconventional secretion of tumor necrosis factors from mast cells” Hao Xu, Associate Professor <i>School of Biological, Environmental, and Earth Sciences</i></p> <p>“Early Biomarkers of Kidney Disease in Predominantly Low-income Mississippi Population” Felix Twum, Assistant Professor <i>School of Health Professions</i></p> <p>“BREATHE: Fletcher Pilates Enlivens Dance Practice” Brianna Jahn, Associate Professor <i>School of Performing and Visual Arts</i></p> <p>“Predicting Outcomes and Assessing Prognostic Factors in Patients with Ovarian Papillary Serous Cystadenocarcinoma Using an Accelerated Failure Time Model: A SEER-Based Study” Phillip Awodutire, Assistant Professor <i>School of Health Professions</i></p>	<p>Matthew Thornton, Asst. Moderator Contracts & Grants Coordinator <i>Office of Research Support & Development</i></p>	
10:00 am	Networking Break		
10:30 am	Modeling the World: Technology, Materials, and the Forces of Nature	Chris Winstead, Moderator Dean <i>College of Arts & Sciences</i>	TCC 214
	<p>“Neural Radiance Fields (NeRF): Powering Next-Gen Spatial Intelligence for Autonomous Robots” Jose Martinez, Assistant Professor <i>School of Computing Sciences and Computer Engineering</i></p> <p>“Strategies Toward Thermally Conductive Polymer Composites for Electrical Applications” Olivia McNair, Assistant Professor <i>School of Polymer Science and Engineering</i></p>	<p>Joe Steadman, Asst. Moderator Assistant Director, PAM <i>Office of Research Support & Development</i></p>	



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“Investigating Dynamic Behavior of Compound Flood Hazard and Exposure During Tropical Cyclones”

Md Mamun Rashid, Assistant Professor
School of Ocean Science and Engineering

“The Use of Quantitative Stratigraphy in the Study of Evolution”

Mark Puckett, Professor
School of Biological, Environmental, and Earth Science

10:30 am

Beyond the Numbers: Understanding People and Systems

“Evaluating Peer Victimization Parameters and Approaches to Identify Children Persistently Victimized by Peers”

Freddie Pastrana Rivera, Assistant Professor
School of Psychology

“Alumni Giving: Sport Consumption and Intention to Contribute”

Alison Hubbard, Assistant Professor
School of Marketing

“The Role of Masculine and Feminine Identities in American Politics”

Maggie Martin, Assistant Professor
School of Social Science and Global Studies

“Accounting on the Spectrum: A Framework for Inclusive Accounting Education”

Matthew Sargent, Assistant Professor
School of Accountancy

Melissa Thompson, Moderator
Associate Dean
College of Education & Human Sciences

Sally Downey, Asst. Moderator
Assistant Director FRA
Office of Research Support & Development

TCC 216

11:45 pm

Lunch

Sarah E. Morgan
2025 Lifetime Research Award Winner
Professor & Associate Director
School of Polymer Science and Engineering
Bennett Distinguished Professor

“Silk dye in Eugene O'Neill's *Ah, Wilderness!*”

J. Theresa Bush, Associate Professor
School of Performing & Visual Arts

“Unlocking Connections & Intelligences through Dance: Using Movement to Make Academics Meaningful & Memorable.”

Julie Hammond, Professor
School of Performing & Visual Arts

“Wheel thrown sculpture presentation”

Allen Chen, Associate Professor
School of Performing & Visual Arts

Thad Cochran Ballroom I, II & III



RESEARCH DAY

1:00 pm Research Showcase

Poster

101	“Heat Environments Along the Northern Gulf Coast, 2013-2024: Integrating Landsat 8 and 9 Surface Temperatures with Meteorological Station Observations”	Gregory Carter Director & Professor <i>Gulf Coast Geospatial Center</i>
102	“Determinants of Infant Mortality in Niger: A Comprehensive Analysis Using the DHS Data”	Mohammed Chowdhury Visiting Assistant Professor <i>School of Health Profession</i>
103	“Dirty Books: Romance and Erotica”	Stacy Creel Associate Professor & Director <i>School of Library & Information Science</i>
104	“Improving Student Engagement and Spatial Comprehension through Mixed Reality Technology in AEC Education: A Case Study”	Mohsen Foroughi-Sabzevar Assistant Professor <i>School of Construction & Design</i>
105	“Examining Social Media Usage and Adverse Psychoemotional Outcomes among Emerging Adults: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Young Adults' Social Media Behaviors, Addiction, and Emotional Affect”	Brent Hale Assistant Professor <i>School of Media & Communication</i>
106	“Redefining the Reproductive Biology of Two Cryptic Species of Cownose Ray in the Gulf of America”	Jill Hendon Director <i>Center for Fisheries Research & Development</i>
107	“Data-Driven Urban Perceptions: Integrating Vision-Language Models with TrueSkill for Planning Insights”	Mirsalar Kamari Assistant Professor <i>School of Construction & Design</i>
108	“The Impact of Medicare Advantage Enrollment on Nursing Home Quality Star Ratings: A Systematic Review”	Hyunmin Kim Assistant Professor <i>School of Health Professions</i>
109	“Sensor Integration & Test for Data-Augmented Marine Magnetics”	Matthew Kinnaman Data Scientist III <i>Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise</i>
110	“Regulation of microRNA Expression Dynamics by Acute Bee Paralysis Virus in the Honey Bee (<i>Apis mellifera</i>) Cell Line AmE-711”	Deepak Kumar Assistant Research Professor <i>School of Biological, Earth & Environmental Sciences</i>
111	“The Impact of Caffeine Consumption on Stress and Burnout among Athletic Department Support Staff”	Katherine Lee Assistant Professor <i>School of Health Professions</i>
112	“Promoting Autonomy and Accountability: Guardrails to Foster Group Work Success”	Oscar “Danny” Lee Associate Professor <i>School of Leadership & Advanced Nursing Practice</i>
113	“Using a Nature-Based Mindfulness Intervention to Improve Mental Health in Nurse Anesthesia Students: A Pilot Study”	Allan Lovern Assistant Professor <i>School of Leadership & Advanced Nursing Practice</i>



RESEARCH DAY

114	“Senior-Year Transition and Future Self-Ideation for Women”	Abby Lukens Visiting Assistant Professor <i>School of Education</i>
115	“AI-Enhanced Magnetic Sensing for Autonomous Maritime Target Detection”	Joseph Luttrell IV Data Scientist III <i>Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise</i>
116	“British Boys and their Toys: Public play and the creation of elite military tactics”	Katya Maslakowski Assistant Professor <i>School of Humanities</i>
117	“Brains Don't Lie: Baseline Clues to Football Injury Risk”	Jeffrey Parr Associate Professor <i>School of Health Professions</i>
118	“Nurse Anesthetist Competency Assessment and Determinants: An International Comparative Study in Finland, South Korea, Taiwan, and the United States”	Michong Rayborn Associate Professor <i>School of Leadership & Advanced Nursing Practice</i>
119	“The Buc-ee’s Effect: Measuring the Impact of Shopping Tourism on Local Economies”	Christopher Smith Assistant Professor <i>School of Finance</i>
120	“Bringing Hands-On Skills Online: Embodied Interaction via Webcam Hand Tracking in AEC Online Labs”	Yuan Sun Assistant Professor <i>School of Construction & Design</i>
121	“CUBEnet-Regional Ocean Observing System and its AI Enhancements”	Vishwamithra Sunkara Sr. Data Scientist <i>Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise</i>
122	“Evolution in Uncrewed Hypoxia Data Collection”	James Thompson Hydrographic Instrumentation Specialist <i>Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise</i>
2:30 pm	Research Showcase Awards	Kelly Lucas