

**Sponsored by**

**The School of Arts and Letters**

**and**

**The School of Health and Natural Sciences**

**Interdisciplinary Student  
Conference  
April 9-11, 2025  
“Popular Culture and the  
American South”**



**Middle Georgia** State University

## **Wednesday, April 9 (Macon Campus)**

**12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Nursing Panel:** "Empowered & Resilient: Mindfulness, Burnout Prevention, and Conflict Resolution for Gen Z Healthcare Professionals"

**Jones, Room 102**

Speakers:

- Dr. Shannon Daly
- Dr. Kinzie Lee
- Dr. Melva Jones
- Dr. Crystal Roberts

## **Wednesday, April 9 (Eastman Campus)**

**4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Art Show: "Capturing the Aesthetics of Aviation through Visual Art"**

**Location, Flight 2025**

Student artists:

- Sidney Brown: Hangar Party Plane
- Jerry Lindsay: Supersonic Luxury
- Josue Palacios: N278MG Clay Model
- Javaun Rowe: Howdy, Y'all!
- Tristan Sadler: Dusk Maritime Patrol Sortie
- Jessica Semon: The Gliding Maze
- Luke Scheinoha: Aerial Vibrance
- Caspian Watkins: Bound to Earth, Eyes on the Sky

## Thursday, April 10 (Cochran Campus)

**3:30 p.m.**

### **Spring Art Show and Reception**

#### **Peacock Gallery**

Moderator: Charlie Agnew

- Debra Hirner - *Genie Magic*
- Kristen "Alaster" Holmes - *Brie*
- Macie McCary - *The Lovers & Untitled (Still Life)*
- Mikayla Hampton - *Le festin est sur mon chemi & Cheers*
- Olivia Durden - *Quick Self-Portrait*
- Sally Sirmons - *Salem & Helping Hands*
- Travius Carridine - *Gojira, Beautiful Planet, & Be Prepared*

**4:30 p.m.**

### **Conference Sessions (Concurrent)**

#### **Explorations in Popular Culture**

##### **Russell Hall, Room 310**

Moderator: Crystal O'Leary-Davidson

- Caris Barton, New York City and Realism in Alan Moore's *Watchmen*
- Hannah Dyer, Richard Papen as an Unreliable Narrator in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*
- Cynthia Mitchell, Mina Sees Her Shadow: A Jungian Discovery in *Dracula*
- Joanna Yawn, Why Are We Not Over Boys Over Flowers?

**Beowulf In Text and Film (Roundtable Discussion)**  
**Russell Hall, Room 311**

Moderator: Chris Cairney

- Alana Day
- Jonah Friedman
- Malcolm Lucas
- Justin Schultheisz

**Unveiling The Onerous Challenges to Safe Travel by  
United States Commercial Planes From 1993 to 2024**  
**Russell Hall, Room 305**

Moderator: Louis Camara

- Jacob Moranda
- Luke Warnock

## **Thursday, April 10 (Macon Campus)**

**3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Registration**

**SOAL Lobby**

**3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Poster Presentations**

**SOAL Rehearsal Hall**

### **Interpreting History: Exploring African American Voices at Hay House**

Faculty Advisor: Susan Asbury

- Caitlyn Blackwell
- Jarred Brooks
- Zackary Bryant
- Robert Calhoun
- Isaiah DeWitt
- Melissa Fortune
- Ireland Harbuck
- Ean Harris
- Benjamin Parker
- Jeffrey Ray
- Sagan Tompkins

### **Research in Behavioral Science**

Faculty Advisor: Heather Ness-Maddox

- Cang Vu, Peers' influence and openness to new experiences
- Victoria Shuman, Choice of study music and academic performance

- Melody Clyde, Study groups and academic performance
- Haley Bankston, Essay anxiety and essay writing in undergraduate students
- Shauna Ayers, AutismTok: Is it actually helpful or actually misleading?
- Jayla Chaney & Eboni Brown, The impact of AI-generated recommendations on confidence in decision-making
- Morgan Davis, How social media effects mood in college students
- Sarah King, The effect of music on work production
- Elena Olson, Gender differences in communication and relationship satisfaction
- Kim Seligman, Music and human physiological response
- Nya Arthur, Tasting with your eyes

### **Information Technology**

Faculty Advisor: Scott Spangler

- Ian Bentley & Connor Wood, iHairstyles App Point of View
- Soo Lee & Thien Pham, Evaluating the iHairStyle App's Impact Across Generations

### **Education Posters**

Faculty Advisor: Kelly Causey

- Michaela Dixon, Jasmine Lopez, and Applonia Glenn, USA vs France: A Comparative Analysis of Elementary and Special Education

- Jordan Groce and Mikayla Blalock, Building a Resume and Preparing for the Interview Process: The Transition from High School to College to Work

**5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.**

**Plenary Speakers, Melanie Anderson & Lisa Kröger,  
“Monster, She Wrote,” on [TEAMS](#)**



## **Friday, April 11 (Macon Campus)**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**Registration**

**SOAL Lobby**

**10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

**Korean Language Competition**

**2nd Floor, MGA Library**

Moderator: Yunsuk Chae

- Serenity Clark
- Erin Erschen
- Tan Hung Nguyen
- Alyssa Russell

**10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

**Morning Session I**

**SOAL Room 122**

**Inside the Writing Center (Roundtable)**

Moderator: Sharon Colley

- Alaina Brown
- Jordan Ray
- Bryonna Stephens

**SOAL Room 118**

**Creative Writing - Poetry**

Moderator: Kelly Whiddon

- Lauren Faulkner
- Cassidy Mossbarger
- Kimberly Myers
- Quincy Readd

**11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**SOAL Theater**

**"Iron Bar: Stay Valuable," A Conversation with Dan Fraga,  
Comic Book Artist and Film Director**

**12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Conference Awards Luncheon**

**SOAL Lobby**

**1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

**Afternoon Session II**

**SOAL Room 122**

**Information Technology**

Moderator: Scott Spangler

- Reema Bhaskar, *The Digital Renaissance: An Analysis of the Critical Thinking and Learning Evolution in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)*
- Tyrus Kimball, *Synthetic Souls: The Rise of AI in Robotics and Human-Like Machines*

**SOAL Room 120**

**Gateway: Literary Theory Projects**

Moderator: Shane Trayers

- Cassidy Mossbarger, *Allusions, Culture, and Placement in Sebastain Barry's The Secret Scripture*
- Juan Madrigal, *Culture as Control: Understanding Superstructure in Thomas Harris*
- Joshua Warnock, *A Means to an End: Machiavellian Ethics in The Silence of the Lambs*
- Sabrina Tingle, *"Well fuck off, Chilton.": Women in The Silence of the Lambs*

**3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

**Afternoon Session III**

**SOAL Room 122**

**Creative Works and Literary Perspectives**

Moderator: Karmen Lenz

- Sidney Dempsey, Body, Gender, and Love in *The Loosening Skin*
- Courtney Beatty, Realism in *The Bell Jar*
- Cassidy Mossbarger, A Collision of War and Innocence: "The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner" by Randall Jarrell
- Jordan Crenshaw, Revitalize

**SOAL Room 120**

**Perspectives on American Fiction of the Romantic Period**

Moderator: Clay Morton

- Isaiah DeWitt, "Washington Irving's American Mythology"
- Amber Seabolt, "Evil Encounters: How the Dark Romantics Responded to Dark Humanity"
- Autumn Thornton, "The Cats in the Cauldron and Impending Doom: Poe's Influences on Black Cat Syndrome"

**The Undergraduate Conference Committee thanks the MGA Alumni Office for providing bags for our presenters and SOAL Dean Billy Wooten for the Dean's office financial support for the 2025 Interdisciplinary Conference, "Popular Culture and American South"**