

# GRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, November 7

6-8pm

Virtual Event



GRADUATE SCHOOL

*Celebrating  
student  
discoveries  
across campus.*



INGRAM LIBRARY

6:00 PM

**Caitlyn Barton,**  
Master of Science in Biology



Advisor: Dr. Joseph Hendricks

**Nitrogen Fixation Potentials of  
Three Native Legume Species**

Understory prescribed burning is commonly used in the management of pine (*Pinus* spp.) and mixed pine-hardwood forests in the southeastern United States. While the ecological and economic benefits of burning are widely recognized, some essential nutrients, particularly nitrogen (N), may be lost during burning. The N losses due to burning may be countered via symbiotic N<sub>2</sub>-fixation by native herbaceous legumes that commonly thrive in regularly burned pine forests. The objectives of this study were to measure legume growth and N<sub>2</sub>-fixation activity under shade conditions representative of pine forest understories.

6:20 PM

**Riley Smith,**  
Master of Arts Sociology



Advisor: Dr. Emily McKendry-Smith

**Gender and Rank Dynamics in  
the United States Marine  
Corps**

Most research surrounding sexual assault in the U.S. armed forces focuses on sexual victimization throughout all branches. The U.S. Marine Corps continues to experience increased rates of sexual victimization, when compared to other armed forces branches. This research seeks to identify key predictors that directly increase sexual victimization within the Marine Corps. Implications for this research should be used by high-ranking service members and political officials when creating programs and resources for Marines who have experienced sexual victimization, specifically.

6:40 PM

**Rebecca Free,**  
Ed.D. in Higher Education  
Administration



Advisors: Dr. Reena Viswanath &  
Dr. Tommy Jackson

**Institutional Characteristics  
Predict Modality Enrollment at  
Select Community College**

Given gaps in the literature exist as it pertains the influence of institutional characteristics on modality enrollment patterns in the community college environment, this study examined whether institutional characteristics (such as institutional control, locale, and size) could predict whether a community college is more inclined to offer primarily distance education, traditional face-to-face education, or a combination of both. These findings have important implications for community college administrators, as they can use this information to make strategic decisions about modality enrollment and better serve their students and institutions.

7:00 PM

**Blessing Ameh,**  
Master of Science in Applied  
Business Analytics, Data  
Intelligence



Advisor: Dr. Hope Udombon

**Building Resilient Supply  
Chains: Navigating  
Disruptions and Ensuring  
Sustainability Through  
Integrated Strategies and  
Technological Innovations**

This study examines pre- and post-COVID-19 supply chain disruptions events and identifies key trends and vulnerabilities. The analysis shows that diversified sourcing, improved logistics management, and predictive analytics are the most effective strategies for enhancing resilience. Conversely, over-reliance on trade agreements and certain technologies hindered recovery in some cases. The study outlines how tailored resilience frameworks can mitigate future disruptions, contributing to global economic stability and long-term supply chain viability.

7:20 PM

**Emmie Cass,**  
Ed.D. in Higher Education  
Administration



Advisor: Dr. Su Jara-Pazmino

**Inequalities in Collegiate  
Athletics: Current Female  
Student-Athletes Perspective**

As Title IX recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, there are still looming debates centered around compliance with the federal policy, inequalities in collegiate athletics, and approaches to alleviate such issues at hand. This qualitative study gathered and analyzed the perspectives of (in)equality from 15 student-athlete female participants. Furthermore, this study explored if differences existed between the experience and perspective of (in)equality across same-sex programs (i.e., softball; basketball) and non-same-sex programs (i.e., track & field).

7:40 PM

**Sydney Edgar,**  
Master of Science in Biology



Advisor: Dr. Frank Fontanella

**Seasonal Effects on Ringneck  
Snake Reproductive Cycles**

This study focuses on investigating the reproductive cycle of male ringneck snakes (*Diadophis punctatus*) in Georgia through histological methods. The main objective is to identify the peak reproductive period for this species in Georgia and to contrast these results with the reproductive cycles of *D. punctatus* populations in Ohio, which are subject to varying environmental conditions. Reptiles frequently exhibit seasonal variations in reproductive timing, typically influenced by local climate factors such as temperature and photoperiod. Gaining insights into these variations can enhance our understanding of how environmental elements affect reproductive physiology and how populations adjust to their specific habitats.