University Honors Committee

Annual Report 2023- 2024

The University Honors Committee met on November 15, 2023, to select the Honors Undergraduate Thesis Award recipients for Founder’s Day and review one Honors interdisciplinary seminar proposal.

The recipients of the Founder's Day award for Honors Undergraduate Thesis are:

Natural and Health Sciences: Raj Patel, Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences COM, “Antiretroviral Drug Induced Cardiotoxicity Through Dysregulation of Mitochondrial Function,” chaired by Dr. Manish Gupta.

Engineering and Technology: Kevin Hanekom, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering CECS, “A Framework for the Automatic Identification of Optimized Yield Surface Parameters,” chaired by Dr. Ali Gordon.

Social Sciences, Business, and Education: Nefertari Elshiekh, Department of Economics, CBA (Thesis in Department of Legal Studies, CCIE), “Impact of Counsel Type on Initial Release Decisions and Case Outcomes,” chaired by Dr. Alisa Smith.

Arts, Humanities, and Creative Inquiry: Alyssa Bent, Department of English, CAH, “Tomiccama Tomiccanacayo: A Feminist/Spatial Analysis of flesh to bone by ire'ne lara silva,” chaired by Dr. Cecilia Milanes.

The following seminar was approved by the UHC, and it will be forwarded to the University Curriculum Review Committee for their approval.

**IDH3930H: Hunger Games**

**Dr. Kevin Yee**

The Hunger Games books have sold 65 million copies in the U.S. alone, and its movies have made a combined $3 billion, clearly showing a strong appetite for these characters and their stories. But what are these movies tapping into that is resonating with so many people? We will examine these films closely, using tools of cultural analysis such as considering sex, gender, race, ethics, and political contexts. The primary grades for the course come from one essay, a group project, an individual project, and an oral interview. There are no textbook costs. Prior familiarity with the Hunger Games books and movies is not required.