

# FALL SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

DEC. 9, 2025

---

8:30 a.m. – 8:50 a.m.

Refreshments

8:50 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Opening Remarks

Sheila M. Gross, Ph.D. '10, Director, Dietrich Honors Institute  
*Stamm Hall*

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

SESSION 1

## PANEL 1            DHI THESIS PRESENTATIONS

STAMM

**Moderator:** Sheila M. Gross, Ph.D. '10

*Director, Dietrich Honors Institute, Associate Professor of English*

9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

**Taryn Vergnola**

Coloring Crime: The Racialization of Criminal Perception in American Society

*Cynthia L. Sutton, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology*

9:20 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

**Makenna Oswald**

The Fairest of Them All: Disney's Mirror on Girlhood

*Cynthia L. Sutton, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology*

9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Brooke Griffith**

Insanity or Ignorance: Linguistics in Law and its Relationship to Verdicts of the Mentally Ill in the Justice System

*Eric Matthews, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science*

## PANEL 2            DHI THESIS PRESENTATIONS

PEDAS 125

**Moderator:** Anna M. Reinsel, Ph.D. '06

*Associate Director, Dietrich Honors Institute, Professor of Environmental Science*

9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

**Madalyn Moore**

Inside Neuropathic Pain: A Theoretical Investigation of the Relationship between PLP and Cortical Organization

*Neil Lax, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Neuroscience*

9:20 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

**Kaya VanTassel**

Stress Less: Box-Breathing Meditation and its Effect on the Consumption of Caffeine and Sugar in College Students

*Neil Lax, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Neuroscience*

9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Cole Sherwin**

Identifying the Unseen: Machine Learning for Alzheimer's Diagnosis

*Jie Wu, Ph.D., Professor of Mathematics & Computer Science*

**PANEL 3                    SOC & CJS CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS                    PEDAS 120**

9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.

**Mila Brdar**

*"Objection, 'HER-say'!": Female Attorneys and the Presentation of Self*

9:20 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.

**Tristan Mlynarek**

The Blue Wall of Silence: Police Subculture in America

9:40 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Tristan Kloss**

Ideological Influences in Education: What People Learn from What They See and Hear

10:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.

**Break**

10:05 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

**SESSION 2**

**PANEL 4                    DHI THESIS PRESENTATIONS                    STAMM**

**Moderator:** Sheila M. Gross, Ph.D. '10

*Director, Dietrich Honors Institute, Associate Professor of English*

10:05 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.

**Nathaniel Turner**

Pennsylvania Ungulate Management: The Potential for Large Predator Reintroduction

*Michael T. Balas, Ph.D., Professor of Biology*

10:25 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**Savannah Adams**

Color and Children: The Effect of Color on Cognitive Processing and Memory in Elementary-Aged Learners

*Angelique Morse, Ed.D., Associate Professor of Education*

10:45 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

**Jamie Maxwell**

When Care Connects: Teamwork and Recovery in Schizophrenia Treatment

*Shannon Deets, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology*

**PANEL 5**

**DHI THESIS PRESENTATIONS**

**PEDAS 125**

**Moderator:** Anna M. Reinsel, Ph.D. '06

*Associate Director, Dietrich Honors Institute, Professor of Environmental Science*

10:05 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.

**Emma Leehan**

Holy Terror: Christianity and the Crisis of Faith in Horror Cinema circa 1970

*Matthew Morgan, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy*

10:25 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**Colin Schroyer**

The Decay of the Canon: Consequences of Decomposition on Literature

*Matthew Humphrey, Assistant Professor of Communication*

**PANEL 6**

**SOC & CJS CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS**

**PEDAS 120**

10:05 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.

**Megan Bull**

Tees and Tradition: The Sociology of Golf

10:25 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**Taryn Vergnola**

Between Nostalgia and Reality: The Sociology of Art in Norman Rockwell's Work