



HONORS CAPSTONE SHOWCASE

SPRING 2026

April 22, 2026 | 6:00 p.m.

DIGITAL PROGRAM



**KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY**
KSU JOURNEY HONORS COLLEGE

EVENT PROGRAM

- **5:30 p.m.** - Check-In Begins
- **6:00 p.m.** - Event Begins
- **6:10 p.m.** - Welcome
- **6:15 p.m.** - Round 1 Presentations
- **6:40 p.m.** - Break
- **6:55 p.m.** - Round 2 Presentations
- **7:30 p.m.** - Award Ceremony
- **7:35 p.m.** - Mix and Mingle with Presenters
- **8:00 p.m.** - Event Concludes

PRESENTERS



CATHY POWELL | Psychology

Cathy Powell is a nontraditional student at Kennesaw State University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a member of the Death, Dying, and Bereavement Research Consortium. Her research is inspired by her personal experience with illness and caregiving, as well as three years of volunteer experience as a hospice companion. As a mother of four and military spouse, she is passionate about improving support and quality of life for caregivers across generations.

Presentation: *Caregivers Across Generations: Resource Use, Self-Identity, and Well-Being*



COREY MACK | Computer Engineering

Corey Mack is a Computer Engineering student at Kennesaw State University, originally from Augusta, Georgia — home of the U.S. Army Cyber Command. He is a KSU Honors Research Scholar and VICEROY DECREE Scholar. As a prior VICEROY MAVEN Intern at the Air Force Research Laboratory, he conducted research in RF signal classification, cybersecurity vulnerability assessments, and red team operations. His research interests span RF engineering, AI/ML, and cybersecurity.

Presentation: *AI-Powered Behavioral Monitoring for Reptiles*

PRESENTERS



REAGAN JOWERS | Graphic Communications

Reagan Jowers is a senior majoring in Graphic Communications. She specializes in graphic design, motion graphics, illustration, and social media marketing, blending creative storytelling with strategic communication. As a Graphic Design Student Assistant for KSU's Division of Student Affairs, Reagan has led and contributed to a variety of print and digital media projects, collaborating across teams to produce impactful visual content. She also serves as a Brand Ambassador for KSU's School of Art and Design and was recognized as a winner of the 2025 GDUSA Digital Design Competition.

Presentation: *Southern Static: Strategic Branding & Experiential Design*



ELON HAYNES | Psychology

Elon Haynes is a senior graduating this May with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Data Science and Analytics. During her time at Kennesaw State University, she has discovered her passions through coursework, student organizations like Psi Chi, and research opportunities. Psychological research is her passion, and she is proud to share the beginning of her journey with the KSU community.

Presentation: *Understanding How Racial Socialization Relates to Future Orientation in African American Young Adults*

PRESENTERS



LAYNE BUTTRAM | Biology and Geospatial Science

Layne Buttram is a senior at Kennesaw State University double majoring in Biology and Geospatial Sciences. They have been involved in research at KSU for 6 years, focusing on entomology and environmental sciences. They are currently interning at the Georgia Department of Public Health's Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Disease division as a GIS analyst.

Presentation: *Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Insects: A Scoping Review*

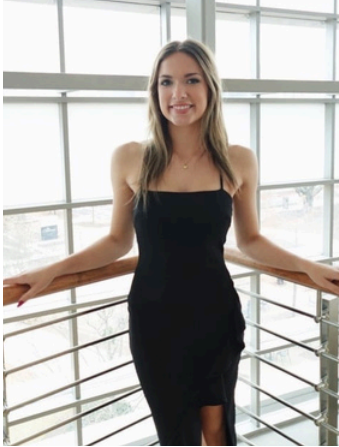


LEAH FREEMAN | Technical Communication

Leah Freeman is a graduating senior majoring in Technical Communication at Kennesaw State University. During her time at KSU, she competed as a Division I student-athlete on the women's volleyball team while actively participating in the Honors College. Leah has greatly valued her undergraduate experience and proudly considers herself an Owl for life.

Presentation: *E-Learning Module to Support Dietary Management through RealMeal*

PRESENTERS



HANNAH ROWE | Psychology

Hannah Rowe is a senior majoring in Psychology, with minors in Sociology and Gender and Women's Studies. Following graduation, she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in clinical psychology, with a focus on adolescent development. Through her involvement in the KSU Journey Honors College, she has explored interdisciplinary topics and developed a strong interest in the social and emotional factors that impact youth mental health.

Presentation: *Social Norms and Student Perceptions of AI Misuse in Higher Education*



ALLISON KEY | Economics

Allison Key is a third-year honors student majoring in Economics with a minor in Professional Writing. She is passionate about environmental economics and plans to pursue a master's degree in the field. Allison aims to contribute to research in environmental economics for the public sector or nonprofits.

Presentation: *Great Smoky Mountains: The Environment vs. the Economy*

PRESENTERS



OCTAVIA MANN | English

Octavia Mann is a senior majoring in English at Kennesaw State University, with a concentration in Literature and Culture to pursue graduate studies in library science. Mann's research has examined visual and musical culture as an avenue for rhetorical self-definition. Mann has presented her work at the Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference, currently serves as an intern in the Williams Rare Book Museum, and works as a docent at the Zuckerman Museum of Art.

Presentation: *Freedom in the Fifth Note*



KRISTEN BURNS | Public Relations

Kristen Burns is a Public Relations student graduating in summer 2026. She hopes to bring a creative eye to the world of PR outside of college through her writing and designs. She also plans to explore new skills and learn from the people around her as she continues working.

Presentation: *Rebranding the Children's Museum of Atlanta*

SPECIAL THANKS

We're proud to recognize the contributors who supported the Spring 2026 Honors Capstone Showcase:

KSU Journey Honors College Staff and Planning Committee:

Nicholas Ellwanger
Brian Etheridge
Daniel Hoffman
Karen Kornweibel
Susie Wilson
Alesia Stradford

Judges:

Karen Kornweibel
Lou Boos
Krissi Gore
Amaal Al Shenawa
Marsha Barsky
Mindy Bernhard
Laura Boman
James Boudreau
Jamie Elliott
Nick Ellwanger
Brian Etheridge
Amy Gruss
Mandy Guitar
Daniel Hoffman
Pauline (Polly) Howes
Dovid Kozlovsky
Rasheda Likely
Kayre Lupo
Shane Peterson
Amanda Redinger
Amy Roach
Keir Singleton-Ortiz