Saint Peter's University Honors Program

2026 Senior Thesis Defenses

Please join us for our Honors seniors' research presentations.
All defenses will take place 3:00-5:00pm in the Degnan Conference Room

Tuesday, March 24

Life and Society: A Reflection through Music
by Amiel Carbonell
Advisor: Joseph W. Hill, Jr., Music

TBA
by Melina Garces
Advisor: David Surrey, Ph.D., Sociology

#You're Canceled: Social Media's Impact on Cancel Culture and Gen Z
by Arely Guzman
Advisor: Cynthia Walker, Ph.D., Communication & Media Culture

The Greenville Hospital: A Brief History of Neighborhood Care, Demographic Shifts, and Healthcare Service Consolidation
by Julio Santos
Advisor: John W. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D., History

Wednesday, March 25

Narratives That Inspire: Storytelling as a Strategic Tool in Nonprofit Marketing
by Michael Handal
Advisor: Samar Issa, Ph.D., Business Administration

Measuring the Bizarreness Effect on Object Recognition Memory Using Free Recall
by Maria Medrano
Advisor: Maryellen Hamilton, Ph.D., Psychology

Effects of Operant Conditioning on Text-Generative AI Attitudes
by Jacob Tecson
Advisor: Joshua Feinberg, Ph.D., Psychology

Thursday, March 26

Comparative Dose-Response Effects of Soil-Applied Bisphenol-A on Growth and Physiology of Three Commercial Crop Species
by Justin Capin
Advisor: Brandy Garrett-Kluthe, Ph.D., Biology

Early Behavioral Therapy and Its Role in Reducing Caregiver Stress and Long-Term Dependence
by Hannah Ortiz
Advisor: Erick Caamano, Ph.D., Health Sciences

Thursday, March 26 (cont.)

Titanium Dioxide-based Nanomaterials for Photocatalytic Degradation of Organic Pollutants
by Harris Satti
Advisor: Yosra Badiei, Ph.D., Chemistry

Perspective Matters: Why Autism Needs Our Attention Right Now
by Sujad Syed
Advisor: Katherine Wydner, Ph.D., Biology

Monday, March 30

Putative Protective Effects of Ginkgolide B and Folic Acid Individually, and in Combination, on Polystyrene and Polyethylene's Dysregulation of Neurulation and Brain Development in Xenopus laevis *(African Clawed Frog)*
by Darwin Breton
Advisor: Laura Twersky, Ph.D., Biology

The Possible Preventative Effects of Thymoquinone and Kaempferol, Individually and in Combination, on Bisphenol A-induced Impacts in Xenopus laevis *(African Clawed Frog)*
by Ruqya Elouarraq
Advisor: Laura Twersky, Ph.D., Biology

Effects of Pharmacological SSRI Antidepressants and Environmental Toxicants (Water-contaminated PFAS) on Brain Cancer Metabolism using Xenopus laevis *as a Model System*
by Darline Hernandez
Advisor: Karen Wydner, Ph.D., Biology

Occular Effects of Bisphenol A and Microplastic Components in Danio rerio *(zebrafish) and Other Vetebrates*
by Khadija Souare
Advisor: Laura Twersky, Ph.D., Biology

Tuesday, March 31

Ethics and Transparency in the Diamond Industry: Regulation, Technology, and Accountability
by Joshua Tenesaca
Advisor: Mark DeStephano, Ph.D., Modern Languages

Predicting Comet Trajectories: Integrating Data Science with Physics
by Agha Sibt E Ali Qazalbash
Advisor: Alexandra Ruiz, Data Science

AND A SPECIAL EVENT!

Saturday, May 9 at 7:00pm in Saint Peter's University Chapel

Life and Society: A Reflection through Music, a piano recital by Amiel Carbonell

For more information about the 2026 thesis defenses, email lsquillante@saintpeters.edu