



A Celebration
of Research and
Creativity

KU Inspires

April 16, 2026

Rohrbach
Library

At-a-Glance Schedule

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Concurrent Panels

9am

RL 22: Language, Identity, Representation, and Equity in U.S. Latino Communities, p. 3

RL 28: New Voices in Short-Form Storytelling, p. 3

10am

RL 22: Ethics, Trust, and Responsibility in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, p. 3

RL 28: Guiding Gen Z through Social Messaging, Mentorship, and Meaningful Futures, p. 4

11am

RL 22: Systems, Inequality, and Social Change Across Latin American and U.S. Contexts, p. 4

RL 28: The Power of Creative Media From Preservation to Healing, p. 4

12pm

RL 22: Uncanny Bodies and Modern Anxieties, p. 5

RL 28: The Monstrous Imagination in Literature and Film, p. 5

9:00am-3:00pm Poster, Artwork and Film Gallery

Brick Lounge: continuous from 9:00am-3:00pm: Cinema, Television, and Media students' Time Based Media

First Floor Rohrbach: See poster and presenter details on pp. 6-8, and 9-10



9
am

1. Language, Identity, Representation, and Equity in U.S. Latino Communities | Rohrbach 22

Moderator: Christine Núñez, Society, History, and Culture

The Commoditization of the Latino | Tyler Finck

Mentor: Christine Núñez

Breaking the Language Barrier: Bilingual Staff as a Path to Ethical and Equitable Healthcare | Jessica Pritchard

Mentor: Christine Núñez

Language, Identity, and Power in Linguistically Diverse Classrooms | Julymarie Torres Cintron

Mentor: Christine Núñez

Stereotypes and Representation of the Latinx Community in the US Entertainment Industry | Jose Jimenez

Mentor: Christine Núñez

9
am

2. New Voices in Short Form Storytelling | Rohrbach 28

Moderator: Amy Lynch-Binieck, English

Teamwork Makes the Dream-Work! | Maria Detwiler

Mentors: Jacob Rivkin, Mark Bischel

The Artistry of Arcane (Song of the Siren) | Devon Koch

Mentor: Elizabeth Schneider

Short Film Directing and *The Best Man*: Tools and Techniques | Sarah Love
KU BEARS

Mentor: Jonathan Joy

10
am

3: Ethics, Trust, and Responsibility in the Age of Artificial Intelligence | Rohrbach 22

Moderator: Marco Ehrl, Communication Studies

Faster Isn't Always Better: How AI Is Damaging Trust in Customer Service | Adanahi Hernandez

CSR Reputation and Mediated Spillover Risks: The Anthropic-Pentagon AI Dispute | Rachael Lund

Mentor: Marco Ehrl

10
am

4: Guiding Gen Z through Social Messaging, Mentorship, and Meaningful Futures | Rohrbach 28

Moderator: Stefani Gomez, Rohrbach Library

Understanding Gen Z's Response to CSR Messaging | Andrew Batista **KU BEARS**

Mentors: Soojin Kim, Jayden Kim

The Aspiring Special Education Mentorship Program | Amanda Clark and Harleigh Livingston **KU BEARS**

Mentor: Tabettha Bernstein-Danis

11
am

5: Systems, Inequality, and Social Change Across Latin American and U.S. Contexts | Rohrbach 22

Moderator: Christine Núñez, Society, History, and Culture

Cartels as De Facto Governors: Coercive Order and State Displacement in Mexico. | Brian Harris

Mentor: Christine Núñez

Supporting Spanish-Heritage Language Maintenance through Differential Instruction | Stephany Perez

Mentor: Christine Núñez

Gradual Change, Lasting Impact: How a More Balanced Mixed Economy Can Narrow Colombia's Wealth Gap | Charlotte Rauch

Mentor: Christine Núñez

Inclusive Strategies for a Globalized Pennsylvania: Leveraging Mexican Schooling Norms to Support Diverse Learners | Kendall Zuk

Mentor: Christine Núñez

11
am

6: The Power of Creative Media From Preservation to Healing | Rohrbach 28

Moderator: Tony Wong, Math

Video Game Preservation: Is It Game Over? | Hailey Duncan and Gabu Gonzalez **KU BEARS**

Mentor: Sandra Leonard

"Voices of Survivors:" Human Trafficking Survivors' Healing Journeys | Adalyn Ober

Mentor: Alycha Boehm

12
pm

7: Uncanny Bodies and Modern Anxieties | Rohrbach 22

Moderator: Lyn McQuaid, Math

“Enter Sandman:” An Adaptation of ETA Hoffman’s *Sandman* | Riley Hogan

Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

“Eyeless:” An Adaptation of ETA Hoffmann’s *Sandman* | Samuel Duerr

Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

Freud’s Uncanny is Alive and Well in Aspects of AI | Samantha Hall

Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

A Radical Update of “Peter Schlemiel” | Joseph Lafty

Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

12
pm

8: The Monstrous Imagination in Literature and Film |

Rohrbach 28

Moderator: Michael Davis, Physical Sciences

Hyde: Victorian Villain or Victim? | Logan Brader

Mentors: Anne DeLong, Sandra Leonard

A Film Pitch Deck for an Adaptation of a German Horror Story | Zack Ismael

Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

She and Other Media as “Lost World” Clichés that Excuse Racism and Misogyny through Evolution | Nick Riedy

Mentor: Anne DeLong

Funny Games (1997) in the Modern Era of Stan Culture | Shae Smith

Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch



9am-11am Meet the Researchers

9-10 Climate Change, Dew Point, and Summer Precipitation in Pennsylvania: Regional Flood Vulnerability

Valerie Davidheiser **KU BEARS**
Mentor: Michael Davis

9-11 Digitizing and Archiving a Photographic History of the Kutztown Folk Festival

Beau deForest **KU BEARS**
Mentors: Patrick Donmoyer,
Bill Donner

9-11 Analysis of Job Satisfaction and Intent to Leave Among Rural and Urban Caseworkers in Pennsylvania

Alay Patel **KU BEARS**
Mentor: Yoon Mi Kim

10-11 Parasite Diversity in White Sucker Fish and Habitat Fragmentation Across Schuylkill River Watershed

Brianna Schneberger **KU BEARS**
Mentor: Alexander Hernandez

9-10 *The Lives of Others*: An Art Installation

Gabriel Sullivan
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

9-11 Biological Interactions of KLHDC5 (Ctb9) with Proteins in Mammalian Cells

Laura A. Gotshall **KU BEARS**
Mentor: Cristina Cummings

10-11 *Legends of the Eternal Flame*: An Original Graphic Novel

Austyn Merl
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

10-11 The Impact of Cognitive Interviewing on Improving Witness Recall

Antasia Polen
Mentor: Ronnie Farnham

10-11 Work In Progress: German Language and Dialects in the Bavarian-Swabian Region

Gabriel Sullivan
Mentor: Gregory Hanson

11am-1pm Meet the Researchers

11-12 Observing Mammal Communities Utilizing Passive Acoustic Monitoring and Indices

Meg Byerly **KU BEARS**
Mentor: Matthew Stone

11-12 The Bedroom Pop Artist Guide

Zoe Pliszka
Mentor: William Starkey

11-1 Hoffmann's *The Sandman*: A Modern Retelling

Marilyn Geist
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

11-12 End Racism vs Choose Love: Super Bowl 59

Andrew Curch **KU BEARS**
Mentors: Soojin Kim and
Jayden Kim

11-12 Effect of Biochar in Soil Respiration & Crop Production

Jarod Pokorny
Mentor: Jacob Sewall

11-1 *Der Sandmann*: Reimagining Through Modern Film and Body Horror

Conor McGinnis
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

11am-1pm Meet the Researchers (*continued*)

11-1 Hoffmann's *The Sandman* and Body Horror

Jackson Richmond
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

11-1 *How Do I Explain This to My Psychiatrist?: An Original Graphic Novel*

Xyla Vellaro
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

11-1 A Natural Perspective—A Kafkaesque Selection

Gianna Vent
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

12-1 What would Jordan Peele do with Kafka's "The Metamorphosis?"

Darius Holman
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

12-1 Pennypacker Mills Geophysical Investigation

Elizabeth Keim
Mentor: Laura Sherrod

12-1 Optimization of Hydrogen Passivation in Silicon Solar Cells Through Annealing Temperature

Paul Quinn **KU BEARS**
Mentor: Justin Smoyer

12-1 Questioning and Analyzing "Peter Schlemiel" Artwork

Laci Skidmore
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

12-1 "Peter Schlemiel" Meets Pennsylvania Dutch Folk Art

Zachary Skoronski
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

12-1 Sleepwalkers, the Macabre, and Modern Culture: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* and Its Enduring Influence

Logan Smith
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

12-1 "The Metamorphosis:" The Exoskeleton of Gregor

Veronica Womer
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

1pm—3pm Meet the Researchers

1-3 Somatic Experiencing: Healing from the Body Up

Nathaniel Dent
Mentors: Ruth McLeod, Stephen Walker

1-3 Assessing Habitat Use of Mammalian Populations at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary through Camera Trapping and Passive Acoustics Monitoring

Sarah Grace Ferber **KU BEARS**
Mentor: Andrew Mashintonio

1-3 Bridging Disciplines: Mapping the Interdisciplinary Skills in Game Development

Kylee Hager **KU BEARS**
Mentor: Thiep Pham

1-3 A Study of Wild Rose Galls in Pennsylvania and Neighboring States

Henry Leardi **KU BEARS**
Mentor: Carol Mapes

Poster Gallery

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1pm–3pm Meet the Researchers (*continued*)

1-3 Modeling UV Reflection, Transmission, and Bathing Suit Material on Edge-Based Skin Pigmentation

Isabella Venezian
Mentor: Danielle Seier

1-3 Quantum Teleportation

Brett Yagiello **KU BEARS**
Mentor: Kunal Das

2-3 Analysis of Ground-Dwelling/Winged Invertebrate Communities in the KU Regenerative Organic Agriculture Living Laboratory

Jack Monahan **KU BEARS**
Mentor: Chris Habeck

1-3 *Fisticuffs*: An Ongoing Comic Exploration
Florence Wagner
Mentor: Margaret Noel

2-3 Screenshots Don't Stay Silent: Adapting the Grimm Brothers' "The Singing Bone"

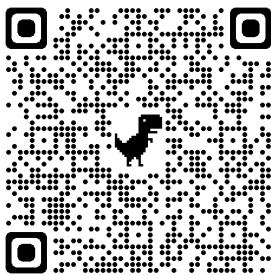
Genevieve Benbow
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

2-3 Lost in Translation: Kafka's "The Metamorphosis"

Gabriel Sullivan
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch

2-3 The Fear of Disability in "A Conversation Concerning Legs"

Willie Wiles
Mentor: Lynn M. Kutch



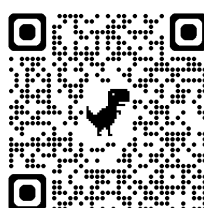
Scan for the KU BEARS website

KU BEARS GRANT FUNDING

Proposals due in late February


<https://tinyurl.com/KU-BEARS-grants>

The purpose of the KU BEARS program is to support faculty/student research pairs over the summer. The goals are twofold: for undergraduate students to develop the necessary skill set to become student researchers and to provide faculty members with paid student research assistants. Undergraduate students selected for the program will receive summer pay for research tasks assigned by a faculty supervisor. By assisting faculty members in their research, students selected for the program will obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for conducting advanced research in their field.




Scan to view the proposal form

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Logo Design | Jake Geiger

KU Inspires Planning
Heather Arbuckle
Susan Czerny
Lynn M. Kutch

