



# 2025 *Summer Scholars Family Weekend Symposium*

Friday, September 26, 2025  
Paul and Rosemary Tribble Library



CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY  
**OFFICE OF STUDENT RESEARCH  
AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY**

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**Christopher Newport University's Summer Scholars Program** is an eight week, in-residence, summer program for students and faculty to collaboratively work on a faculty-derived research question. Program participants work collaboratively with a CNU faculty member and are a part of a summer community of scholars. The goals of the program are to develop enhanced research and communication skills, provide opportunities to become better acquainted with Tribble Library's scholarly resources, and expand inquiry and problem-solving capabilities.

We hope you enjoy the work of this year's Summer Scholars.

Dr. David A. Salomon  
Director, Office of Student Research and Creative Activity

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

### Tribble Library Theater and Library 1210

- 5:00: Fizz Waldron**, "Scapegoat the Video Game: Proof of Concept" (Prof. Alan Skees, Fine Art and Art History) (Library 1210)
- 5:00: Caleb Foca**, "Class First, Women Next: How the "Class First" Narrative Addressed the "Woman Question" in Revolutionary Russia" (Dr. Deirdre Harshman, History) (Tribble Library Theater)
- 5:20: Mark Hardy**, "Knot Quandles on the Torus" (Dr. Marla Williams, Mathematics) (Library 1210)
- 5:20: Alexandra Procida**, "Rethinking Copyright for Innovation and Creativity" (Dr. David Salomon, ORCA) (Tribble Library Theater)
- 5:40: Nicholas Frazer**, "The El Paquete Semanal Online Archive" (Dr. Michael Levine, Music) (Tribble Library Theater)
- 6:00: Sidney McAlear**, "Counterfeiting the Union: Court Martial Cases of Union Soldiers and Counterfeit Money During the Civil War" (Dr. Frank Garmon, Leadership and American Studies) (Tribble Library Theater)
- 6:20: Cole Thomsen**, "Enhancing capabilities of small-size drone platforms by adding external sensors using low-cost manufacturing techniques" (Dr. Abhishek Phadke, School of Engineering and Computing) (Tribble Library Theater)
- 6:40: Zachary Gist**, "20th-21st Century Music: Graphic Scores and Extended Techniques" (Dr. Chelsey Hamm, Music) (Tribble Library Theater)

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**5:00-5:50pm**

## POSTER SESSION 1

### Rosemary Tribble Reading Room (number indicates poster easel)

- 1. Daniel Owens**, "Synthesis of Mixed Metals Catalysts for Hydrogen Generation" (Dr. Tarek Abdul-Fattah, Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science)
- 2. Brenna McManus**, "There Can Only Be One; Sexual Events in Relation to the FAB" (Dr. Jeffrey Gibbons, Psychology)
- 3. Alanna Griffin**, "Meeting Lincoln: Personal Narratives" (Dr. Jonathan White, Leadership and American Studies)
- 4. Samuel Ellyson**, "'Shadow Diplomats': The Establishment of a Private Humanitarian Assistance Network, 1933-1948" (Dr. Andrew J. Falk, History)
- 5. Kaitlyn Kinslow**, "Using DeepLabCut to Examine the Effects of Hypoxanthine-3N-Oxide (C<sub>5</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) on Established Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) Shoals" (Dr. Andrew Velkey, Neuroscience)
- 6. Sean Gamache**, "Effects of Fasted vs Fed States on Ultrasound Imaging" (Dr. Alex Olmos, Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science)
- 7. Emily McKenna**, "Trump Administration v. Education: Redefining Academic Freedom in America" (Dr. Elizabeth Kaufer Busch, Leadership and American Studies)
- 8. Jonas Miller**, "The Secret Urban Safari: Wildlife Amidst the Concrete" (Dr. Jason Hart, Psychology)
- 9. Caroline Baxley**, "Combat to Corporate: How Communication Behavior Affects the Transition from Military to Civilian Work" (Dr. Brianna Lane, Communication)

- 10. Jacob Maurer**, "Analyzing Weight Distributions of Multi-Layer Perceptrons using Heatmaps" (Dr. Ayan Roy, Engineering and Computing)
- 11. Luke King**, "Ethanol modulation of a NE-astrocyte-DA arousal pathway" Dr. Darlene Mitrano, Neuroscience)
- 12. Emma Sebastian**, ""The Role of Antibiotics on the Gut-Brain Axis and Neurodegenerative Diseases." (Dr. Anna Salazar, Neuroscience)
- 13. Amy Riddle**, "Comparison of Fish Populations in Natural, Restored, and Degraded Fringing Marshes in Virginia" (Dr. Jessica Thompson, Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science)
- 14. Andrew Farney**, "Automated Generation of Capability Files and Specifications for Synthesis" (Dr. David Conner, School of Engineering and Computing)

**6:00-6:50pm**

## POSTER SESSION 2

Rosemary Tribble Reading Room (number indicates poster easel)

- 1. Lauren Jarrett**, "Structural Studies of a Mutant BA0150" (Dr. Kathryn Cole, Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science)
- 2. Owen Henke**, "The Effects of Gut Health on Aging" (Dr. Anna Salazar, Neuroscience)
- 3. Lauren White**, "Creating a Refugee Welcoming Campus at CNU" (Dr. Andria Timmer, Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology)
- 4. Mitchell Bundick**, "Distribution of calcium in Atlantic White Cedar swamps: A new mechanism for self-maintenance" (Dr. Rob Atkinson, Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science)
- 5. William Murray**, "The use of drone in ecology and the tracking of species" (Dr. Rick Sherwin, Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science)
- 6. Stephen Pincus**, "Hadron Mass Corrections in Kaon and Pion Measurements" (Dr Alberto Accardi, Physics)
- 7. Ella Burch**, "Assessing ASD-relevant behaviors and altered molecular expression in prefrontal cortex of the mouse model of 22q11.2 deletion syndrome after an NMDA receptor agonist intervention" (Dr. Jessica Burket, Neuroscience)
- 8. Grace Watlington**, "Drift Chamber Detector Commissioning and Dark Current Measurement for High Resolution Kaon Spectrometer" (Dr. Ralph Marinaro, Engineering and Computing)
- 9. Caiden Pleis**, "Optimizing Physics-Informed Deep Learning for Remote Sensing-Based Earthquake Damage Assessment" (Dr. Yan Lu, Engineering and Computing)
- 10. Makayla Alexis Cisneros**, "Gathering Baseline Data on the Benthic Infaunal Community to Aid in the Restoration of Ragged Island in Isle of Wight County, VA" (Dr. Heather Harwell, Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science)
- 11. Paiton Jones**, "Redefining Security: Technology and the Future Battlefield" (Dr. Nathan Busch, Leadership and American Studies)
- 12. Margaret Harlan**, "Converting Organic Chemistry Teaching Labs From Macroscale to Microscale: Challenges and Solutions" (Dr. Andrew Higgs, Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science)
- 13. Ethan D. Phelps**, "Leadership of the Cuban Missile Crisis" (Dr. Sarah Chace, Leadership and American Studies)

## Unable to Present Today

**Natalie Truelove**, "Differences in the relationship between emotion regulation and brain structure across subtypes of ADHD" (Dr. Sikoya Ashburn, Psychology)

**Delaney Ewell**, "The Effect of Animacy on ERPs during Encoding and Recognition Memory in Children and Adults" (Dr. Rollins, Psychology)

**Sanithia Tucker**, "Motherhood Behind Bars: A Research Documentary Project" (Dr. Steven Keener, Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology)





## Upcoming ORCA Events

- October 1: Film Screening: "Left Behind" (documentary on dyslexia) (Trible Library Theater 6pm)
- October 22: Research Cohort Open House: all CNU research students are welcome (ORCA Office), 5pm (pizza!)
- November 1: Network for Undergraduate Research in Virginia Conference (Mary Washington University)
- November 3: Spring 26 Research Apprentice application deadline first-years and transfers only)
- November 13: Research Cohort Open House: all CNU research students are welcome (ORCA Office), 12:30pm (pizza!)
- December 1: Spring 26 Independent Research Grant application deadline