



APRIL 24, 2026



**EASTERN
CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY**



APRIL 24, 2026

Schedule at a Glance

Time	Student Center Meeting Rooms	Student Center Theatre	Betty Tipton Room	
8:30 - 9:00	Registration and Breakfast – Student Center Café			
9:00 - 10:30	Concurrent Sessions		Poster Set Up	
10:30 - 12:00	Concurrent Sessions		Poster Set Up	
12:00 - 12:45	Lunch – Student Center Café			
12:45 - 1:15	President’s Remarks and Awards Ceremony – Student Center Theatre			
1:15 - 2:15	Poster Presentations - Betty Tipton Room			Artwork Display
2:15 - 3:45	Concurrent Sessions		Jazz Performance Student Center Café	Wood Support Center Gallery Opening Reception @ 3 1:00 – 5:00

ORAL PRESENTATIONS Session A: 9:00 – 10:30

<u>MR 113</u>	<u>MR 217</u>	<u>MR 219</u>	<u>MR 221</u>
Moderator: Kwangwon Lee Technological Innovations	Moderator: Michele Bacholle Feminism, Women's Studies, Labor Issues	Moderator: T. Caitlin Vasquez-O'Brien Child Development, Behavior and Psychology	Moderator: Steve Muchiri Sport and Athletics
<p>AI-Driven Analysis of Diversely Sized Martian Geological Features with Deep Learning Quinn Sawyer Faculty Mentors: Sarah Tasneem, Kehan Gao (Computer Science)</p> <p>A Comparative Analysis of Web Development Technologies and Their Performance Luis Vazquez Faculty Mentors: Sarah Tasneem, Kehan Gao (Computer Science)</p> <p>Development of a Course Planning Tool and Syllabus Generator Jessica Day, Audrey Evelina Windrow, Cameron Senna, and Sencere Rabel Faculty Mentors: Garrett M. Dancik (Computer Science), Courtney Brocious (Political Science), Lora Lee (Art & Art History)</p> <p>Quick Dict, a Fast AI-Powered Lookup Extension Alexander Saranich Faculty Mentor: Troy Marrotte (Business Information Systems)</p> <p>How Digital Environments Undermine Rawlsian Justice: Post-Truth, Political Polarization, and Public Opinion Elaina Meccariello Faculty Mentor: Karl Stocker (Philosophy)</p> <p>Navigating Nowhere: The Problems with Eastern's New eWeb Jason Mitchell, Patrick Lynch, Nicholas LaBelle, Connor Huether Faculty Mentor: Niki Kunene (Business Information Systems)</p>	<p>The Illusion of Justice: Expanding on Rawls' Theory of Justice Through a Feminist Perspective Carolyn Kehayias Faculty Mentor: Karl Stocker (Philosophy)</p> <p>Womanhood and the Search for One's Cultural Identity in Gloria Anzaldúa's Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza and Cristina Garcia's Dreaming in Cuban Sulema Perez-Pagan Faculty Mentor: Kenneth McNeil (English)</p> <p>From Roe to Dobbs: The Evolution of Supreme Court Decisions on Abortion Rights Jennifer Tripp Faculty Mentor: Courtney Brocious (Political Science)</p> <p>Lighting Design for Live Theatre: Exposing Invisible Labor Jillian Martin Faculty Mentor: Timothy Golebiewski (Theatre)</p> <p>World Cup Impact on the United States Alyssa Paquette, Ryan Finlay, Edgar Paredes, Lucas Tamsin Faculty Mentor: Steve Muchiri (Economics)</p>	<p>When Parents Give Themselves Grace: Self-Compassion Moderating Child Frustration and Behavior Problems Lauren Roth Faculty Mentor: T. Caitlin Vasquez-O'Brien (Psychological Science)</p> <p>Impact of Child Health Status on Parent-Child Relationships Olivia Bourque Faculty Mentor: T. Caitlin Vasquez-O'Brien (Psychological Science)</p> <p>Compliance to Authority Stabilizes the Relationship Between Self-Regulation and Behavior Problems Abigail M. Locke Faculty Mentor: T. Caitlin Vasquez-O'Brien (Psychological Science)</p>	<p>Mega-Events and Their Economic Effects Ava Basak, Brady Richardson, Rasheen Grant, Erik Huffman, Ethan Pancoast Faculty Mentor: Steve M. Muchiri (Economics)</p> <p>Impact of Referee Calls in Men's Basketball in the NCAA Skylar Hofmann, Patrick Lynch, Camron Kelemen, Cedrick Similien Faculty Mentor: Steve M. Muchiri (Economics)</p> <p>Are Sports Becoming Referee Influenced? How Refs are Deciding Games Over Players Chris Stephenson, Khalil Covington, Jacob Brennan, Ryan Hall, Justin Vincent Faculty Mentor: Steven Muchiri (Economics)</p> <p>Why Do Athletes Get Paid So Much? Juliannah Xavier, Duane Smigel, Dylan Durocher, Brady Wrona Faculty Mentor: Steven Muchiri (Economics)</p> <p>The Competitive Balance of Sports: Salary Caps & Luxury Caps Across Leagues Matthew Sanford, Jack Hawes, Isaiah Jackson, Bryce Chatman, Jaden Reynolds Faculty Mentor: Steven Muchiri (Economics)</p> <p>Network Community Detection for Comparing NBA and Euroleague Players Sam Hurlburt Faculty Mentor: Megan Heenehan (Mathematical Sciences)</p>

ORAL PRESENTATIONS Session B: 10:30 – 12:00

<u>MR 113</u>	<u>MR 217</u>	<u>MR 219</u>	<u>MR 221</u>
Moderator: Scott Moore The Arts and Cultural Identity	Moderator: Amy Groth Science and Evolution	Moderator: Stacey Close Race and Resistance	Moderator: Sudha Swaminathan Education and Children's Literature
The Invention of Culture: From the Dance Masters to the Gaelic League Maevae McCollam Faculty Mentor: Scott Moore (History)	Creation of an Enhanced Germline-Specific RNAi Strain in <i>C. elegans</i> Anton Smith Faculty Mentor: Amy Groth (Biology)		Learning Difficulties in Primary Grades and Effective Intervention Strategies Allison Michalski, Haleigh Thibodeau Faculty Mentor: Sudha Swaminathan (Education)
The Gayageum: Reflecting Traditional Korea Christina Cherniske Faculty Mentor: Okon Hwang (Music)	Culturing of Polypore Species for Mycelial Bio-Block Materials Derek Davis Faculty Mentor: Jonathan Hulvey (Biology)	Divided Against Oneself: The Biracial Experience in the American South Elisabeth Craig Faculty Mentor: Stacey Close (History)	Unrooted from Reality: 9/11 in Children's Literature Taylor Thompson Faculty Mentor: Allison Speicher (English)
Hanbok Reimagined: The Evolution of Korean Tradition Mitchell Peterson Faculty Mentor: Okon Hwang (Music)	Fungal Diversity of The Eastern Arboretum & Church Farm Deana Tempest Thomas Faculty Mentor: Jonathan Hulvey (Biology)	The Permanence of Racism and the Practice of Racial Courage Kairi Cobb Faculty Mentor: Karl Stocker (Philosophy)	Financial Literacy in Parents: A Parent's Effect on Their Child's Future and College Education Ashlee Banda Faculty Mentor: Pamela Days-Luketich (Finance)
Jazz in Japan: Cultural Exchange, Identity, & Anime Joshua Aziz Faculty Mentor: Okon Hwang (Music)	The Effects of <i>Diadema antillarum</i> on the Recovery of Coral Reefs in the Caribbean Camille Attle Faculty Mentor: Joshua Idjadi (Biology)	Journey of an Immigrant: Nunzio Rottino Skylar Rottino Faculty Mentor: Barbara Tucker (History)	The Kids Are All White: Childhood, Race, Mormonism and the Precedents of Child Exploitation in the Digital Age Madeleine Orwick Faculty Mentor: Allison Speicher (English)
Love as Syzygy Austin King Faculty Mentor: Karl Stocker (Philosophy)	Discovery of Scorpion Group 1 bacteria in the Venom Microbiome of the Eastern Swollenstinger Scorpion, <i>Anuroctonus phaiodactylus</i> Abby Heidorn Faculty Mentors: Barbara Murdoch, Matthew Graham (Biology)	Attacking MOVE: From Distortion to Destruction Paul Friedmann Faculty Mentor: Scott Moore (History)	Innocence Exploited: The Unknown Dangers of Child Influencing. Allison McElfresh Faculty Mentor: Allison Speicher (English)
Learning by the Blade: A Study of Fencing in 19th Century German Culture Duncan Page Faculty mentor: Scott Moore (History)	Hidden Genetic Structure in a Widespread Camel Spider: Insights from COI and RADseq Emily N. Senna Faculty Mentor: Matthew Graham (Biology)		Themes in Academic AI Policies Rylee LeClair Faculty Mentor: Sukeshini Grandhi (Business Administration)
	Characterization of 4-Mercaptopyridine (4-Mpy) Aggregates in Aqueous Solution Neema Rock Faculty Mentor: Syed Islam (Physical Sciences)		

ORAL PRESENTATIONS Session C: 2:15 – 3:45

<u>MR 113</u>	<u>MR 217</u>	<u>MR 219</u>	<u>MR 221</u>
Moderator: Sarah Walters Public Health, Medicine, and Wellness	Moderator: David Pellegrini The Arts	Moderator: Christine Garcia Anti-Colonialism	Moderator: Niki Kunene Campus Life
<p>Exploring Lyme Disease and the Environmental Factors that Impacts its Spread Rylee LeClair Faculty Mentor: Meredith Metcalf (Environmental Earth Science)</p> <p>A Multivariate Longitudinal Analysis of 30-day Readmission of Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery Patients in Nationwide Readmissions Database Lilyann Kenefick Faculty Mentor: Fatma Pakdil (Business Administration)</p> <p>Hartford: Rising Complaints with Older Housing Kaliya Dawkins Faculty Mentor: Alex Citurs (Business Information Systems)</p> <p>Healthcare Field Guidelines: A Structured Pathway to Medical School, Physician Assistant, and Physical Therapy Programs. Mariangel Duran Galvis Faculty Mentor: Sarah Walters (Health Sciences)</p> <p>Eastern Gym Dashboard Jacob Morales, Allison Kazmier, Joseph Barlovic Faculty Mentor: Niki Kunene (Business Information Systems)</p>	<p>Staging Confinement: Directing No Exit for a Modern Audience Zoe Calhoun Faculty Mentor: David Pellegrini (Theatre)</p> <p>Dissolving Boundaries: Psychological Breakdown Via Audience Participation in Dionysus in '69 Ivy Davis Faculty Mentor: David Pellegrini (Theatre)</p> <p>Inclusive Fashion Design: Developing Adaptive Garments for Individuals with Limited Mobility Annette Gutierrez Faculty Mentor: Anya Sokolovskaya (Theatre)</p> <p>The Shrinking Spectrum: Four Decades of Narrowing Representations of Giftedness on Television Emily Bartoshevich Faculty Mentor: Allison Speicher (English)</p> <p>Aubrey Beardsley's Cracked Looking Glass Closet AJ Beauregard Faculty Mentor: Maeve Doyle (Art & Art History)</p> <p>Multi-hyphenate Authorship in Film and Theatre Zolei Ari Burgos Faculty Mentor: Alycia Bright-Holland (Theatre)</p>	<p>Puerto Rican Independence, an Ever-Evolving History Nova Hernandez Faculty Mentor: Christine Garcia (English)</p> <p>Art in Slavery: How Black Women Stayed Creative Under Enslavement, inspired by Alice Walker's, "In Search of Our Mothers' Garden" Jillian Martin Faculty Mentor: Kenneth McNeil (English)</p> <p>The Cost of Liberation: The Contradictions of Independence in Postcolonial French West Africa Fanta Konate Faculty Mentor: Stacey Close (History)</p> <p>Capoeira, Feijoada, and Samba: An Analysis of the African Impact on Brazilian Cultural Identity Ana Lara Guimaraes Pinheiro Faculty Mentor: Concepcion Saenz-Cambra (History)</p> <p>Russian Authoritarianism: Different Ideologies, Same Tactics Daniel Silvester Faculty Mentor: Scott Moore (History)</p>	<p>LAPS: Lot Availability Parking System for ECSU Campus Quinn Sawyer, Bryan Bouchard, Yahir Perez Retama Faculty Mentor: Niki Kunene (Business Information Systems)</p> <p>Sustainability During Move-Out at ECSU: Behaviors and Perceptions of On-Campus Residents Amanda Tozatto Edinil De Farias, Katelyn Gottier Faculty Mentor: Sukeshini Grandhi (Business Administration)</p> <p>Are you Satisfied with your Ride? Visualizing Campus Shuttle Satisfaction Kelly Pruss, Kaliya Dawkins, Rylee LeClair Faculty Mentor: Niki Kunene (Business Information Systems)</p> <p>Eastern CT State U Campus Connect App: Promoting Campus Engagement Henry Bustell, Nico Agresti, Anna Cox Faculty Mentor: Niki Kunene (Business Information Systems)</p> <p>How Does the Return on Investment of a College Degree Vary by Institutional Type and Accumulated Debt? Nicolas Iannucci Faculty Mentor: Maryanne Clifford (Economics)</p> <p>The Degree Dilemma Danna Guerrero, Adam Borry, Jack Gustafson Faculty Mentor: Niki Kunene (Business Information Systems)</p>

PERFORMANCES & PANELS

MR 107

<p>9:00 – 10:30</p>	<p>Poetry and Storytelling</p> <p>Muriel Stankeviciute, Elise Clark, Stephanie Galaburri, Colby Gonsowski, Kendall Garrity, Ashley Easton, Ace Straynj</p> <p>Moderator: Daniel Donaghy (English)</p> <p>Faculty Mentors: Daniel Donaghy, Raouf Mama (English)</p>
<p>10:30 – 12:00</p>	<p>A Celebration of Eastern's Fiction Writers</p> <p>Sean Crisci, Helena Dombkowski, William Dube, Ian Harrington, Cory Jennings-DuBois, Vivian Lubinsky, Jazmin Vega, Skylar Mink</p> <p>Faculty Mentor and Moderator: Christopher Torockio (English)</p>
<p>2:15 – 3:45</p>	<p>A Celebration of Eastern's Memoir Writers</p> <p>Julianna Concepcion, Alexa Ruales Ramirez, Victoria Reyes, Shannon Carbonell</p> <p>Moderator: Daniel Donaghy (English)</p> <p>Faculty Mentor: Susan DeRosa (English)</p>

PERFORMANCES & PANELS

Student Center Theatre

10:30 – 12:00

Eastern Student Filmmakers

**Bruce Quito, Trinity Ginther, Adam Frati, Sophie Hanlon
Kat Torres, Evena Desther, Sean Jolly**

Moderator: Brian Day (Communication, Film, & Theatre)

Faculty Mentors: Brian Day, Reginald Flood (Communication, Film, & Theatre)

Student Center Café

2:15 – 3:45

Improvisation and Communication in Jazz

**Dylan Schore, Katie MacLean (Ballinger)
Ian Harrington, Alex Thornton, Mark Romano, Jason Skoog, Caio De Sousa, Jason Mitchell, Riley Lapham, Joshua
Jasiorkowski**

Faculty Mentors: Anthony Cornicello, Frederick "Rick" O'Neal (Music)

CREATE 2026 COMMITTEE

Bryan Connolly, Chair (Biology)
Dan Donaghy (English)
Soojin Kim (Art)
Kwangwon Lee (Education)
Nahyun Oh (Business Administration)
Fatma Pakdil (Business Administration)
David Pellegrini (Communication, Film, and Theater)

For the full program, please scan the QR code or visit
www.easternct.edu/create

