

GRADUATE SHOWCASE

Congratulations to
our presenters
2016-2017

CHANDLER HASSAN



Chandler Hassan is a second-year MS student in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, supervised by Dr. Ernesto Abel-Santos. His research will address the effect of spore germination on the pathogenesis of anthrax. The anthrax attacks of 2001 demonstrated its ability to be used as a bioterrorism weapon and he hopes that his work will better prepare our country if another attack were to occur.

KATELYN DiBENEDETTO



Katelyn DiBenedetto is a fifth year Ph.D. student in the Department of Anthropology, supervised by Dr. Alan Simmons. Her primary research interest is how humans find solutions to problems related to land and water access, particularly in risky and marginal environments. Her dissertation research will use Neolithic Cyprus (around 12,000 years), an island in the eastern Mediterranean, as a case study. She hopes that by studying past issues related to land and water management strategies, it will emphasize human resilience and human ingenuity in dealing with these problems for thousands of years.

GABRIELA TSCHOLL



Gabriela Tscholl is a second-year M.A. student in the Department of Communication Studies under faculty advisor Dr. David Henry. Her research interests are in political communication, with an emphasis in presidential discourse. Her Master's thesis will examine the memorial speeches delivered by President Barack Obama following mass shootings. This research will advance both scholars' and citizens' understanding of how presidents lead during moments of tragedy. As part of her Graduate Assistantship, she has served as a Research Assistant for faculty and teaches COM 101: Fundamentals of Oral Communication.

NATHAN HENCEROOTH



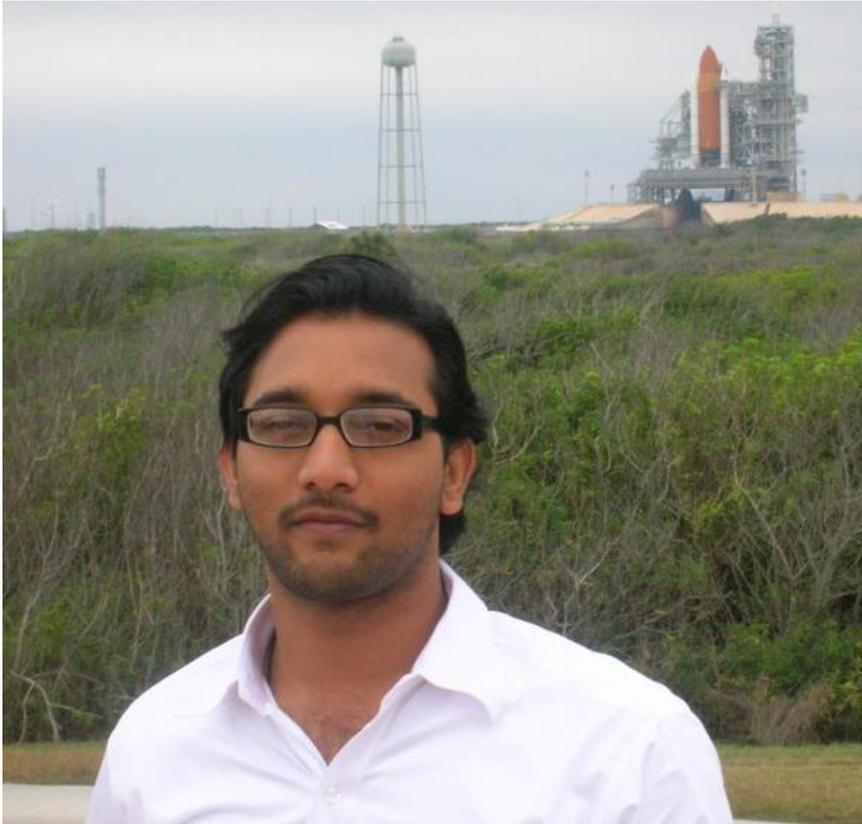
Nathan Henceroth is a PhD candidate in Political Science, under the supervision of Dr. Chris Jensen. His primary area of research is political extremism within industrialized democracies. His dissertation looks at the electoral effects of public grandstanding within the European Parliament.

JACQUELINE PHAN



Jacqueline Phan is a M.S. student in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, supervised by Dr. Ernesto Abel-Santos. Her thesis research will address how synthetic bile salt analogs have the potential to prevent *Clostridium difficile* bacterial spore germination in the gut (gastrointestinal tract) that leads to *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI), a disease that causes antibiotic-associated diarrhea. She hopes that by studying the effects of bile salt analogs on spore germination, they may one day become effective drugs in the prophylactic treatment of this \$3.2 billion annual burden to the U.S. Healthcare System.

SRIKANTH MADALA



Srikanth Madala is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, supervised by Dr. Robert F. Boehm, with an emphasis in solar and renewable energy studies. His dissertation research aims at maximizing solar energy collection through design improvements in stationary solar concentrators. He hopes to address the energy needs of the future by studying stationary solar energy collection.

MICHAEL BIESIADA



Michael Biesiada is a third year Ph.D. candidate in the School of Public Policy and Leadership, supervised by Dr. Helen Neill. His area of interest investigates corporate governance challenges that are facing government. His dissertation research focuses on the impact of the Dodd-Frank Act on the financial markets. His study will measure performance rankings across multiple sectors of the economy with respect to corporate structure and executive pay. He anticipates that the legislation has led to greater transparency available to market actors, ultimately increasing firm value.