

Re: 2024-2025 Annual Report (Longwood Senior Thesis Committee)

Date: May 2025

Committee Members:

Maxwell Hennings, Chair (27)

Mark Kostro (26)

Aftab Khan (25)

Adam Blinco (25)

Dawn Schwartz (27)

Julian Dymacek (26)

Jo Morrison (27)

Ravi Darwin Sankar (25)

Ex-officio: Amorette Barber

On December 11th, 2024, the members of the senior thesis committee met to evaluate one student research proposal. On May 7th, 2025, the members of the senior thesis committee met to evaluate seven student research proposals. All eight senior thesis proposals were approved, bringing our total number of active student theses to eight for the start of the 2025/2026 academic year.

We are also happy to announce that nine of eleven active students performing a thesis in the 2024/2025 academic have successfully defended their projects and will be awarded honors.

This year there are currently have eight students planning on starting or continuing a thesis as part of the LST program in the 2025/2026 academic year, which is comparable to previous years. I am aware of at least one more student who will likely submit a proposal before the start of the fall semester. This will bring the total number of students in the LST program at the beginning of the 2025/2026 academic year to nine. I am also happy to report that the LST program has continued to draw attention from departments that previously were not well represented, such as English.

Awarded Honors in 2024-2025:

Fall 2024:

With Honors in Chemistry, Antonio Harvey

The Investigation of the Antimicrobial and Biofilm-Disrupting Properties of Synthesized Hemibastadin

Andrew Yeagley, Director

With Honors in Biology, Lilian Jubb

Staggering stink bugs: autotomy affects stability and locomotor performance in Halymorpha halys

Brandon Jackson, Director

With Honors in English, Lee Kassay

Recognition or Refusal? Marginalized Identity Development in Passing and The Color Purple

David Magill, Director

With Honors in Chemistry, Kassidy Owens

Effects of supplemented methionine on the efficacy of platinum drugs in the yeast model organism

Jonathan White, Director

With Honors in English, Christopher Sparks

Changing Partners: Male Comradery and the Decline of Homosocial Dance in American Film

Sean Barry, Director

Spring 2025:

With Honors in Biology, Grace Cohen

Blockade of chPD1 T cell derived cytokines decreases inflammatory molecules related to cytokine release syndrome in acute lymphocytic leukemia

Amorette Barber, Director

With Honors in Biology, Helena Loucas

Evaluation of the impact of Urban Stream Syndrome on macroinvertebrate functional feeding diversity and organic matter processing in streams

Kenneth Fortino, Director

With Honors in Biology, Jade Riddle

Effects of Spatial and Temporal Variability on Bacterial Diversity and Community Composition in Roof-Harvested Rainwater across Central Virginia

Dale Beach, Director

With Honors in Biology, Victoria Walden

CI-Amidine and Rapamycin Combination as a Novel Synergistic Co-therapy For Ovarian Cancer

Amorette Barber, Director

Proposals Reviewed in F2024:

Honors Project in Chemistry, Lanie Grogg

Ben Topham, Director

Proposals Reviewed in S2025:

Honors Project in Communication Sciences and Disorders, Austin Burnett

Hannah Dudley Shotwell, Director

Honors Project in Chemistry, Bryant Corbin

Sarah Porter, Director

Honors Project in Chemistry, James Daniel

Andrew Yeagley, Director

Honors Project in Biology, Rachel Danzitz

Bjoern Ludwar, Director

Honors Project in Biology, Nicholas Duellman
Jameson Hinkle, Director

Honors Project in Biology, Sarah Lacy
Ravi Darwin Sankar, Director

Honors Project in English, Jordan Mcpherson
Sean Barry, Director