

Note: SHC provided me with the travel grant for my attendance and presentation at two conferences, and I decided to put both of my reports into one for convenience.

Macksey Symposium

What activities, workshops, or sessions did you participate in at the conference? If so, what did you learn?

I participated in all of the academic sessions at the symposium. During my attendance, I had the chance to academically engage with a wide range of research topics and fields. Some of my highlights include learning more about corpus analysis, critical theory, video game analysis, and GIS. I also had the chance to talk to other students during the networking lunch and brainstormed future research project ideas.

What did you learn from presenting your research?

Based on the questions given to me after my presentation, I first gained insight to a range of new directions I can go with research. Many audience members suggested constructive alternative methodologies to my research question, and I learned the importance of assessing the same question in different directions.

How did you network and did these opportunities give insight into future research or job/internship opportunities?

There was a networking lunch for students to talk to other students. There, I made some connections with researchers with similar interests, and we brainstormed potential research projects that we would collaborate on.

How did your experience shape your perception of the field?

The field of humanities and digital humanities is constantly evolving. One key thing I learned is the application of computational and statistical methods to assess questions grounded in the humanities. This revealed to me that it is possible to pair my interest in statistics and data science with topics in the humanities.

Overall, what are your main takeaways from this experience?

Research is constantly evolving. There are many traditional views, and it is important to maintain an open mind when assessing new research questions and methodologies.

Southern Regional Honors Council Conference

What activities, workshops, or sessions did you participate in at the conference? If so, what did you learn?

SRHC had a variety of college workshops that provided me insight into the graduate school application process. There, I met recruiters and administrators and learned a few graduate programs and their connection with my work. Furthermore, there are a variety of academic sessions such as poster and presentation sessions, and I took extra care to

attend sessions whose topics are beyond my own work. There, I was able to learn many new topics of interest. Finally, there was this one session where I learned how to run a research group and teach research. While the session was more geared to faculty members, that session provided me valuable insight to bring back to GUARD.

What did you learn from presenting your research?

I presented my research alongside my faculty advisor and fellow student researcher. Our session was also collaborated with another student from Tenensse, and the audience asked thought-provoking questions that are more pertained to the future of higher education. One thing I particularly recalled from my experience is the topic regarding the true purpose of higher education, and I intend on exploring that topic more deeply.

How did you network and did these opportunities give insight into future research or job/internship opportunities?

During my time at SRHC, I met a group of honors students from Georgia State University, and I had a great time exploring Montgomery and learning about the history of that city with them. Although our research interests were vastly different, I still learned a lot from each student, and while I may not have gained specific opportunities, I did make new friends.

How did your experience shape your perception of the field?

SRHC is a much broader conference with topics ranging from natural sciences, engineering, social sciences to the humanities. However, this particular conference helped bring me closer to the philosophy behind honors programs at large universities and the roles they fill to provide similar benefits that of small liberal arts colleges.

Overall, what are your main takeaways from this experience?

While many methodologies are different, researchers in relevant fields have a surprising amount of overlap in their end goals for things like prosperity, education, and happiness. What we differ is our conceptual understanding and operationalization of that concept. In other words, engaging with so many researchers of different fields taught me that we are a lot closer than we think we are.