John C. Salerno Memorial Research Symposium  
September 28, 2018, 1-5 PM  
KSU Center

1:00-1:05 Welcome  
Jonathan McMurry,  
Associate Vice President for Research

1:05-1:10 Presidential Remarks  
Pamela Whitten

1:10-1:15 Brief Remembrance of John  
Jonathan McMurry  
● John Salerno Fund

1:15-1:40 Dr. Benjamin Scafidi, Professor of Economics  
“Human Capital and Domestic Terrorism”

1:40-2:05 Dr. Jeremy Gulley, Associate Professor of Physics  
“Ultrashort Pulsed Light Interactions with Nanowire Arrays”

2:05-2:30 Steven Gayle, Ph.D. Student, International Conflict Management  
“Diffusion of Innovation, Development and the Spiral of Silence: The  
Understatement of Afro-Amerindian Populations in the Southeastern  
United States”

2:30-2:55 Dr. Scott Nowak, Associate Professor of Biology  
“Akirin is critical for early tinman induction and subsequent formation of  
the heart in Drosophila melanogaster”

2:55-3:15 Break (lobby) -- coffee and tea; cookies  
● KSU Foundation, Research Office, Library tables in lobby

3:15-3:40 Dr. Altug Poyraz, Assistant Professor of Chemistry  
“Improving the Electrochemical Performance of High Power and Energy  
Aqueous Rechargeable Zn/MnO2 Batteries”

3:40-4:05 Dr. Tom Leeper, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry  
“Sustainable Catalysis of a Conjugated Polymer by a Protein Enzyme”

4:05-4:30 Dr. Muhammad Salman, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering  
“Assessing Non-Uniform Stiffening of the Achilles Tendon Noninvasively  
Using Surface Wave Elastography”

4:30-4:55 Dr. Jeffrey Yunek, Assistant Professor of Music Theory  
“Capturing the Zeitgeist: Preserving American Music and Culture in the  
Mashups of DJ Earworm”
5:00-6:30  Reception in lobby -- beer and wine; hors d’oeuvres
  ● Jury chooses $1,000 winner, votes collected and tabulated for
    $500 “People’s Choice” winner
  ● KSU Foundation, Research Office, Library tables in lobby

5:45  Announcement of winners