What happens in the honors symposium?

The OS Honors Symposium is a celebratory event, with members of the Organizational Studies community, as well as friends and family, coming to hear OS honors students present their theses. Typically this event occurs over an extended lunch hour and lunch is served. Each presentation is usually about 15 minutes long with five minutes for questions allowing approximately four presentations in the course of an hour.

Typically audiovisual aids, such as a PowerPoint or other media, are useful for the candidate’s presentation. Honors students have already had a chance to make a presentation of their work during the thesis defense, and so there may be a need to alter their presentation for a wider audience (most of whom may not have actually read their entire thesis). The same questions addressed in the thesis defense meeting can form the basis of this public presentation (what led the student to their topic, what theoretical and practical questions were addressed, the research question, the data collected and analyzed, what was found, the conclusions drawn, and what the candidate thinks it all means). It is strongly recommended that Senior honors students get together to rehearse their presentations with each other, which can be a wonderful opportunity for talking with each other, giving each other helpful feedback, and supporting each other for this last exciting step in the honors process.