

THE HONORS SCHOOL ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE

*It is with great pleasure that the Honors School
presents its Fall 2013 Research Conference.*

Student presenters include research in the fields of:

Anthropology, Communication, Criminal Justice

Education, English, Foreign Language, History, Mathematics, Music

Political Science, Psychology, Social Work & Sociology

PRESENTERS

(in alphabetical order)

Britney Acquaire (PY)

Elizabeth Anderson (PS)

Janine Averbach (SW)

Andrew Colucci (AN)

Megan Conrad (MU/EDS)

Matthew Doyle (CJ)

Lauren Frankowski (EN/EDS)

Taylor Kelly (CO)

Amanda Kruzynski (SW/SO)

Michael, Lucia (PS)

Robert Magella (EN)

Tara Mallinder (MUMI)

Vanessa Mielke (MA/EDS)

Robert Murphy (FO/EDS)

Rebecca Porskieves (MA/EDE)

Nicholas Rossi (PY)

Melisa Safchinsky (HS)

Rhonette Smith (MUMI)

Jenna Tshudy (HS/EDS)

Cara Turcich (PS)

FALL 2013
HONORS SCHOOL
RESEARCH CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
WILSON AUDITORIUM, DECEMBER 13, 2013

SESSION A: 8:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Opening Remarks: Kevin Dooley
Dean of the Honors School

Tara Mallinder (MU)
Rhonette Smith (MU)
Megan Conrad (MU/EDS)
Robert Murphy (FS/EDS)
Taylor Kelly (CO)
Lauren Frankowski (EN/EDS)
Robert Magella (EN)
Amanda Kruzynski (SW/SO)
Janine Averbach (SW)
Matthew Doyle (CJ)

SESSION B: 10:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Rebecca Porskievies (MA/EDE)
Vanessa Mielke (MA)
Elizabeth Anderson (PS)
Cara Turcich (PS)
Michael Lucia (PS)
Andrew Colucci (AN)
Melisa Safchinsky (HS)
Jenna Tshudy (HS/EDS)
Britney Acquire (PY)
Nicholas Rossi (PY)

Closing Remarks: Kevin Dooley

Welcoming Remarks

DR. KEVIN DOOLEY, *Dean of The Honors School*

Presenters (in alphabetical order)

BRITANY ACQUAIRE | *Expectancy Effect and Illusory Superiority in Online Dating*

Chief Advisor: Dr. Gary Lewandowski

When picking a romantic partner, is it better to rely on a mathematical algorithm, or is your own judgment best? The purpose of this study is to answer that question in the context of online dating. To accomplish this, a sample of 77 (67 females, 10 males) single college students viewed the same or similar online dating profiles, but were randomly assigned to one of four matching conditions: mathematical algorithm, participant informed choice, participant blind choice, or random. For the mathematical algorithm, participants believed an online dating mathematical algorithm for compatibility matched them. In the participant choice conditions, participants made the selection by either viewing profiles or blindly from sealed envelopes. Finally in the random condition, participants received a randomly selected profile. In each condition, participants rated their partner on several compatibility dimensions. Contrary to the hypothesis, participants in the informed choice condition liked the partner significantly more than those in the mathematical algorithm, random, and blind choice conditions. These findings suggest that participants feel more compatible with a partner that they chose using their own judgment than a partner that is chosen for them using a mathematical algorithm, randomly, or one that they choose blindly.

ELIZABETH ANDERSON | *The Broadway Musical of the Golden Age: Epitomizing the American Dream and Shaping Postwar Political Culture*

Chief Advisor: Prof. Sheri Anderson

The goal of this paper is to analyze the interrelation between the height and subsequent decline of the 'Golden Age of the Broadway Musical,' (1943-1963) and American society and political culture from the end of World War II through the 1960s. It will also focus on how the Broadway musical mirrored and ultimately redefined the postwar American Dream. Also, even after the traditional conventions of the Broadway musical changed in the 1960s, the correlation between the Broadway musical and the notion of 'the American Dream' continues in the modern context. Now, the values of the American musical have become globalized with the rise of the mega musical and its reliance on mass consumerism. Countries shape their identities and political culture through performance. American political culture has been engulfed in the notions of literal (geographic), political (horizontal and vertical), and economic mobility. The traditional post-World War II Golden Age musical, with its reliance on fast-paced plots, upbeat tunes, and synchronized dances represent the creative embodiment of the American Dream. The Golden Age musical brought the mysteriously enticing dream to life and sets a 'guideline' for the societal norms needed in order to for the audience to 'achieve' the dream. However, as with the notion of the American Dream, the Golden Age Broadway musical is not a mirror onto real-life, but an art form used to instill traditional values and nostalgic nonsense through a cheery façade. During the Cold War era, the Presidency was also transformed into an image and performance-based position of political power. This is especially apparent during the Kennedy administration and its use of performance techniques and image creation; for example, its mastery of oration in the televised Nixon/Kennedy debates. Both the political sphere and the Broadway musical adhere to theories of performance techniques in order to mold the American Dream. For the president, the American Dream is a campaign tool used to promote nationalist sentiments; while Golden Age Broadway musicals used their function as social art to perpetuate the societal norms that made up the American ideal.

JANINE AVERBACH | *The Relationship Between Gun Violence and Mental Health from the Perspective of the Police*

Chief Advisor: Dr. Michelle Scott

Gun violence poses a threat to the United States population, with 11,078 gun homicides occurring in 2010 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2013). This study will describe the causes and solutions to gun violence from the police perspective. Methods: A cross-sectional online survey research design was used to examine the relationship between gun violence and mental health among 67 police officers from an East Coast county. Results: Mental health (91.9%) emerged as a major cause of gun violence across all sub-groups of the police, but substance abuse (98.4%) arose as an even greater cause. Strengthening the background check system to require states to report prohibited buyers from purchasing guns (98.3%) was the most important solution in reducing gun violence. Statistical significance was found between years of service on allowing school personnel to carry weapons as a solution to gun violence (≤ 2 years 75%; > 2 years 36.8%). Statistical significance was also found between the towns of police departments on banning violent video games as a solution to gun violence (lower socioeconomic towns 18.8%; upper socioeconomic towns 69.2%). Discussion: As many solutions received support, these results may have implications for future policy to work at alleviating this problem.

ANDREW COLUCCI | *The Walls of Nevis: A Geo-Military Analysis of the British Colonial Fortifications on the Island of Nevis*

Chief Advisor: Dr. Edward Gonzalez-Tenant

Second Reader: Dr. Richard Veit

Despite having a history of over six thousand years of human occupation, the field of historical archaeology in the Caribbean has seen little work in terms of documentation and preservation. Most of the work completed in this region has been within the confines of plantation archaeology or military sites with little analysis. The fortifications along the island of Nevis are among these historical sites that have received little attention. This project conducts a geo-military analysis on the British colonial Fortifications on the island using geographic information systems technology. Using maps, topographic data, and historical sources, the individual fortifications as well as the defense network as a whole are evaluated through various spatial analyses. These fortifications were designed to defend the most prized colonial possession in the British empire yet failed to stop a French invasion on two occasions, this project looks to preserve these sites through the pursuit of answering the question of “why?”

MEGAN CONRAD | *The Gendering of High School Music Programs in Contemporary Education*

Chief Advisor: Dr. Johanna Foster

In the United States, 91% of high schools have a music program that involves instrumental music (Basmat 2011). In order to participate in these programs students must play an instrument or learn how to play an instrument. Instrument choice can be influenced by many different forces. The gender of the student can have an impact on what instrument the student chooses. Gender influences not only the instrument the student chooses; it influences what ensembles performers can play in and who can be professional musicians, teachers, or directors. This study will use semi-structured interviews with 40 Monmouth University students who participated in high school instrumental music. This study will supplement the body of information on gender and instrument choice, and add to the limited amount of information about what this means for students. The data were analyzed using a textual analysis from the lens of feminist gender theory. This study produced multiple findings. The first, that gender can play a role in instrument choice and can affect students. Gender however, in some cases was not a prominent force upon instrument choice. This study does have room for further research. The sample size was limited, and could be expanded upon.

MATTHEW DOYLE | *Superstorm Sandy: Its Effects on Monmouth University Students*

Chief Advisor: Prof. John Cominsky
Second Reader: Dr. Gregory Coram

This study will measure the impact Superstorm Sandy had on the students of Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey. The main hypothesis in this study is that Monmouth University students who were impacted by Superstorm Sandy will on average, have lower GPA's during the Fall 2012 semester than Monmouth University students who were not impacted. Stevan E. Hobfoll's (2012) Conservation of Resources Theory (COR) was utilized as the theoretical framework in this study. Data in this study was collected by emailing a survey to all Monmouth University undergraduates. The independent variable in this study was the impact of Superstorm Sandy. Impact included several aspects of the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy: displacement, length of power outages, damage to homes, personal injuries and discomfort, loss of personal property, and the number of school days missed. Other hypotheses investigated the connection between impact and academic motivation, absences, and GPA during the Spring 2013 semester. A final hypothesis proposes that displacement will have the greatest impact on GPA when compared to other types of impact. Ordinary least squares regression will be used to analyze the data to allow for the controlling of additional variables.

LAUREN FRANKOWSKI | *A Study of Kate and Petruchio as Performers: Performativity and Speech Acts in The Taming of the Shrew*

Chief Advisor: Dr. Heide Estes
Second Reader: Dr. Susan Starke

In *The Taming of the Shrew*, Kate's final speech provokes critical controversy regarding her authenticity when she submits to Petruchio within the public sphere. The play encompasses disguise and manipulation, appearance versus reality. Integrating Austin and Searle's Speech Act Theory with Butler's theory of performativity, this study involves a close textual examination of Kate and Petruchio as performers. Kate and Petruchio's performances are multidimensional in that they perform for each other, their society, as well as Christopher Sly who exists within the outer frame of the play. The textual analysis discusses the juxtaposition of Kate and Petruchio's initial, private encounter in Act II with their final, nearly private encounter in Act IV before her public submission. Within the textual examination, I contend that Kate and Petruchio ultimately engage in a game in which they demonstrate a reversal of gender roles, which are heavily influenced by their society; Kate and Petruchio conform and rebel to the forces surrounding them by manipulating and disguising which is inherent in their speech.

TAYLOR KELLY | *Forbidden: A Novella*

Chief Advisor: Prof. Josh Emmons

Forbidden is a creative writing novella that encompasses topics of race, feminism, social taboos, and love. Gwen, a teenager in the 1960s, is being interviewed in the present day for a magazine about 1960s culture. Now in her 60s, she is telling her own story about the struggles with her familial bond, her desire to break free from her life in the South, and her conflict with taboo love. Warren, the reporter for the magazine, is hopeful that his interview with Gwen will land him a better position at the magazine, or a better job altogether. Over time, we see his growing attraction to Gwen as he creates a social taboo of his own. Throughout the novella, we see both of the characters' personal struggles, as well as their victories.

AMANDA KRUYNSKI | *Family Matters: A Sociological Look at How Family Affects Education*

Chief Advisor: Dr. Nancy Mezey

This study examines the main arguments of the family values debate and how students' success in college can be a measurement of the debate. Two sides of the debate discussed in this paper come out of structural functionalism and feminism. Both sides recognize that families are changing but believe there are different causes and effects of the changes. This exploratory research plans to test the two side of the family values debate by examining if the structure of a family after divorce effects how students perform in college or if there is no effect based on the different family structures. The research draws on questionnaires asking college students who choose to participate questions about their home life and their academic performance in college.

MICHAEL LUCIA | *Insider Trading, Technology, and the Fourth Amendment*

Chief Advisor: Prof. Gregory Borderlon
Second Reader: Prof. Peter Reinhart

According to the Securities and Exchange Commission. (SEC), insider trading is illegal when a person buys or sells a security "while in possession of material, non-public information." Under this definition, liability extends to the person who communicates the information, and the person who uses the information as the basis of their trade. As a result, this study examines whether or not advancements in communicative technology have yielded a significant increase in the annual number of enforcement actions by the SEC. Then, a critical legal analysis determined the appropriate balance between the use of technology and the right to privacy under the Fourth Amendment, specifically within the context of insider trading prosecutions. Although the slight upward trend in the number of enforcement actions could more easily be attributed to other factors, it was found that the SEC's recent use of wiretaps to investigate insider trading violations compromised the reasonable expectation to privacy.

ROBERT MAGELLA | *Rupert Brooke and Isaac Rosenberg: Myth, Modernity, and the Destabilization of "Georgian War Poetry"*

Chief Advisor: Dr. Kristen Bluemel

Modernism is the dominant literary category by which English literature of the early twentieth century has come to be defined. This critical trend has perpetuated the marginalization of non-Modernist literatures of the time, initially carried out by the Modernists themselves. One of these literatures considered outside the span of "Modernism" was Georgian War Poetry of the First World War. The Modernists considered these poets too old-fashioned to be "modern," claiming that truly modern literature would not appear until the conventions in which these Georgians worked were shed by post-war poets like T.S. Eliot and W.B. Yeats. The dominance of English Modernism in the contemporary literary historical perspective means that, like the Modernists, most literary critics today would argue that Georgian War Poetry was more conventional, and therefore not as good or meaningful as the Modernists'. With this project I reclaim the reputations of the poets Rupert Brooke and Isaac Rosenberg, situating the stigma of archaic convention and patriotic fervor in the "war" poetry of Rupert Brooke, and simultaneously locating the innovation in the "Georgian" poetry of Isaac Rosenberg. Based on my reevaluations of these poets, I claim that the unity of Georgian War Poetry, a group of poets consistently defined by Brooke, Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen, and Rosenberg, falls apart upon closer inspection. This destabilization of Georgian War Poetry as a cohesive literary group opens the door for new evaluations of the poets involved with that group, specifically Isaac Rosenberg, in whom I see potential for constituting a transitional figure for Modernism between the pre-war Imagist movement and the post-war advances of Eliot, James Joyce, Ezra Pound, and others.

TARA MALLINDER | *Music, Mood, and Consumer Behavior: Neurological Effects of Various Components of Music and Their Significance to Marketing/Advertising Activities*

Chief Advisor: Dr. Scott Jeffrey
Second Reader: Dr. Jack Demarest

The main objective of this research is to analyze the complex relationship between music, neurological/emotional response, and human behavior. The first step to appreciating this relationship is to examine music listening and interpretation processes, which includes ascertaining the regions of the brain activated during music exposure. Musical elements, such as pitch and tempo, each stimulate specific brain networks, and integrating the facts about involved brain networks and the detailed knowledge on different musical elements will produce an educated explanation for how music is processed. It is important to determine the emotional reactions to key signature, pitch, melody, timbre, and temporal structure as well. The combination of these aspects of music arouse particular sentiments for a song, which can have either a positive or negative effect on mood fluctuations. The effects of music on behavior will be evaluated once the connection between music and mood is understood, for behavior is directly related to emotional temperament. Then, correlation between music and behavior will be extended to the application of consumer behavior. Marketing/advertising strategies incorporating music are reviewed based on the previously stated data, allowing the reader to gain a more practical perspective on the impact of music in human psychological functioning.

VANESSA MIELKE | *An Examination of Heron Simplexes*

Chief Advisor: Dr. Susan Marshall

In Mathematics there exists an interesting subset of triangles known as Heron triangles. These triangles have the property that the side lengths and area of the triangle must be integers. These Heron requirements can be further generalized to other dimensions where all edge lengths, areas, and volumes must be integer. Tetrahedra are 3-dimensional shapes that are constructed out of 4 triangles. The fourth dimensional analog of these shapes is known as simplexes, which are comprised of 10 sides and 5 tetrahedra. It is unknown whether or not Heron simplexes exist in four dimensions. We explored this question by generalizing the BCM classification method for tetrahedra. We found that no Heron simplexes exist in 4-dimensions with 1, 2, or 3 distinct edge lengths. We found a configuration with 7 distinct edge lengths that could yield a concrete 4-dimensional Heron simplex.

ROBERT MURPHY | *The World Language Classroom: Music as a Medium for Second Language Acquisition*

Chief Advisor : Dr. Mirta Barrea-Marlys
Second Reader: Dr. Thomas Lamatsch

Spanish is becoming an increasingly important subject in school due to the amount of Spanish speakers in the United States. Unfortunately, the traditional methods most commonly used in high school classrooms are ineffective, uncommunicative, and tedious for students. Based on extensive research and a survey, which I have developed and issued to Monmouth University World Language students, it is evident that music based instruction is more meaningful and beneficial to learners. The survey results show students' proficiency increased significantly when their instructors utilized music as opposed to traditional methods like repetition and memorization which are ineffective for second language acquisition, as hypothesized. Students are extremely interested and motivated in learning through music, which creates the motivation to learn a second language in a relaxed, entertaining, and interactive classroom environment. Music is a versatile medium which can be implemented into instruction through infinite activities in order to improve learners' vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, cultural awareness, listening abilities and many other skills necessary to achieve fluency in the language. Through research and data, this study concludes that teaching Spanish through music in high school foreign language classrooms increases students' fluency through an authentic and more meaningful method that ultimately achieves greater communicative and cultural competency.

REBECCA PORSKIEVES | *Exploration of Heronian Triangles*

Chief Advisor: Dr. Susan Marshall

Heronian triangles have been studied by mathematicians beginning in Ancient Greece. This triangle is a very special type of triangle. Heronian triangles are defined as having all three sides with integer lengths, as well as an integer area (Bradley 2005). Included in this set of triangles are all right-angled triangles that have sides of integer length. Thus, all Pythagorean triples can be classified as being the side lengths of a Heronian triangle. In 2001, Yiu proved that it is possible to place any Heronian triangle in the xy-plane so that all three vertices have integer coordinates. Since we know that at least one placement exists, a natural question that arises is: How many different integer placements exist for these objects? We compiled many examples, and from the data we conjecture that there is exactly one integer placement for each Heronian triangle in the xy-plane. We were able to prove this for a certain type of Heronian triangle. For all right triangles with a prime hypotenuse, we prove that there is only one way to place the triangle in the xy-plane so that all 3 vertices have integer coordinates.

NICHOLAS ROSSI | *“This Would Look Great on my Resume!” Does University Attachment Differ Between “Engaged” Students and “Involved” Students?*

Chief Advisor: Dr. Janice Stapley

This study offers a mixed methods examination of the difference between engagement and involvement among undergraduate students. The intent was to determine whether or not there was any variation between those who simply have their names on member rosters of departments or organizations on campus as a means of growing resumes, versus those who are 100% dedicated and passionate about the department or organization they join. In addition, there was also a desire to identify a relationship between the level of student engagement at the university and how it can influence attachment to the institution. The study specifically focused on students enrolled in the EOF, The Honors School, or the Federal Work Study Programs on campus.

MELISA SAFCHINSKY | *Empress Matilda: Gender and Power in Twelfth Century England*

Chief Advisor: Dr. Kenneth Campbell

When looking at an official list of English monarchs, the first female ruler is always Queen Mary I, who came to power in 1553. Empress Matilda, the designated successor of King Henry I and de facto ruler of England for most of 1141, is not included. King Stephen is recognized as the English monarch during the period from 1135 to his death in 1154. However, this was a time of chaos, upheaval and war in England. It is perhaps fitting that the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle describes this time period as a time ‘When Christ and his Saints Slept’. The forces of Empress Matilda and the Angevins battled Stephen for supremacy in England, power frequently changing hands between the two sides throughout this period. Furthermore, while King Stephen is generally acknowledged as King of England during this time, Empress Matilda, through her husband, Count Geoffrey of Anjou, maintained control of the English possessions of Normandy. With the capture of King Stephen by Matilda's forces in 1141, Empress Matilda became the de facto ruler of England. However, within a few months, Matilda was run out of London and with the release of Stephen, the war turned to a stalemate. The final victory went to the Angevins when Empress Matilda's son succeeded Stephen as King of England in 1154.

RHONETTE SMITH | *Changes in Music File Formats and the Decline of the Listening Experience*

Chief Advisor: Prof. George Wurzbach

With the emergence of new technology, there has been a gradual change in the quality of the musical listening experience. The concept of quantity over quality has become prominent in the eyes of music listeners. Advancements in technology have allowed for music to be easily accessible to the general public using smaller and lower quality audio files. While the higher quality files are still readily available, there is still a general trend which shows that people prefer to have a higher quantity of music over a smaller quantity of high quality files. Audio listening tests have been performed over the years focusing on several aspects of the variations in the audio file codecs. As a culmination, the following research examines these aspects and tests them together in a sample test. The purpose of this final test is to understand if people generally can hear differences in audio quality for different audio codecs and if these results have an impact on the listening experience.

JENNA TSHUDY | *Groundbreaking Historical Musicals: An Analysis of the Social, Racial, and Sexual Controversies of Porgy and Bess, West Side Story, and Hair*

Chief Advisor: : Dr. Katherine Parkin

This paper analyzes the racial, social, and sexual themes and controversies surrounding three musicals: *Porgy and Bess*, *West Side Story*, and *Hair*. While each of these stories vary greatly in the time period and historical event presented, their themes and production histories share a plethora of similarities that allow for these three musicals to be analyzed with one another. Through this analysis, the historical and contemporary relevance and significance for each of these productions will be discussed based on the eras in which the original Broadway productions, films, and Broadway revivals for each of the musicals premiered. As these musicals evolve, the presentation of their characters, storyline, and themes change to reflect the societal opinions and values, creating new, revised versions of the original concept. Through these changes and reevaluations, much can be determined about the condition of society during each period. These musicals are pivotal and revolutionary not only in the realm of theatre, but in society as well, as they forced great change in the racial, sexual, and social contexts more than any other pieces of musical theatre.

CARA TURCICH | *Marriage Equality, Adoption and the Legal Future for Same-Sex Couples in America*

Chief Advisor: : Prof. Gregory Bordelon

Second Reader: Dr. Nancy Mezey

Marriage equality is arguably the most relevant and controversial public policy issue today. Though fifteen states and Washington, D.C. have marriage equality, there are thirty states that define marriage as between one man and one woman. The states without marriage equality have interests in restricting the rights of same-sex couples. The recent Supreme Court case *United States v. Windsor* (2013) was important because it was the first time a case concerning same-sex marriage appeared before the Court. In this case, the Court found the federal government's definition of marriage as between one man and one woman to be unconstitutional. This decision, along with various superior court decisions and social trends, has strongly suggested that marriage equality will be implemented throughout the United States in the near future. This paper examines the relationship of marriage equality laws and adoption laws, and the question of whether or not states with a strong interest in restricting the rights of homosexuals will attempt to restrict adoption rights. Through a quantitative analysis the research will first seek to determine the relationship between existing state laws on marriage and separately, on adoption rights. This analysis will seek to determine whether a host of other variables have an influence on the relationship between marriage and adoption. Based on this analysis, the study will then turn to the exploration of the legal framework to determine how the courts should treat challenges to state adoptions laws in light of marriage equality.

Congratulations to all of our Graduates.

Save the Date

Spring Honors Research Conference

Friday, May 2, 2014

In Memory Of
Jane Miller Freed
1929-2013



Summa cum Laude, 1982
Anthropologist and Archaeologist
Generous Benefactor, Role Model, and Mentor to Numerous Students In
The Honors School and Women's Field Hockey
mens sana in corpore sano

*Thank you, Jane,
for your support and
encouragement throughout the years.
You will live forever in our hearts.*

MONMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

WHERE LEADERS LOOK *forward*