

The Honors School

Spring Research Conference

2009

Fifth Honors School Research Conference

Magill Commons Club Room 107, 108, 109
Saturday, April 25, 2009
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

It is with great pleasure that the Honors School
presents its Fifth Honors Research Conference

Student presenters include research in the fields of:

Anthropology Biology Business Communication Criminal Justice Education
English Health History Music Political Science Psychology Social Work

Order of Events

8:30 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

Andrew Musick (PS)	Heather Tyrrell (BY)	Michelle Maiorano (PY)
Katie Kaminski (ED)	Meghan Shaw (BY)	Krista T. St. Louis (PY)
Dana Pomykacz (ED)	Paul Carrera (BY)	Aubrey Clark (PY)
Melissa Burro (CJ)	Tara Shirk (BUBA)	Lauren Acquaviva (SW)
Amanda Phipps (AN)	Lauren Behrens (BUBA)	Katelyn Mirabelli (EN)
Tara O'Neil (ANFS)	Rocco Ignozza (BUBA)	Jenna N. Gaudio (CO)
Jessica Adamko (HE)	John Knox (BUBA)	Veronique Blostein (CO)
Kristopher Jackson (HE)	Robert Pykish (BUBA)	Celia Roche (CO)
Marian Gaballah (BY)	Elizabeth Alexander (BUBE)	Quinn Gilly (HS)
Jillian Stokely (BY)	Jaelyn Marie Isaac (BUBK)	Nicole Stevens (HS)
	Arci Guzman (PY)	Jaelyn Verbitski (MU)

ADDITIONAL STUDENTS COMPLETING THESIS* BUT NOT PRESENTING:

SHAWNA KELLY (PY) MOURIN KHALEEL (BY) ANOOP SHAH (BY) MICHELE ZOOK (BY)

*PLEASE SEE LAST PAGE OF PROGRAM FOR THESIS TITLE, CHIEF ADVISOR, AND SECOND READER.

Presenters

Andrew J. Musick

Childcare Policy: How America Measures Up

Balancing work and family is perhaps the greatest challenge facing American families today. This research paper compares U.S. childcare policy with policy from three European countries in order to examine how America might improve its current childcare policies. The paper starts with a review of current and past literature to give the reader a general background on the subject. The research then looks at childcare policies in France, Germany, and Sweden to show how different countries “do” childcare. After reviewing policies abroad, the paper looks at current childcare policy in the United States. Finally, the paper compares the policies of France, Germany, and Sweden to America’s policies to understand commonalities and differences. Drawing on the policies of these three countries, the paper offers suggestions on how the United States might improve its childcare policies to help families balance work and family issues.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Nancy Mezey

Second Reader: Dr. Kathryn Kloby

Kathryn Kaminski

The Importance of Providing Augmentative and Alternative Communication to Students With Autism

The purpose of this thesis is to discuss why augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems are effective tools in the education of students with autism. This paper highlights the ways in which AAC can greatly improve the quality of life for students with autism by helping to compensate for the severe communication deficits associated with autism. AAC is any tool, strategy, or technology that compensates for, enhances, expands, or helps develop communication skills. AAC systems are easily adaptable to the individual strengths and weaknesses of students with autism making it an effective and invaluable tool. The history and various types of AAC, including sign language, the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), and Voice Output Communication Aids (VOCAs) are also explained and discussed.

Chief Advisor: Heather Kovacs-Schroeck

Second Reader: Mary Brennan

Dana Pomykacz

Non-Print Media vs. Print Sources in a Social Studies Classroom

It is important in the field of education to use a variety of resources to help engage students in learning. In a Social Studies classroom especially, students need to feel that there is a connection between them and the past. Motivating students takes a thoughtful process on the side of the educator due to the many different learning styles that can be present in one classroom. It may be important to use an assortment of sources and materials and not just the course textbook to accommodate the variety of student learners in the classroom. This research will examine how the utilization of supplemental print sources and non-print media in Social Studies instruction fosters student interest, motivation, and retention of course content.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Shelia Baldwin

Second Reader: Susan Douglass

Melissa Burro

The Possible Effect of Expendable Income on Shoplifting

Shoplifting is a very common problem and it is costing companies billions of dollars in lost merchandise. Two independent variables that need to be examined to better understand shoplifting are expendable income and peer pressure. Gender and age are two conditional variables that will also be analyzed. Two intervening variables that will be studied are motivation and level of security at stores. The main hypothesis of this study is that as a person’s expendable income decreases, the likelihood that he or she will shoplift will increase. This hypothesis is deduced from Merton’s strain theory. This convenient cross-sectional sample comes from handing out survey questionnaires to students at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey. Information collected was analyzed with chi-square tests. This research may change the policies stores have on spotting shoplifters and the level of security they place on certain products.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Peter Liu

Second Reader: Dr. Brion Sever

Amanda Phipps

US Hegemony in Latin America: The CIA’s role in the Guatemalan Civil War Massacres

The Guatemalan Civil War spanned more than three decades and included some of the most heinous civil rights abuses of the 20th century. The most violent period of the civil war occurred during the early 1980s under the rule of U.S. backed dictator Jose Efraim Rios Montt. It was during this time the scorched earth campaign swept the mountainous highlands resulting in 626 massacres, completely wiping out villages and killing innocent Mayan civilians. These mass killings were not the result of action taken by lower-level military personnel. According to the Commission for Historical Clarification, they were part of a centrally planned national campaign, backed by the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States of America.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Aaron Ansell

Second Reader: Dr. Richard Veit



Presenters (cont.)

Tara O'Neil

Effective Adult ESL in New Jersey: Social and Cultural Factors Affecting Language Acquisition

This project seeks to highlight different cultural and social factors that affect adult English language learners in order to help adult ESL teachers and programs better serve their students. Some of these factors directly affect language acquisition, while others influence the classroom setting or structure. These social and cultural issues include: the differing proficiency levels and expectations of students in a classroom; the level of familiarity with school tasks; issues of time, money, childcare, and transportation; different cultural norms for gender interaction, the differing cultural categorizations of words, the cultural bounded-ness of concepts or phrases; and attitudes toward English language and American culture. An understanding of these factors can help ESL programs better adapt to the learning needs of their students.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Rosemary Barbera

Second Reader: Dr. Richard Veit

Jessica M. Adamko

A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Health Behaviors and Life Expectancy in France and the United States

The French paradox is typically classified by relatively low rates of coronary heart disease despite a diet rich in saturated fats. The scientific community and western world dietary recommenders typically correlate saturated fats with an increased risk for CHD. Americans typically follow this standard; however, CHD mortality rates are much higher in the U.S. than they are in France. This phenomenon is known as the French Paradox and has provided the scientific community with stimulation for research for many years. Suggested explanations for the paradox are numerous; however, the absence of a unanimously accepted explanation stimulates curiosity. Explanations of the paradox include the red wine theory, the Mediterranean diet, as well as lifestyle factors including attitudes towards food, physical activity and stress management. Uncovering the truth behind the paradox can provide incredibly valuable information to the American health care system which might be applied for improved health status in the U.S.

Chief Advisor: James Konopack

Second Reader: Andrea Hope

Kristopher Jackson

Hardiness: A Concept Analysis and Implications for Wellness in Contemporary America

Hardiness as described by Kobasa (1979) is comprised of three key elements: commitment, control and challenge. These three elements comprise an individual's ability to overcome stressful life experiences. A "hardy" individual is more likely to internalize and learn from these stressful life experiences to avoid or deter the effects of a similar experience in the future. Research has shown that stress and health outcomes are directly related; therefore, there is reason to believe that possessing a hardy personality makes one more resilient to the negative effects of stress on the human body. In America today, healthcare costs are rising and preventative medicine is considered to be one of the most effective methods of containing these costs. This analysis explores the origins of hardiness theory, the methods of assessing hardiness, past research involving hardiness theory, and the implications of hardiness for improving wellness in contemporary America.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Laura Kelly

Second Reader: Jane DeTullio

Marian Gaballah

Altered Response to Cellular Stress Upon Contact Inhibition

Cells in different stages of proliferation demonstrate changing levels of mitogen-activated protein (MAP) kinase pathway proteins, which may affect the response of cells in culture to oxidative stress. Previous results indicate increased MAP kinase phosphatase (MKP) levels upon contact inhibition in healthy fibroblasts, corresponding with decreased levels of phosphorylated extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) and p38. Cancerous fibrosarcoma cells do not exhibit contact inhibition, and no change in active kinase or MKP levels was seen. Western blot analysis and chemiluminescence were used to obtain relative MKP-1, JNK, p-JNK, and cleaved PARP levels in subconfluent and confluent fibroblast and fibrosarcoma cell cultures following oxidative stress by H₂O₂. A relationship between culture density and a response to stress as indicated by MAP kinase and phosphatase activity was seen. JNK-1, a MAP kinase, remained inactive in cells during all stages of proliferation. However, following induced oxidative stress by, cleaved PARP as well as higher phosphorylated JNK (p-JNK) levels were detected in subconfluent cells in relation to confluent cells, indicating the early stages of apoptosis. Based on these results, a correlation can be established between confluency of the cell culture and the response to oxidative stress, as determined by varying levels of protein expression and activity within the cells.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Dorothy Lobo

Second Reader: Dr. Dennis Rhoads

Presenters (cont.)**Jillian Stokley****Distribution, Diversity, and Abundance of Marine Sponges in Cape Eleuthera, the Bahamas**

With the increasing pressure on local fish stocks to sustain their economy, there is an unambiguous need for alternative and sustainable sources of income for the local communities of the Bahamas. The modern Bahamian sponge industry is currently underdeveloped despite the growing global demand in the cosmetic, medical, pharmaceutical, and chemical markets (cei.bahamas.org). The goal of this research is to categorize the species diversity and abundance in the surrounding marine areas of Cape Eleuthera. The information recorded will then be used to determine the location and abundance of commercially viable species. The sponges in this particular study are located in the semi-tropical waters of Cape Eleuthera, the Bahamas. Observers counted and identified sponge species located within one meter of a 10 meter transect line. Five transects were conducted at five different locations in Cape Eleuthera. The locations represented different habitats including those with wave energy and without. The data were then analyzed using the Shannon Diversity Index as an indicator of biodiversity. Diversity indices were statistically compared across locations to determine site effect.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Ursula Howson**Second Reader: John Tiedemann****Heather Tyrrell****Optimizing the Potential for Sponge Harvest in Eleuthera, The Bahamas: Growth and Regeneration Studies on Commercially Valuable Sponge Species**

Global demands for natural sponge products are beginning to grow. This increase has been fueled by a variety of markets including traditional domestic products and more recently, cosmetic, medical, pharmaceutical and chemical industries. With increasing pressures on commercial fish stocks in The Bahamas, there is a clear need for alternative and sustainable sources of income for small local communities. Sponge aquaculture has the potential to become one such alternative. Although the sponge fishery has encountered setbacks with disease, overfishing, and the introduction of synthetic sponges, commercial sponge farming continues to be a valuable industry that small island communities can potentially develop into a productive sustainable source of income. *Spongia tuberculifera* (Grass sponge) and *Spongia pertusa* (Hard Hat or Hard Head sponge) are considered to be commercially marketable native sponges with a spongin fibrous skeletal framework. This study examines the growth rates of parent sponges after they have been cut to supply a donor sponge while also exploring the potential for a future sustainable sponge fishery in small island communities. This is an important step to understanding the stability of the sponge industry and the impact it will have on local wild sponge populations.

Chief Advisor: John Tiedemann**Second Reader: Dr. Andy Danylchuk****Meghan Shaw****Effects of Sub-lethal Concentrations of Methylmercury on Morphology in Larval Mummichog, *Fundulus heteroclitus***

Mummichog *Fundulus heteroclitus* is an estuary-dependent fish and an important component of mid-Atlantic estuarine food webs. Estuarine sediment in the urban northeast US often contains anthropogenic methylmercury, which can bioaccumulate in fish tissue, causing neurological effects, morphological damage, and ultimately mortality. Other researchers have found that sub-lethal concentrations of methylmercury may affect behavior without gross morphological change. However, analyses of subtle morphological changes at sub-lethal concentrations have not been conducted previously. This research compared the effects of sublethal concentrations of methylmercury on larval mummichog morphology. Mummichog larvae were reared in control and 5, 10, 20, and 40 ppb methylmercury-contaminated water. Larvae were sampled every three days post-hatch for 40 days for image analysis. Photography was performed using a Zeiss image analysis system with stereoscope and AxioCam HS. Morphometric analyses were conducted with Zeiss AxioVision software.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Ursula Howson**Second Reader: John Tiedemann****Paul Carrera****Effects of Salinity Stress on *Origanum (x)majoricum* and *Origanum onites* Essential Oil and Phenol Production and Their Related Antioxidant Activity**

The purpose of this study was to analyze the effect of salinity on *Origanum onites* and *Origanum (x)majoricum* growth, essential oil production, total phenols, and antioxidant activity. The treated plants were analyzed for produced essential oil mass and volume as well as composition as well as fresh weight and dry weight. Their total phenols were measured, as well as antioxidant activity. The results indicated that different concentrations of NaCl affected *O. (x)majoricum* growth positively and *O.onites* growth negatively. Essential oil production was altered as well as composition with salinity changes. Antioxidant activity was shown to increase with salinity as was total phenols. Based on the results, it would seem that increasing the concentration of NaCl does positively influence essential oil production, alter essential oil composition, increase phenol production, and increase antioxidant activity.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Adolphina Koroch**Second Reader: Dr. Ellen Doss-Pepe****Tara Shirk****Proposed Estate Tax Legislation and the Effect on Estate Planning**

The current estate tax laws, passed by the Bush administration in 2001, are set to temporarily expire in 2010 before returning to the harsh 2001 levels in 2011. Congress is currently debating the correct action to be taken in reforming the law. This thesis will discuss the most realistic alternatives, and then determine the plan most likely to go into effect. It will also discuss the difficulties faced in developing a fair estate tax system, particularly consideration of estates that are primarily non-liquid. The thesis will then provide a discussion of estate planning tactics, which will be used in a comprehensive example of a typical estate plan.

Chief Advisor: Douglas Stives**Second Reader: Nancy Uddin**



Presenters (cont.)

Lauren Behrens

Corporate Corruption in the People's Republic of China

The economic prosperity and failures of China and the United States are irrevocably linked. Since the end of China's Cultural Revolution in the 1970s, the government has opened its doors to the rest of the world allowing global business to bring an economic revolution to China. China's present-day economic revolution is doing what the Cultural Revolution never could: lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. This has made China an even bigger superpower in the international business market. The fast economic growth that the country has experienced in recent years and governmental policy changes have given rise to new avenues of corruption. Pay-offs, bribes, and other corrupt practices of business and government officials have affected the bottom line of many United States companies. The American people have also been affected by the consumption of unsafe Chinese products. This has been shown through the recent problems of lead-based toys and chemical-tainted milk exported by China. In the global economy, it is imperative for American businesses and consumers to understand how China operates. The presence of corruption is an extremely significant aspect of China's business industries and government.

Chief Advisor: Anthony Jamison

Second Reader: Douglas Stives

Rocco Ignozza

Inconsistencies in Financial Reporting: An Issue in the Accounting World?

The accounting standards of the world have long varied from country to country, particularly between the United States and the rest of the financial world. Accounting has always been a means to an end, not an end itself as some would like to believe. This thesis explores the inconsistency present between the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the two major governing accounting systems used throughout the world. Concentrating mostly on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and its problems, the thesis will evaluate and analyze the different financial reporting methods used in each system such as, but not limited to, fair-value and cost measurement. It will also evaluate the relevant accounting standards that define both the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). By exploring the issues described, one can easily see the accounting world is not on the same level and that a change is needed.

Chief Advisor: Douglas Stives

Second Reader: Daniel He

John Knox

Team Building in Total Quality Management

It is axiomatic to say that people in work settings reach goals and get things accomplished by working together. Since a company's success depends heavily on the combined energy and skill of its employees, it is crucial to understand the importance of a sound, productive team of employees and the roles management should take to produce effective teams in the workplace. My thesis will focus primarily on the team-building aspect of Total Quality Management (TQM). By researching the successes and failures created by teams of past and present organizations, I hope to discover, if any, an easy, "fool-proof" plan for building quality teams in the workplace. If such a plan exists, and can be proven to be effective, it could be the foundation of success for future organizations.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Daniel Ball

Second Reader: Dr. Joseph Mosca

Robert Pykish

Risk Management and Prevention for Restaurant Entrepreneurs in the Current Economy.

In this thesis I intend to illustrate how to minimize the risks associated with starting up a small restaurant (to yield about 10% profit) in the current United States economy from the management perspective. The current economy has many new factors contributing to the risks involved in starting up a small business and would benefit by a close examination of how business is being done. Proper management is essential to successful operations and should be re-evaluated during the current economic conditions.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Michaeline Skiba

Second Reader: John Buzza

Elizabeth Alexander

Employer-Based Health Insurance Mandate: A Solution To Our Sick System?

This research explores the necessary change in our country's health insurance system and its effects on society. In an attempt to improve the health insurance system, the United States government should adopt an employer-based health insurance mandate, requiring employers to pay at least one-third of full-time employee monthly health insurance premiums. This project attempts to increase the lifespan of Americans, create a positive incentive structure, and encourage full employment. The three contentions to support my thesis are that such a system would encourage employment; healthy people are productive people; and preventive care is less burdensome on society than reactive care.

Chief Advisor: Brett Schwerin

Second Reader: John D. Burke

Jaclyn Marie Isaac

The Three Pillars of "Urban Improvement" In the 21st Century

My goal for the thesis is to find and establish three specific pillars of urban improvement that cities can use for a reference in the 21st century. The pillars are to be relevant to the times, and incorporate past ideas of urban renewal to today's new ideas of revitalization. Upon completion of the majority of my research, I established three of my own ideas for what I thought a successful revival of a city should encompass: a mosaic locality, infrastructure improvements, and the advancement of the community itself through activities and programs. Though they may seem like broad categories, my goal was to provide working guidelines for what each category encompasses, and how each pillar should be implemented.

Chief Advisor: John Buzza

Second Reader: Dr. Michaeline Skiba

Presenters (cont.)**Arci Guzman****The Ideal Male: An Investigation into the Facial Characteristics that Increase a Male's Mate Value during Mate Selection**

The purpose of this investigation was to determine how a male's facial characteristics affect his mate value (i.e., attractive or favorable ratings by females). Previous studies have shown that masculine or neonate facial characteristics of males (i.e., eye size, jaw shape) influence a woman's choice during mate selection (Cunningham, Barbee, & Pike, 1990). Research has also shown that female sociosexual orientation (i.e., attitudes about casual sex) and ovulation status (i.e., reproductive status) influence a woman's mate selection criteria (Simpson & Gangestad, 1992; Penton-Voak & Perrett, 2000). Thus, all these variables were included in this study. The faces utilized in this study were created using the FACES software and edited using Adobe Photoshop. It was hypothesized that (1) females who were ovulating would be more likely to choose masculine-type faces (e.g., small eyes and square-lined jaw) than neonate faces (e.g., big eyes and round jaw). This same trend (2) was also expected for females who were unrestricted sexually compared to more sexually restricted females. Also, (3) it was predicted that ovulating females would also choose more masculine-type faces, as indicated by an increase of facial hair versus a neonatal, clean shaven face. (4) The opposite trend was expected for non-ovulating females. Lastly, this study will attempt to replicate Haselton and Miller's (2006) study by utilizing vignettes describing scenarios where males display either creativity or possess wealth. Thus, (5) it was predicted that as a woman becomes more fertile, as determined by her menstrual cycle, she will be more inclined to choose a short-term sexual partner who exhibits creative intelligence rather than wealth. It was also hypothesized (6) that when women rate a potential mate's desirability as a long term mate, fertility should have little to no effect on the importance of creative intelligence vs. wealth. The data obtained from the female participants utilized in this study (N = #) was still in the collection phase at the time of this abstract submission, thus analysis and conclusions will be included at a later date.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Jack Demarest**Second Reader: Dr. Michele Van Volkom****Michelle Maiorano****The Path to Infidelity: How Self-Expansion and Attention to Alternatives Lead to Infidelity**

Abstract relationships play a major role in our lives and one of the problems that may surface in a relationship is infidelity. The purpose of the research was to investigate whether or not a perceived lack of self-expansion was linked with attention to alternatives and the likelihood of infidelity using an experiment. The Self-Expansion model is based on the idea that the self is enhanced through relationships with others. It was purposed that a lack of self-expansion in a relationship would cause partners to be more likely to have their needs fulfilled by others and therefore seek out alternative partners. But, if a person was involved in a relationship with high self-expansion, he or she would be less likely to pay attention to alternative partners because their needs are being fulfilled, and therefore less likely to cheat.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Gary Lewandowski**Second Reader: Dr. Natalie Ciarocco****Krista T. St. Louis****A Phenomenological Exploration into the Lives of Emerging Adults with Chronic Illnesses**

This study attempts to fill a gap in the literature by examining the lives of emerging adults with chronic medical conditions. The paucity of literature on this topic translates into a limited understanding of how the members of this developmental stage cope, and the struggles that they face. Qualitative techniques are employed throughout this process in order to fully describe the lives of participants. Purposeful sampling provides a sample rich in the phenomenon under consideration (Fossey, Harvey, McDermott, & Davidson, 2002). Multiple data sources - interviews, and diaries - are used to fully capture the experience of the target population. Content analysis was conducted on all data, and the ethical guidelines as held out by the field governed the entire research process. Results are discussed.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Janice Stapley**Second Reader: Kathy Maloney****Aubrey Clark****Broadening Your Horizons: Relationship between Academic Engagement and Self-Expansion**

This study examines the relationship between self-expansion, college satisfaction, and academic engagement. College students completed an online survey assessing their self-expansion, college experiences, and satisfaction with Monmouth University, including 106 male and 181 female students. Self-expansion was strongly related to college satisfaction and academic engagement. The findings suggest that individuals who experience high self-expansion tend to have greater satisfaction with their university. In addition, they tend to be more academically engaged. Theoretical and practical implications of these findings will be discussed.

Chief Advisor: Dr. David Strohmetz**Second Reader: Dr. Michele Van Volkom****Lauren Acquaviva****An Examination of the Effectiveness of Cognitive-Behavioral Skills Training on Juvenile Delinquents with Symptoms of Conduct Disorder**

Adolescents get involved in delinquency for a variety of reasons. There are individual risk factors and social risk factors. One of the biggest risk factors out of the two categories is Conduct Disorder, as children and adolescents with this disorder are more likely to be delinquent. A variety of therapeutic techniques have been used to eliminate some of the behaviors that occur with Conduct Disorder. Cognitive-Behavioral Skills Training is one of the more popular techniques. The effectiveness of this technique is questionable, however. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of Cognitive-Behavioral Skills Training on juvenile delinquents with symptoms of Conduct Disorder.

Chief Advisor: Laura DiGiovanni



Presenters (cont.)

Katelyn Mirabelli

Narrative Circularity in Charlotte Brontë's Work

My discrete contribution to the field of Brontë studies is an analysis of how one could not only symbolically, but textually link three of Charlotte Brontë's novels: The Professor, Jane Eyre, and Villette. There are certain scenes and elements which seem to be the "seed" of the work that follows chronologically; I describe this quality in her work as "narrative circularity." Brontë's work has a circular feel because The Professor, although written first, was published last. Thus, she essentially re-wrote the same novel three complete times over in what was deemed an initial failure with The Professor. I also examine how these three novels reflect Brontë's overall development as an author. Brontë did not live to see her first novel published, and she was in the early stages of writing a fourth "master-pupil" novel at the time of her death. Her attempts to perfect this type of story illustrate her growth because she continually re-works similar elements in her novels throughout her life. Essentially, this project provides a new way to look at Brontë's novels by examining the close textual linkage between them. Exploring these relationships will hopefully provide readers with an increased respect for a writer who spent most of her life dedicated to perfecting this narrow type of fictional genre.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Sue Starke

Second Reader: Dr. Liora Brosh

Jenna N. Gaudio

Media Ratings: Age Restrictions vs. Content Report

The content of American cinema has been constantly criticized and progressively categorized since the first motion picture was created. This research examines the history and future of regulating media for its audiences. By studying the effectiveness of ratings and how closely they represent the actual content, it was concluded that ratings are more useful when descriptive rather than restrictive.

Chief Advisor: Robert Scott

Second Reader: Dr. Chad Dell

Veronique Blostein

Body Image: Portrayal in Music Videos and its Effects on Men and Women

This thesis explores the topic of body image in the media and includes a cross-examination of issues of gender and race. Issues of eating disorders and cosmetic procedures are also discussed. Personal research was conducted to determine if the presentation of bodies in music videos has any effects on how people perceive themselves and what lengths they would consider going to in order to achieve the goal of an ideal body image.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Nancy Mezey

Second Reader: Shannon Hokanson

Celia Roche

The Connection between the Academic Experience and a Corporation Internship at People Magazine.

In the four years acquiring a degree, a student is required certain general and major classes by their university. There are also a certain number of electives to choose from, and countless student-run activities, organizations, and clubs. The connection between the academic experience and the corporate world is explored in this research. More specifically it will explore connections of the academic experience of a Spanish/Communication major and the corporate experience of being an intern at the public relations department at People Magazine. The responsibilities of an intern are identified and examined, then courses and other academic related activities that have provided either knowledge or experience to be able to fulfill the responsibility are recognized. This allows the connection between academic experience and the corporate world to be established.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Mirta Barrea-Marlys

Second Reader: Dr. Kenneth Mitchell

Quinn Gilly

Their Beloved Banjar: West Africa's Forgotten Contribution to an American Musical Tradition

Banjoes are often portrayed by popular culture as an artifact of white Southern Americana, as a unique invention of Southern mountain folk culture. Though this perception has been widely accepted as truth, the actual origins of the banjo lay with the millions of enslaved Africans brought to America during the transatlantic slave trade era. This project's analysis of early American banjos and primary evidence will prove that the American banjo is actually an artifact of a West African folk lute tradition which flourished among its retainers in the New World. It was from these enslaved peoples whom the white Americans discovered the banjo, eventually accepting it as a part of their own culture by the mid nineteenth century.

Chief Advisor: Maureen Dorment

Second Reader: Dr. Richard Veit



Presenters (cont.)

Nicole Stevens

The Catholic Church and the Road to Anti-Semitism: A Controversial History from the Crusades to the Holocaust

In the decades following the Holocaust of the twentieth century, the Catholic Church made various attempts to justify its controversial actions during this tragedy, but it was not until nearly the century's end that the holy institution finally made a formal statement, in which it declared its lack of responsibility for the Holocaust and the rabid anti-Semitism associated with it. However, many historians believe that such a statement failed to convey the true history of the Church's controversial relationship with the Jewish people—a relationship which was indeed characterized by both feelings of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism. In reality, history will prove that since medieval times, the Catholic Church has both successfully fostered and unsuccessfully hindered feelings of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism throughout the Christian world and consequently helped build an atmosphere in which such utter hatred and persecution could lead to the most infamous genocide in world history.

Chief Advisor: Dr. Kenneth Campbell

Second Reader: Susan Douglass

Jaelyn Verbitski

Rückblick: How “Backward Glances” Shape Present Visions

Artists respond to others' art in their own work by some form of replication or imitation, because nothing can be created which is not shaped by past experiences and knowledge. Imitation in art is a means by which the artist finds his or her individual voice. The concept of imitation should be used by aspiring composers if they wish to create work that is significant and meaningful when examined beyond musical borders. Essentially, any piece of music can be entirely lost on a listener's ears if heard superficially only once or twice. But before an audience can wish to delve extensively into a composition, it is first the composer's job to give them something to search for. While the historical context is important, the main thesis includes the creation of an original song cycle with piano and voice.

Chief Advisor: Dr. David Tripold

Second Reader: Michael Thomas

Additional Students Completing Thesis

*Shawna Kelly

Measurement of Homicidal Ideation

Chief Advisor: Dr. Jack Demarest

Second Reader: Dr. Michele Van Volkom

*Mourin Khaleel

Computational Determination of Energy Landscapes and Conformer Distributions of Dibenz[a,c]anthracene

Chief Advisor: Dr. Robert Topper

Second Reader: Dr. Danuta Sz wajkajzer

*Anoop Shah

Identification of HIF Target Genes

Chief Advisor: Dr. Michael Palladino

Second Reader: Dr. Dennis Rhoads

*Michele Zook

Altered Expression of Receptor Protein in Adolescent Alcohol Dependency

Chief Advisor: Dr. Dennis Rhoads

Second Reader: Dr. Dorothy Lobo