

Edinboro University

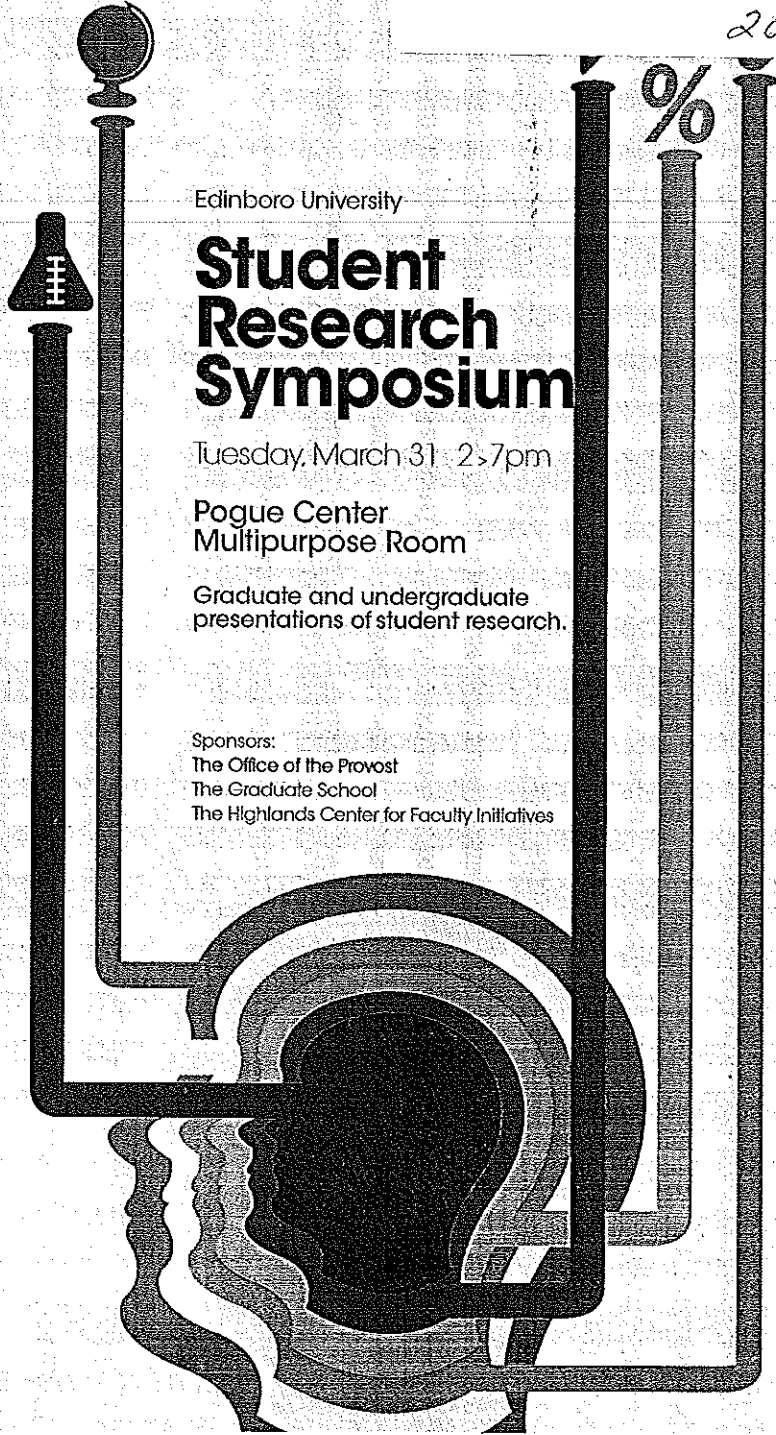
Student Research Symposium

Tuesday, March 31 2-7pm

Pogue Center
Multipurpose Room

Graduate and undergraduate
presentations of student research.

Sponsors:
The Office of the Provost
The Graduate School
The Highlands Center for Faculty Initiatives



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**Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
Student Research Symposium Abstracts**

March 31, 2009

Sponsored by:

The Office of the President, Dr. Jeremy Brown
The Office of the Provost, Dr. Pearl Bartelt
The Highlands Center for Faculty Initiatives

Research Symposium Keynote Address

Willard Sterne Randall

Distinguished Professor of History
Champlain College

"Researching the Founders or George Washington's False Teeth"

Graduate School Abstracts

Dean: Dr. Scott Baldwin

David Barnhill (MFA Metalsmithing)
Ashley Deuble (Educational Psychology)

How can we Fuse Psychology and Art and Solve an Important Problem?

Asperger's syndrome is a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects about two out of every 10,000 children in the United States. It is characterized by problems with social skills and difficulty interacting with others. Asperger's syndrome is typically evident by the age of three with delays in both language skills and the development of motor skills. Children with Asperger's tend to be deficient in the rules of social behavior including eye contact, proximity to others, and gestures. These deficiencies may lead to poor self-esteem and depression. Therefore, it is essential to increase opportunities for adolescents with Asperger's to interact with others. It is important for them to have positive interactions with others in order to reduce the chances of low self-esteem and depression in the adult years (Wrongplanet.net 2004-2009).

We propose a project-based experiment directed at interaction and accomplishment. This project would be appropriate for adolescents with a multitude of social skill-set problems, including Asperger's syndrome. Our experiment is aimed at proving that individual accomplishments actually relate to larger group activities and goals.

The base of our experiment is taking a picture and dissecting it into smaller squares. The participants will be given a dissected square and asked to redraw what they see on that square. Once finished, all of the squares will be reassembled and put back into their original order. Each square will be individualized by its creator's talents and understandings. The fact is that they are working on a greater collaborative project. The picture is incomplete without the efforts from all of the participants. Although the new picture does not match the beginning picture perfectly, it symbolizes the uniqueness of each individual and their accomplishments.

Our goal is that this project will benefit adolescents with social impairments, such as Asperger's syndrome, because it cannot be accomplished without working together. In the beginning the participants will feel as though they are working solo. However, in the end they will see a new piece of art that they have created collaboratively. The idea is for these adolescents to have felt a sense of accomplishment and know that they have taken part in a positive group orientated social interaction.

*Wrongplanet.net. (2004-2009). Retrieved February 25, 2009, from
<http://www.wrongplanet.net/>*

Caitlin Lovey (**Counseling**)
Ryan Gehrke (**History**)

A Historical Analysis of Autism and Propositions for Practice

The history of autism is important to future understanding of the perplexing disorder. In recent years autism has drawn heightened attention, both constructive and commercialized. The autism spectrum has been widened to include those individuals who are high-functioning. Although precise causes have not been clearly identified, committed research into the disorder continues. To understand autism it is necessary to examine how the disorder has evolved from 1938 to present. A historical analysis of how the theories and treatments have changed may bridge interdisciplinary studies, and thus help practitioners and academics to understand autism cooperatively. The methodology of the historical analysis will be composed in a linear manner while respecting deviation from traditional paths. To meld school counseling and history, the project will include practical (counseling) analysis of historical findings. Investigation like this will undoubtedly help education counselors to focus on the poignant needs of the autistic student. These efforts are aimed at incorporating historical research with counseling aspects of autism to forge new understandings.

Natalie Jackson (**Speech/Lang. Pathology**)
Heather Markel (**Biology**)

Establishing Recycling at Local Gas Stations to Help Maintain Services for Children with Dyslexia

The Scottish Rite Learning Center in Millcreek Township provides free services to children within a 100 mile radius of Erie who have been diagnosed with dyslexia. Each child attends a one hour tutoring session once a week for 2-3 years. They advance through a deliberate and intensive program geared especially to the multisensory learning needs which is currently not provided by the public school systems. The Learning Center relies on contributions from the community to meet their annual non-profit budget. Currently, they have the ability to provide services to 20 children at a time, but they have the capability of serving up to 30 with additional funding which would reduce the current four year waiting list.

Citizens in the City of Erie and surrounding communities can pull together by providing a reasonable way to help support the worthy mission of The Scottish Rite Learning Center and the individuals who receive their services. As environmental concerns and conservation efforts are coming to the forefront of the world, there is an opportunity to introduce a new recycling practice which would not only help fund this invaluable cause, but also reduce unnecessary waste in our local landfill. By providing recycling receptacles for plastics, cans, and glass at area gas stations, the general public can now be given an opportunity to practice recycling beyond their own homes. All too often, consumer waste gathers in peoples vehicles as we eat and drink on the go. People tend to remove some of this waste at gas stations, but our local area does not provide us with a convenient option to do right by recycling these materials.

With combined efforts from management personal at five of our gas stations and from the public which they serve, we can greatly contribute to the funding needs of The Scottish Rite Learning Center. On average, 200 customers visit a single local gas station every day. If each one of those customers were to recycle one item at 5 cents per recyclable, then we could donate the tuition cost for more than three children. Furthermore, if ten gas stations participated, then seven children could be given assistance. This would bring the Learning Center closer to their capabilities. The waiting list would decrease and more children would receive the high quality tutoring that they need to acquire more effective language skills which improves their quality of life. Meanwhile, we can play a part in helping our global environment by reducing waste in our landfills which ultimately improves the quality of life for all of us.

Chelseo Schaaf (ELED)
Kristin Woodring (Sociology)

A Race for a Better Tomorrow

The intent of our project is to encourage children to think about the social world in which they live. We intend to suggest that there is reasonable evidence to support the hypothesis that humans are not inherently racist. We suggest that Elementary teachers conduct thought experiments with their students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6. The thought experiment is based loosely on John Rawls' "Theory of Justice" in which he suggests that if the world were to be built again, we would reconstruct it much differently than it is today. Our thought experiment (the same one we would have teachers conduct in their classrooms) would focus on the assumption that children are guided toward thoughts about racial difference by being taught about "tolerance". Although the term "tolerance" is meant to be a considerate term with regards to thinking and talking about ethnic and cultural differences, it is our goal to show that children should be taught to think differently; not to think about differences. In the experiment children should be asked: "If you could re-create the world (using everything you know right now) what would it be like?" We hypothesize that very few children would consider race at all in their hypothetical worlds. We believe that children would make vast improvements to the natural environment and would attempt to fix global issues such as hunger, economics, and the environment. If our hypothesis is correct, we believe the solution is to begin teaching children differently all together. We want the children in our experiment to focus on the similarities between our global (and local) neighbors, rather than the differences that may sometimes divide us.

Courtney Steding (M.A. School Counseling)
Advisor: Dr. Susan Norton

Examining the Relationship between Birth Order and Vocational Personality

Research in the past has shown that individuals are influenced by a variety of factors when they pursue vocations. The purpose of this present study was to examine the relationship between birth order, gender, and vocational personality. The relationships between these variables were tested using a goodness of fit chi square test. Fifty-five high school students from southwestern Pennsylvania participated in the study by completing an O*NFT interest profiler to determine their vocational personality, which was classified as one of six codes included in Holland's RIASEC model. Participants self-reported their birth order and gender. Results indicate a lone significant relationship between females and vocational personality. While no other significant relationships were found, the study discusses several trends that were found. At the least, this study serves as a beginning tool for discussions between counselors and students about pursuing a vocation.

Hope Thomas (Social Work)
Heather Chapin (Clinical Psychology)

A Proposal for Treating Adolescent Conduct Disorder

In impoverished communities, issues such as violence, poverty, abuse, and poor education often take precedence over the health needs of adolescent youth. This type of environment often leads to the emergence of Conduct Disorder in adolescents. These youth living in such communities are not likely to have many opportunities for physical activity due to violence on the streets, a lack of outdoor space, or limited availability of recreation centers. Research has shown the benefits of exercise in alleviating anxiety and depression, improving self-esteem and confidence, improving coping skills and decreasing stress levels. Research has also shown that adolescent youth are more likely to engage in risky behavior during the hours directly after school (Millstein, Peterson, & Nightingale, 1994). It is thought that an afterschool program focused on mental, emotional, and over-all health will be useful in the treatment of youth with Conduct Disorder. In order for such youth to have a better quality of life they deserve to have access to the same programs and activities that youth have in more privileged neighborhoods. Since these youth and their families cannot afford such programs, we have developed an afterschool program targeted to at-risk youth with Conduct Disorder in impoverished communities that promotes improved health and well-being, develops positive coping skills, builds social networks and team-building skills and gives such youth the power to take control over their own health.

Emily Whitaker (**Communication Studies**)
Ashley Weber (**Secondary Spanish**)

Using Web-based Media to Provide English Language Instruction to ELL Students in Erie County, Pennsylvania

Over the past several years, English language learning (ELL) issues have become an imperative concern for many schools throughout this country due to rapidly-changing demographics. This national trend is representative in Erie County, where the number of ELL students has increased dramatically in recent years to around 800. Not only do these ELL students face an achievement gap between themselves and the general student population because of the language barrier, but now federal law requires that ELL students' proficiency in English be assessed annually. In addition, the law requires that middle and secondary ELL students participate in their state's reading assessments after three consecutive years' enrollment in school. These state and federal accountability requirements make it crucial for an availability of effective techniques to support ELL students' achievement.

Learning for ELL students can be enhanced by opportunities to engage socially, and the Internet is an effective media outlet to provide this interactive learning. Thus, we are proposing the creation of an educational website devoted to ELL students of Erie County. This website would supply methods for learning, understanding and embracing the English language and American culture through tools including quizzes and word games. Through these games, which are ideal for various learning types, students could find motivation by playing against friends or other ELL peers. The website would also contain an opportunity for former ELL students to share their stories of success via an interactive networking community. And in addition, this outlet would offer resources for parents of ELL students to improve their own English education, such as information about The Hispanic American Council in Erie. The main goal of the website is to decrease the achievement gap between ELL students and their English-speaking classmates so that these learners can eventually become successful members of society.

College of Science Abstracts

Dean: Dr. Eric Randall

Jillian Bona (Chemistry/Biochemistry)
Advisor: Brian Hnatkovich

Crosslinking Cellulase Enzyme for Post Enzymatic Recovery

Cellulose and starch are polysaccharides made purely of glucose. They differ primarily in the type of chemical linkages found between the glucose monomers. Cellulase is an enzyme that can break down cellulose from plants to produce free glucose by hydrolytically cleaving these polymers. Few organisms, such as fungi, can digest cellulose because they produce cellulase. The glucose monomers produced by this hydrolysis can be fermented into ethanol. Thus, with the use of this enzyme, cellulose could be used to produce ethanol from plant scraps, such as grass clippings and corn stalks. Using this waste would decrease the impact that ethanol product currently has on food prices. Cellulase is commercially available from Worthington Biochemical. Unfortunately, cellulase is expensive and, with current methods, is difficult to recover after its use. One of the main purposes of this study is to find a way to easily recover the enzyme making it more cost effective to produce cellulosic ethanol. The enzyme is soluble in the reaction mixture and is therefore hard to reclaim after the completion of the reaction. This difficulty can be eliminated by attaching it to a solid material by a process called crosslinking.

William Dillen (Chemistry/Biochemistry)
Greg Sondag (Chemistry/Biochemistry)
Advisors: Dr. Lisa Unico (EUP) Karin Scarpinato (Wake Forest University)

Introduction of Novel Point Mutations into MSH2 and MSH6 DNA Mismatch Repair Proteins

Mismatch repair proteins (MMR), MSH2 and MSH6 have been identified as having the ability to initiate cell death. This ability to initiate cell death makes them a possible target for cancer treatment. If the pathway that is activated by the two MMRs can be identified, it could be possible to use chemotherapy to signal cancer cells to initiate cell death. Thus, the chemotherapy would harness intrinsic defenses.

One of the first steps is to identify the functional domains of the MSH2 and MSH6. This can be accomplished by introducing point mutations (single base changes to the DNA) into the genetic sequences responsible for coding MSH2 and MSH6. Mutations are accomplished using a Stratagene Mutagenesis kit with primers of known sequence. The plasmids produced are then sent to be sequenced to verify the incorporation of the mutation.

The mutated sequences are then introduced into MSH2 and MSH6 deficient cells. The cells are then tested for both the presence of MSH2 and/or MSH6 and the potential restoration of MSH2 and/or MSH6 functionality. If the presence of MSH2 and/or MSH6 has been restored, but functionality has not, this indicates the incorporated point mutation was critical to protein functionality. If both presence and functionality are restored, the point mutation is not detrimental to the functionality of the MMR.

Abby Goetschius (**Biochemistry**)
Advisor: Brian Hnatkovich

Flourescein Binding to Bacteria Lipocalin (Blc)

Bacteria Lipocalin (Blc) is a small protein which transfers small hydrophobic molecules such as steroids. The purpose of this experiment was to first make the dimerized loop in a section of Blc into a monomer to make the protein soluble. After accomplishing that mutation, work started on making seven different mutations to change the amino acid sequence so that eventually flourescein can bind into the cavity of Blc. These mutations needed to be made because there were steric hindrance problems in the cavity that would not allow the flourescein to bind. Eventually with flourescein bound to BLC it can then be traced to see if Blc goes to its target cell.

Isis Mariah Kuczaj (Biology)

Advisors: Dr. Cynthia Rebar (primary), Dr. David Fulford

Determining Rates of Infection of *Peromyscus leucopus* with *Borrelia burgdorferi* on Presque Isle State Park

Borrelia burgdorferi, the causative agent of Lyme disease, has been identified in white-footed deer mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) populations on Presque Isle State Park. The purpose of the present research was to continue a longitudinal study on infection rates in *P. leucopus* to gain a better understanding of the enzootic maintenance of *B. burgdorferi*.

P. leucopus was trapped from July through September 2008. Sherman live folding traps (5.1x5.1x16.5 cm and 7.6x8.9x22.9 cm) baited with birdseed were set in the evening and checked in the morning for 2-3 consecutive days. Captured individuals were tagged, sexed, weighed, tissue-sampled, and released. Tissue samples were analyzed using Real-Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) techniques. Results indicate that infection rates during the trapping season of 2008 of the *P. leucopus* with *Borrelia burgdorferi* was 12.5%. No differences were observed in the infection rates in males and females; juveniles, subadults, and adults; or in trapping habitats. Infection rates determined in this study are similar to those found in 2005 (10%; Snock, 2006), but differ from rates recorded in a 2003 study (75%; Lucore, 2003). These findings suggest that infection rates differ from year to year, with more study required to determine what causes yearly variation.

Linda Lack (**Biology**)
Kenton Andryc (**Biology**)
Advisor: Dr. Matt Foradori

Preliminary Isolation of Enzymes from the Venom of the Brown Recluse Spider, *Loxosceles reclusa*

Of all the spiders in the United States, only the bite of the brown recluse spider (*Loxosceles reclusa*; Araneae, Sicariidae) has conclusively been demonstrated to cause necrotic lesions (tissue death) on human skin. So far, the only necrotic component from the venom of *L. reclusa* that has been identified is an enzyme called sphingomyelinase D (SMD). We are currently investigating the possibility that other enzymes in the venom of the brown recluse spider may also be involved in the mechanism that produces necrotic lesions on the skin. Early indications suggest that other phospholipases, or enzymes that cleave phospholipids found in places like the membrane of a cell, are present in the venom. We are in the preliminary stages of isolating these venom phospholipases through ion exchange chromatography in an effort to characterize and ultimately identify them.

Michelle Robinson (Chemistry)

Advisor: Dr. Naod Kebede

Photochemical Properties of Acetyl Furoin

Acetyl furoin is a cyclic structure with photosynthetic properties after exposure to light. Acetyl furoin was synthesized in the lab after researching the appropriate mechanism. The final product was tested for accuracy using TLC plating and Gas Chromatography analysis. Once the acetyl furoin product was identified, a solution of $10^{-5}M$ was made using acetonitrile as the solvent. Using a 300 nm UV irradiation reactor, a time lapse photolysis was recorded over a 30 minute period using a UV spectrometer. A relatively large peak started out around 300nm. As time passed, after each irradiation the peak began to shrink meaning the photochemical effects of the UV light was changing the acetyl furoin. It can be seen that a smaller peak is starting to form as time continues, meaning the acetyl furoin is forming into another compound.

College of Liberal Arts Abstracts
Dean: Dr. Terry L. Smith

Henry Cole, Kate McCullough (**Literature, Psychology, Philosophy**)
Advisors: Dr. Susan Packard, Dr. Catherine Whitley

The Razors Edge

We will display existential philosophy and the influence of eastern thought in W. S. Maugham's writing. This will involve symbolism and archetypes from eastern thought, as well as pictures that portray existential points of view. A cover flow aesthetic will link the various themes from novel to novel.

Linda Crate (**English Literature**)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

The Stigma And Controversy of Potter

I plan on demonstrating through this poster not only the cult and occult tendencies that one associates with the well known "children's" literature, *Harry Potter*. I intend to prove that while it has cult and occult tendencies that one could associate with the series that there are also Christian values present in the book. As the author says she put some subtle undertones of this in her story without wanting to come across as "preachy", I do believe that this will be a worthwhile and interesting project to undertake.

Janel Hodge, Josh Bow (Psychology)
Advisor: Dr. Peter McLaughlin

The Cannabinoid CB1 Inverse Agonist AM 251 and Antagonist 4113 Produce Similar Effects on the Behavioral Satiety Sequence in Rats.

CB1 inverse agonists are currently being investigated as a pharmacological treatment for obesity. This study investigated the effects of AM 251, a CB1 inverse agonist, and AM 4113, a CB1 antagonist, on the behavioral satiety sequence (BSS) in rats. The BSS is the orderly progression of eating, grooming, activity, and resting in rats, and is used as a model of satiation. Experiments 1 and 2 investigated the difference between cannabinoid antagonists (AM 4113) and cannabinoid inverse agonists (AM 251) on the BSS in rats (experiments 1 & 2). Analysis of the data indicated that the BSS was maintained, but the duration of behaviors was significantly altered. In addition, an increase in grooming behaviors was noted. Next, a yoked running wheel experiment (experiment 3) was conducted to investigate the hypothesis that response competition, such as the increase in grooming behaviors, alone is responsible for the anorectic effects observed in these drugs. The results from experiment 3 indicated no significant difference in the quantity of food consumed between any of the 6 conditions. This indicates that response competition is not the likely cause of the anorectic properties observed in experiments 1 and 2.

Laurel Gibbons (English Literature)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Dystopian Literature: Predicting Our Future

For my poster presentation, I plan to take the most radical elements from three examples of dystopias and look for how each of these has been accurate forecasts for the real world's societies. In *1984* by George Orwell, 'Big Brother' controls the population, in part, by keeping a close ear and eye on the people which happened in the United States when under President Bill Clinton the government was tapping phone lines of ordinary citizens. The children in *1984* were also trained much like the Hitler Youth were in Nazi Germany. In *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, the structure of society and entertainment in this book with the wall TV's and seashell radios very much resembles what America has become and the big flat-screen TV's and iPods. Finally, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley is about a society of people grown in test tubes who are taught through sleep learning in large government buildings. While our world has not reached this extreme, children are being raised less by their parents and taught more in public schools and entertained after school in government activity centers. Science has also evolved to the point of in vitro babies and cloning which could lead to the extremes found in this book. It seems so far that dystopian writers (fiction writers!) have been far more accurate at predicting our future than professionals in other fields.

Jason R. Holloway (History)
Advisor: Dr. Jerra Jenrette

Perverted Justice? A Look at the Expulsion of Ethnic Germans from Eastern Europe after the Second World War

Following the Second World War there was a tragedy of great proportions that has largely escaped the notice of English-speaking historians world-wide. In these last days of the bloodiest war in the annals of history, millions of ethnic Germans were expelled from their homes throughout Eastern Europe for their alleged complicity in the crimes of Nazi Germany, all with the consent of the Allied powers. During this expulsion over sixteen million people were forced westwards from territories to be ethnically cleansed of their German presence, with over two million dying in the process. These people were harshly exposed to the deprivations of marauding Eastern European armies intent on exacting their revenge for the Nazi pillage of their homelands. Theodor Schieder in his book *Dokumentation der Vertreibung der Deutschen aus Ost-Mitteleuropa* reports primary evidence as compiled by the West German government in terms of statistics, official government documents and of course several of the most heinous personal testimonies of people exposed first hand to this calamity in the East.

This paper will seek to tell the history of those who were exposed to unbelievable atrocities at the end of the Second World War and who have not had their story adequately represented in the American body of literature. In light of the crimes the Nazis were responsible for, can one adequately rationalize the violence in these people's stories as justified retribution?

Lorelei Hoover (English Literature)

Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Influence of "real-life" crimes on American Crime Fiction

I would like to present a poster on the influence "real-life" crimes have had on American Crime Fiction; in particular, displaying the way newspapers sensationalized these crimes and how that impacted books based on these crimes. The books I will be using as examples are Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Richard Wright's *Native Son*. Both of these books were written in a society deeply rooted in prejudice and the authors of both books draw heavily from crimes committed by black men against white people at the time. I would like to show my audience the similarities and differences between the way contemporary newspapers presented these crimes to their audiences and the ways the authors of these novels presented similar crimes. My poster will include segments of the newspaper reports and quotes from the novels. There will also be a small section on how movie adaptations of these novels have presented the crimes in a different social light.

Ashley James (English Literature)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Things That Make You Go... Hmmm?

For my poster presentation I want to explore the question, is it possible for women to redefine who they are when they know nothing else about themselves other than what they've been taught? Often times in women's literature or "feminist" literature, women claim that they are trying to paint a new picture of who women are and what they are supposed to be. This is a good thing; however, by the end of the story the author has fallen into a trap and ends up painting the female the same way that the masculine society has already painted her. Is the author trying to undo these stereotypes from the inside, or is it really just impossible to break the cycle? The main sources for my project will be, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *Sweat* by Zora Neale Hurston, and *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker.

Lacy Karosic (**Speech, Language, and Hearing**)
Advisor: Dr. Patricia Leigh

Relationship-Based Practice In Speech Language Pathology: Evaluating Current Practices

Relationships are the foundation that Speech Language Pathologists try to build throughout the course of their therapy protocols. Strong clinician relationships with clients and their families have been shown to play an integral part in the provision of therapy and to impact the successfulness in the overall course of therapy and during individual sessions.

The purpose of the research project is to evaluate what is happening currently with practicing Speech Language Pathologists in regard to the use of relationship-based principles.

Principal investigator Dr. Patricia Leigh collected survey data of over 150 Speech Language Pathologists at a professional continuing education conference. The Likert scale survey was completed anonymously and gathered therapist opinion of their use of relationship-based principles in their current practice. The results suggested that Speech Language Pathologists believe that they are implementing relationship-based therapy principles, yet preliminary findings suggest they do not feel they are supported by administration.

The second phase of the study will be to obtain data through a similar survey designed for parents of children receiving speech and language services and to perform a comparative analysis between the results of the two surveys.

Maria Julieta R. Lindsey (**Sociology**)
Advisor: Dr. Lee Williams

The Concept of Social, Cultural, and Economic Capital and the Filipina-American Cross-Cultural Marriage

There are over 5,000 Filipinas who migrate annually to the United States just to be with their respective fiancé or husbands. The US census bureau shows a trend of an increasing number of cross-cultural marriages among American men and Asian women. Majority of them are Filipinas. These may be due to the fact that 98.5% of Filipinos know how to speak English. Cross-cultural marriage experiences between American men and Filipino women vary for every couple, some cross-cultural marriages endure, some happily, some not, while others end in divorce, or in a few cases even worse.

This research will use qualitative interviews between 8-10 Filipinas who migrated to the United States to be with their foreign fiancé or spouses. It is the intent of this study to explore the perceptions that the Filipinas had upon coming to America and the realities that they are currently experiencing. By using the concepts of "Social, Economic, and Cultural capital," this research will attempt to explore and investigate what these women have lost and gained, how their lives have been changed, why there are such stark differences between the cross-cultural marriage experiences of individual Filipino-American couples and why this process is harder for some women than others.

Jessica Mando (English Literature)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Reception of Fight Club

Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club* was met with varied reception with its publication in 1996, and again with the movie's release in 1999. Palahniuk's intention with this novel was to criticize and satirize what many people see as the 'essence' of masculinity. He used the concept of a fight club to do this, to almost poke fun at the way men feel they need to act to appear 'macho'. However, what is one of the most common responses when asked what a man liked about the book or movie? 'Oh man, the fight scenes were awesome!' And just like that, there are real life fight clubs springing up all over the United States. For my poster presentation, I am going to explore the reception of *Fight Club* in popular culture and examine how it was received compared to what Palahniuk was really trying to get across with it.

Heather Martin (English Literature)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Censorship of D.H. Lawrence

D.H. Lawrence shook his time with controversial books of sexuality, especially *Lady Chatterley's Lovers*, which is still being dissected to this day. Many know that his books were banned or became a large topic of controversy for a very long time due to his strong language, explicit sex, and other 'faux pas' that were frowned upon by the society of his time. Compared to today's societal standards, Lawrence's works are fairly tame. I am planning on examining the difference between now and then, as well as why they were such a large controversy during Lawrence's own time. Perhaps the controversy that he struggled with is a reason that Lawrence is now considered a classic of today.

Kate McCullough (English Literature)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Nonconformist Thought in the Works of W. Somerset Maugham

The basic premise of my paper will be W. Somerset Maugham's use of alternate ways of living to express a more introspective, Eastern inspired, philosophical view. I plan to use four of Maugham's books including—*Of Human Bondage*, *The Razor's Edge*, *The Moon and the Sixpence* and possibly *The Painted Veil*. The main characters of all these novels find their own life's purpose/happiness through non-traditional means.

Poster: *Nonconformist Thought in the Works of W. Somerset Maugham* will explore the following books

Of Human Bondage—Philip Carey decides to throw off the binds of Christianity, realizing that he is no longer bound by their moral precepts.

The Razor's Edge—Larry, jaded by the war, moves to India in order to find enlightenment which he accomplishes. He leaves behind his privileged youth in order to better understand himself and to find happiness in the mundane.

The Moon and the Sixpence—Charles Strickland (based on the life of Paul Gauguin) abandons his family and moves to live a secluded and impoverished life in Tahiti. He feels no remorse for his actions towards his family and lives completely and egotistically for himself.

Katie Miller (English Literature)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Sex In Fight Club.

For my poster, I plan to contrast and compare masculine and feminine views of sex in controversial writer Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club* with those represented in other, more well-accepted popular movies. The juxtaposition of the different notions of gender and sex will show that, although Palahniuk's views are a little out of the ordinary, they are no more offensive than those represented commonly in other movies. I will take excerpts from the novel and pictures from the movie depicting Palahniuk's ideas of masculine sex on the first fold and his portrayals of feminine sex on the final fold. In the center, I will post pictures from the chosen movies and explanations of the sexual representation of gender from those films.

Rikki L. Miller, Jamie L. Cacchione, Joseph B. Sabetti, and Brittany M. Silvio
(Psychology)
Advisor: Dr. Mike Skelly

Comparing Different Text Markings on Releasing Proactive Interference

A common study strategy of readers is to use text markings (e.g., underlining and highlighting) in order to enhance retention of to-be-remembered information. It is possible to evaluate the beneficial contribution of text marking on encoding by using the release of proactive interference (RPI) paradigm. The RPI paradigm typically presents viewers with 4 consecutive trials consisting of 3 word items. Typical findings indicate a decline in performance on successive trials when the items are within the same semantic category. The performance on later trials is reported to improve when the fourth trial items change in semantic category, thus causing a RPI. The present experiment used a 3 x 4 mixed design with the between measure being 3 types of text marking (control vs. highlight vs. underline) and the within measure representing 4 trial conditions. The effect of different text markings on RPI during the fourth trial was investigated. Results indicate that the buildup of proactive interference for items from the same semantic category was released only by highlighting text. As such, the findings support an encoding benefit for highlighted text but not for underlined text. These findings suggest that various types of text markings may be utilizing different cognitive processes.

Carrie Nelson (**English Literature**)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Beating Beloved

Toni Morrison uses history as the foundation for many of her novels. *Beloved* focuses on the lives of slaves in the mid 1800s. Some of the characters in the novel have scars left behind from being whipped and/or branded. This poster will be focusing on the physical and emotional effects caused by such brutal behavior that was seen as normal for the time period.

Nicole Rosetti (**English Literature**)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Aslan=Christ

My thesis is that Aslan, the lion king of Narnia is synonymous with Jesus Christ. For my poster presentation, I would like to outline the various ways Aslan is equivalent to Christ and why C.S. Lewis chose to portray his main character this way. The large middle column will contain information about C.S. Lewis and his decision to portray Aslan in such a symbolic Christian way as well as quotes from Lewis regarding the Christian nature of his books. One side column will include actions both Aslan and Christ perform, such as death and resurrection, taking the place of the guilty. The other column will contain characteristics they share, such as fierce, kind, and powerful as well as titles attributed to both, such as lion and lamb. I will include passages from several of the books of the Chronicles of Narnia along with the biblical scripture pertaining to Christ. It will be a comparison type format. Also, the visuals I will use will be from the books themselves as well as images of Jesus Christ.

Joseph B. Sabetti (Psychology)
Advisor: Dr. Mike Skelly

Sentence Context May Affect Letter Privileges in Word Recognition

Despite a mass email indicating that exterior letters (e.g., p-k) are "all that is necessary" for visual word recognition (e.g., pack), the literature regarding the use of exterior letters during reading is in disagreement. Specifically, Brihl and Inhoff (1995) conjecture that beginning letters of a word (e.g., pa-) are more effective than exterior letters during visual word recognition. In contrast, Jordan et al. (2003) argue that exterior letters are privileged in visual word recognition. As such, the present experiment investigates the effect of target word predictability from prior sentence context (ambiguous vs. unambiguous) and letter positions held constant in a target word (control [e.g., hand] vs. beginning [e.g., hadn] vs. exterior [e.g., had]) on the verbal reading times of a passage. Reading times for control letter conditions provided a stable baseline of sentence context. Overall findings suggest that the observed benefit of the exterior letter condition over the beginning letter condition is mediated by sentence context.

Brihl,

P., & Inhoff, A.W. (1995). Integrating information across fixations during reading: The use of orthographic codes and of exterior letters. Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory & Cognition, 21, 55-67.

Jordan,

T.R., Thomas, S.M., Patching, G.R., Scott-Brown, K.C. (2003). Assessing the importance of letter pairs in initial, exterior, and interior positions in reading. Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory & Cognition, 29, 883-893.

Joseph B. Sabetti, Jamie L. Cacchione, Rikki L. Miller, and Brittany M. Silvio
(Psychology)
Advisor: Dr. Mike Skelly

Sentence Context May Affect Letter Privileges in Word Recognition

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Brieth, D., & Inhoff, A.W. (1995). Integrating information across fixations during reading: The use of orthographic boules and of exterior letters. Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory & Cognition, 21, 55-67.

Matthew Salvia (English Literature)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Poetry and Propaganda of the Great War

My research examines the effect of heroic discourse on shaping masculine identity, specifically through an examination of the canonical western works *The Iliad* and *The Aeneid*, which produced an idealized expectation for masculinity in times of war and physical danger. As supported by much Victorian literature, such discourse was vital in the conscription of men to military service and instilling a sense of patriotic duty in the populace during World War I, which was fought with little promise for the romantic notion of heroic victory and an unprecedentedly high casualty rate, both combatant and non-combatant alike.

For the purpose of my poster presentation, I will focus specifically on Jessie Pope and Wilfred Owen as I examine the poetry of the World War I period, not only as a propagandistic means of bolstering support through the invocation of traditional heroic discourse, but also as a medium for the men at the front to express a realistic depiction of war and undermine public notions that equate the battlefield with an ultimate test of masculine worth and dignity; thus, the advent of modernized warfare (machine guns, heavy artillery, aerial warfare, biological weapons) and the poetry it produced debunked the pathos of the masculine warrior-hero and created an age of disillusion in the aftermath of the Great War.

Corinne Slosnerick (English Literature)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Melancholia and Sylvia Plath's "Daddy"

I intend to present, by means of my poster, a psychoanalytic analysis of Sylvia Plath's poem "Daddy" (1962). I will demonstrate the poem to be a literary expression of Plath's own feelings of "melancholia", as defined by Sigmund Freud in his 1917 essay "Mourning and Melancholia". I will argue that the murderous impulses expressed by the poem's narrator-daughter, directed towards the narrative father, can be interpreted allegorically as an expression of Plath's personal rage towards her own deceased father, Otto Plath, and as the gratification of Sylvia Plath's personal melancholic self-torment. Also, I will contend that evidence in the poem suggests that the narrator-daughter transfers her feelings towards her father unto a father-substitute male figure, and that this father-substitute may be interpreted as Sylvia Plath's husband, Ted Hughes. Along with the full text of the poem, I will provide a detailed corresponding analysis, which will highlight specific elements of the poem that serve to support my argument. In addition, I intend to include a brief overview of Freud's essay "Mourning and Melancholia", as well as pertinent excerpts which lend further support to my thesis.

Heidi A. Smith (English Literature)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

The poetic works of Francis Ellen Watkins Harper

The poet I have decided to focus on is Francis Ellen Watkins Harper. Harper is a female, African-American whose poetic works illustrate historical events such as Anti-slavery and Women's Suffrage. Not many people are aware of Harper's political influence; she is known to be an oral poet. Although born a free slave from Baltimore, most of Harper's audience consisted of mainly slaves and other African-American folks. Therefore the essential goal of my project is to familiarize others to who she was and her historical and literary contributions. I find it peculiar that such a historical literary figure is not commonly known such as Phyllis Wheatley or Sojourner Truth yet Harper associated closely with both women. I plan to find out as to why she faded from the literary mainstream and resurrect her poetic works. I plan to have visuals of a slave auction block and slave victims that reflect two of Harper's poems *The Slave Auction (1854)* and *The Slave Mother (1854)*. Both poems depict the obvious horrors of slavery from the perspective of a slave and a mother. I also plan to exhibit Harper's poetry from other volumes that were published during and after the Civil War.

Trisha Smith (English Literature)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Morrison's Crime and Punishment

My poster will be focusing on the crimes in three novels of Toni Morrison. Toni Morrison has created revolutionary ways of presenting crimes and justice in her novels. The look at these crimes and the punishment that is served to the criminal. It is possible that the poster will turn out focusing on one crime and taking a look at the crime in history.

Matthew Vossburg (English Literature)
Advisor: Dr Donald Sheehy

Norse Mythology in Tolkien

The world of John Ronald Reuel Tolkien is riddled with elements of epic sagas and allegory to religious myths. My poster will focus mainly on the ancient Norse and Scandinavian aspects of Tolkien's works, including the myths of Odinn and a couple other gods belonging to Norse mythology. The very style of writing, which is prose interspersed with verse that seems well-known to the characters, is an ancient Germanic technique. My audience will include both those who enjoy funky fiction and those who study mythology, so I will explain enough that they will understand both mythology and this interpretation of it on a basic level. I think that providing my audience with an understanding of the *Kalevala* and its relationship to Tolkien's *The Children of Hurin* will help to explain this more modern set of works and their lesser-known basis on non-Christian legend. The *Kalevala* is a much more recent work than Norse tales, having been composed by Elias Lönnrot in the nineteenth century. For this reason, I am considering pointing out that Tolkien's works were his attempt to bring multiple pagan mythologies, as well as their applicability to modern tales, to international attention.

College of Education Abstracts
Dean: Dr. Ken Adams

Nicole R. Fell (**Secondary English**)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Chaucer's Modern Woman

My presentation is based on Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and how they are a reflection of the changing society during which he lived. The purpose of this presentation is to show the way in which Chaucer contrasts the concept of courtly love and the strict ideals of the courtly woman. It focuses primarily on *The Wife of Bath's Tale*, examining her as a woman who has strayed from the Medieval ideals of the "courtly" lady. Rather than embodying conventional characteristics, she is illustrated as a flirtatious, perhaps even a modern woman. She defies the traditional woman's role as the subservient wife, demanding that her husbands bow to her every need and desire. She goes against scriptural statements of the Bible and has had five husbands. She uses sex as a weapon with which she humiliates her husbands, her scolding mixing with her sweetness in order to manipulate them. To a Medieval courtly lady, the Wife of Bath is indeed a debauchery.

Rachael Gnacinski (Secondary English)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Kurt Vonnegut's Connection with the Reader

For my project I will mainly be looking at Vonnegut's authorial voice and how he stays connected with the reader. Many times Vonnegut writes himself into his novels or interjects with personal opinions. When you read a Vonnegut novel you almost feel as if you are having a conversation with Vonnegut rather than reading a book. For the poster presentation, I would like to display the visual aspect of his novels. Vonnegut often draws quirky little illustrations or diagrams that enhance the overall satirical tone of the novel and it's almost as if he is saying "see, it kind of looked like this." The presence of the drawings in many of his novels contributes to my overall thesis: that Vonnegut is somehow written into most of his novels as himself, not just as the narrator. For my project I will be analyzing three separate novels and discussing Vonnegut's presence in each of them. My main focus for the project is not the drawings, but I thought that they would work well for the poster presentation since they are the visual element to my overall thesis.

Benjamin Hampton (Secondary English)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Blurring Boundaries: The Androgynous Mind and Body

My research establishes a bridge between androgyny in contemporary pop culture and Virginia Woolf. According to Woolf, one has to be androgynous in order to create art - they have to be in tune with both masculine and feminine sides to liberate themselves from gender roles and boundaries so they can write or paint without being conscious of their sex. In *Orlando*, Orlando says that "perhaps it is the clothes that wear us, not we who wear them." The barriers created by trying to fit into sexual boundaries inhibit creativity, according to Woolf. Pop culture idols who seem androgynous are able to be creative because they are in tune with both their masculine and feminine characteristics. I will examine how these idols push gender boundaries and how they redefine gender and art and compare it to how Virginia Woolf's characters enhance their artistic abilities through achieving the ideal of an androgynous mind.

Timothy Kinkopf (**Secondary English**)

Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

An Apple a Day

Milton's twelve books of *Paradise Lost* on the surface come off as Christian Doctrine, but if you dissect this poem you will find something entirely different. In the poster session I will focus on the seduction of evil using power, ambition, and desire as the forerunner. If nothing but the most adamant attribute to the seduction of evil is power, Lucifer believed it was better to rule in hell than serve in heaven, and with these words creates a society of pandemonium. The allure of control is what causes much of the strife in this epic poem. Lucifer wants to control heaven, eve wants to control Adam, and god wants to control everything. Lucifer is written as a hero, because he is shaped by classic ambitions. He wants to have a society for his people free from worship and enslavement, and like the renaissance movement Lucifer believed he was able to shape his own destiny. Lucifer resembles almost every prominent political and artist figure in history. His ability to shape his own world is even what most people would call godly and deserving of respect. Each character wants something but desire is found to be frivolous and unnecessary.

Sarah Palajsa (Secondary English)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Serious Side of e. e. cummings

My poster will encompass e. e. cummings and his more serious side of writing. I want to show the viewers that he was not just a man who could place everything in lower case and add unusual punctuation. He was a social commentator of his time and even though he displayed his ideas in an unconventional manner, he was still expressing his personal views to the world. I will exemplify this by dissecting one of his more serious critical poems and explain what he was trying say. I also want to focus on the reasons as to why he manipulated the language and his invention of new words such as mud-ficious. These would not be as significant as the previous part but I still want them to be included on the poster in a smaller section. The featured poem will serve as a visual to showcase cumming's unique writing style and format.

Cliffon Roberts (Secondary English)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

Fantasy Literature as a Form of Escape?: Donaldson's response to Tolkien

The topic that I would like to focus on in this project is one of the many outlets for Tolkien readers, which is to respond critically through their own writing. In this case, Tolkien's work is neither blatantly rewritten nor is it ignored in fear of becoming the cliché. These writers afford themselves the opportunity to use works such as the *Lord of the Rings* to egg them on in their own writing pursuits, providing fodder for comparisons, generalizations, criticisms, sociological studies and so forth. Stephen R. Donaldson, with his series *The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant, Unbeliever*, provides a critical response to both Tolkien's fantasy world and the idea of a "Tolkienian" hero. Donaldson's main character, Thomas Covenant, is in almost exact opposition to the heroes Frodo and Sam. Donaldson is quite successful in creating a secondary reality although it does lack the extensive languages and histories like that of Tolkien. It is Covenant's reaction to this secondary reality called "the Land," that brings forth Donaldson's commentary on Tolkien's near complete creation of a separate reality to escape to as well as his use of language. Tolkien remains consistent in using a combination of his own languages as well as old and middle-English. Donaldson, on the other hand, tends to frequently intermix his terminology between several different languages.

Drout, Michael D.C. *Of Sorcerers and Men: Tolkien and the Roots of Modern Fantasy Literature*. Barnes and Noble Publishing, 2006.

Stephanie Rosetti (Secondary English)
Advisor: Dr. Donald Sheehy

What is Beauty?

Beauty is a common societal struggle for white and black men and women. For a long time, the standard of beauty has been European characteristics, such as blonde hair and blue eyes. For my poster, I will focus on the traditional white standard of beauty as well as the attempt of African Americans to define their own beauty in the Black is Beautiful movement, which involved black men and women emphasizing their natural black features, such as afro hair. By referencing such works as Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, my poster would also include how the standards of beauty today are blurred, as African American men and women attempt to reach the ideal set by whites by straightening their hair and skin bleaching, and white men and women tan and dress in clothes that make them appear blacker.

Faculty Judges:

Graduate School:

Dr. Ed Abegg, *Emeritus Professor of Philosophy*
Dr. Erinn Lake, *Graduate Studies Administration*
Dr. Sue Norton, *Department of Professional Studies*

College of Liberal Arts:

Dr. Jeff Bartone, *Department of English and Theatre Arts*
Dr. Melissa Gibson-Hancox, *Department of Communication Studies*
Dr. Joseph Laythe, *Department of History and Anthropology*

College of Science:

Dr. Baher Ghosheh, *Department of Geosciences*
Dr. Laurie Parendes, *Department of Biology*
Ms. Kelly Surovick Groner, *Edinboro Alumna and Professional Biochemist, Lord Corporation*

College of Education:

Dr. Charles Cross, *Department of Secondary Education*
Dr. Mary Jo Melvin, *Department of Elementary Education*
Brian Hnatkovich, *Edinboro Alumnus, Chemistry-Biochemistry*

NOTES