Penn York Presenters 2012

Oral Presentations

Student: Michael Bartley
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School: Clarion University of Pennsylvania
Advisor: Dr. Sandra Trejos
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Discipline: Business
Title: Why Do Dragons Breathe Fire? (The Economic and Development of Selective Eastern Asian Countries)
Abstract: The purpose of this project is an undergraduate study to explore the historical growth of selective eastern Asian countries. Some of the countries were born and are as old as some grandparents, and yet they hold significant GDP ranking. Regressions were used to test out the hypothesis along with the correlation matrices to show any correlation amongst the data. A variety of data was used from multiple sources. Results from the study did show that there was economic growth from the used variables. During this financial crisis we could learn from each other to help bail out one another. What may not work there may work out here. In the blackest of the night sky when all seems lost, the dragon stands tall breathes out the fire and roars out loud knowing that it will head into battle with its head up high with pride.

Student: Alice Browning
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School: Houghton College
Advisor: Dr. Laurie Dashnau
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Discipline: Social Science
Title: Slavery: A Supply Chain Hindered by Holistic Development
Abstract: Slavery is an industry, a supply chain, which must be understood in order to address the root problems that feed into it. As anti-slavery efforts continue to increase, there are a range of tactics used to discourage the trade. Relief aims at rescue efforts while development is aimed at prevention. A comparison between relief oriented organizations and development oriented organizations shows that while rescue is a necessary objective, prevention is most effective in empowering vulnerable people against being incorporated into slavery. Prevention methods are dependent on positive models of development, which holistically address influences that make people vulnerable. The provision of social capital is a resource, which gives vulnerable people the security and access to resources they do not have, but desperately need in order to protect themselves.
Student: Abigail Bruxvoort  
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Advisor: Dr. Emma Plaskitt (Oxford Summer Programme)  
Advisor’s email address: eplaskitt@clara.co.uk  
Discipline: Liberal Arts / Humanities  
Title: The Gothic Enlightenment: Reason’s Authority and the Allure of Terror in The Mysteries of Udolpho  
Abstract: A notable feature of Ann Radcliffe’s novel The Mysteries of Udolpho is the explained supernatural, the phenomenon of an event initially perceived as supernatural eventually being given a rational explanation. I begin my paper by examining factors that may account for Radcliffe’s fastidious explanation of supernatural events in her work. My account appeals to the Enlightenment’s emphasis on reason and the unstable position of female authors in the 18th century, which required them to create virtuous and rational heroines. After establishing these potential motivators for using the explained supernatural, I probe into the value of this tactic, asking why Radcliffe includes seemingly-supernatural events at all given that they are eventually rationalized. I find that the answer to this question lies in the pleasure of flirting with superstition, which is made safe to enjoy insofar as a comfortably rational explanation will follow.

Student: Krystal Calkins  
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Advisor: Dr. Helene Lawson  
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Discipline: Social Science  
Title: The Concerns of Single Mothers  
Abstract: Being a single mother is very common and a disadvantage in today’s American society. There are many concerns that single mothers have when it comes to raising their sons and daughters on their own. Some of these concerns are economics, childcare issues, and acceptance. I interviewed single mothers to determine how they raise their children. I questioned whether their financial assets played a role in their childrearing techniques. In my research thus far, I have found that the amount of money in a single parent family plays a large part of how the mother raises her children differently. If she is having trouble making ends meet, the children may have to share gender neutral items such as clothes and toys. They are also more dependent on family to help care for the children and help them fit into society.
Student: Cassie Chase  
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Advisor: Dr. Helene Lawson  
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Discipline: Social Science  
Title: Debating the Negative Stereotypes of Greek Organizations  
Abstract: The purpose of my research is to delineate the positive and negative activities that Greek Organizations perform. My research will be conducted at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford using comparative literature, semi-structured interviews, questionnaires and participant observation to discuss and debate stereotypes placed on Greek Organizations. I am interested in defeating negative stereotypes because I am the president of a sorority and know personally there is more to a Greek Organization than just partying, hazing and drinking that many researchers have found on college campuses. Most research conducted on Greek Life at campuses has portrayed negative aspects of involvement within these organizations. But, some researchers have valued the positive aspects such as leadership skills, community service, fundraising for philanthropies and fostering a lifelong support system.

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Advisor: Dr. Helene Lawson  
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Title: Crossing Borders for a Bachelors: An Investigation of the American College Experience for International Students  
Abstract: The recent influx of international students at small American universities has prompted inquires as to why these young adults cross oceans and even the equator to earn degrees from the United States. Even more fascinating are the methods by which these students overcome culture shock and adjust to college life. Research shows that the acculturation process often follows a “U” shaped trajectory, beginning and ending in overall satisfaction with life in America. Exceptions to this hypothesis do exist; however, depending on university resources and the level of native student interaction. Using qualitative interviews and participant observation at the University of Pittsburg at Bradford, I intend to examine the benefits and pitfalls of studying in the United States for foreign students. While not yet conclusive, evidence suggests that cultural perceptions of and interactions with American students impact the study abroad experience for many international scholars.
**Student:** Blake Gabel  
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**Discipline:** Social Science  
**Title:** Running the Options through the Playbook  
**Abstract:** The purpose of this research is to determine how much a child’s family influences them when it comes to sport participation. Growing up I developed a great interest in sports, which has led me to wonder what factors may play a role in whether or not a child becomes involved in sports. Along with reading relevant articles my research will consist of conducting structured interviews. Through interviewing high school students I hope to identify how their family life may influence their participation in sports. My readings suggest that family factors such as parental involvement in sport, along with family income, may play a role in determining whether or not a child becomes involves.

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**Discipline:** Social Science  
**Title:** Effects of Divorce on Children  
**Abstract:** In today’s society divorce is becoming a large issue involving not only the parents but the children as well. The purpose of my research is to understand the effects divorce has on children. To complete my research I plan to use semi-structured written and oral interviews with men and women of college age and above. Researchers have found that divorce may affect the behavior of children in many ways, such as children’s relationships with others and their academic achievements. However, some effects can be positive. From personal experience, I know that divorce is an event in a child’s life that changes their family life and is something that takes some time to adjust to. But change is sometimes for the better. For example, my relationship with my father grew better after the divorce.
Title: Gender Discrimination in the Workplace: The Problem Many U.S. Women Face

Abstract: Despite the fact that the U.S. government has passed legislation to counter gender discrimination, women still fall into cracks of the law. This paper will explore how women working in the U.S. today still face gender discrimination in terms of pay disparity, perception of gender in and out of the workplace, and company policies regarding women with families. Workplace gender discrimination is often so subtle that people outside the workforce do not think it exists. However, pay disparities are still common between men and women in private organizations, and such wage gaps are also evident in public organizations. Furthermore, company policies are generally not female friendly. Only when companies, schools, and government organizations make integrative changes towards gender discrimination in the workplace can we say that gender discrimination does not exist anymore.

Title: Seclusion and Renunciation: Avenues to Ecstasy

Abstract: Emily Dickinson is stereotypically viewed as the reclusive poet obsessed with death and renunciation, and there is a strong basis for each of these generalizations of her character and poetry. However, before reducing a complex poet to a simple description, one must examine the reasons for her reclusiveness and renunciation. In this paper, I examine biographies on Dickinson, her own letters and poetry, and critical essays on her work in order to understand how her lifestyle and writing were affected by each other. Close examination of Dickinson’s life and writing led me to see her retreat from publication and society as an attempt to experience a transcendent, ecstatic life through her poetry.
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Advisor: Dr. Helene Lawson  
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Discipline: Social Science  
Title: Ladies Initiative: Frag a Noob  
Abstract: Since its inception, gaming has been popular among and directed towards men. Recent trends suggest, however, that women have been joining the rank of men in the gaming arena. Women are playing games ranging in variety from tabletop and Dungeons and Dragons to Skyrim on the computer. In order to understand the growing popularity of gaming among women and the motivations behind it, I will conduct 10 interviews with women who play such games and observe them play. Although still very much in progress, my research has found that they participate to meet new people, date, escape from reality, and to dominate the opposite sex.

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Title: Prescription drug abuse among youth: A review  
Abstract: In this paper, I explore the topic of prescription drug abuse among youth. This social problem was called “an emerging drug threat” by the Office of National Drug Control Policy in February 2007. An incident in a local high school in June 2012 brought to light the reality that this problem is happening in our own rural Western NY community and may represent a problem that is no longer “emerging,” but instead a fully “emerged” drug threat. The paper covers three areas: 1) an analysis of both local and national data sources on youth and the use of drugs and alcohol to understand the scope of the current problem; 2) an examination of the work of a local nonprofit whose mission is to support all types of programming to prevent and deter illegal prescription drug use among the country’s youth; and 3) a comparison of local and national prevention and deterrence efforts.
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**Title:** Trauma, religious coping, and self-forgiveness: An experimental exploration  
**Abstract:** Religion and psychological trauma have had a tumultuous relationship. In some studies, researchers have found that using religion to cope with trauma has resulted in better mental health. In other studies, results have demonstrated that using religion as a coping mechanism has resulted in poorer mental health. One model proposed by Pargament (1998) postulates two main categories of religious coping: positive religious coping and negative religious coping. As a part of the current study, I am recruiting people participating in online support groups who have experienced severe psychological trauma. I am studying how using positive and negative religious coping affects their ability to forgive themselves for a specific offense against another person. I am hoping to find that those who use positive religious coping are more likely to forgive themselves, while people who use negative religious coping are less likely to forgive themselves.
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School: University of Pittsburgh at Bradford  
Advisor: Dr. Helene Lawson  
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Discipline: Social Science  
Title: Fake-n-Bake: The Pros and Cons of Tanning  
Abstract: In the past, studies have been completed to see what ultraviolet rays have done in support for or against the body. My research includes, observing and interviewing men and women from ages sixteen to mid-fifties on their views of tanning. Studies have shown mixed opinions about tanning; some say that it is harmful for the fact that it causes skin cancer and other harmful side effects. While other studies say that tanning is more beneficial to the body than harmful because it helps with medical problems such as, alleviating pain and helping with acne issues. Tanning also promotes a sense of emotional well-being because it’s relaxing and helps to provide a better self-image which could lead to more confidence. There will always be conflicting sides, but it is solely up to the person whether or not they choose to tan.

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Discipline: Social Science  
Title: Hospitali-tea: Women in Western Tea Rooms  
Abstract: Today’s women are busier than ever and are looking for ways to relax. Research shows that women have less leisure time than previous generations and during that time they want a place to rest and recuperate rather than join in physical activities. With rules like pinkies up and speak quietly, tea rooms may not seem like the obvious place to enjoy such an experience. However, through my observations in tea rooms and interviews with tea room quest preliminary findings show that tea rooms provide a setting where women can relax, interact with other women and enjoy a unique and quiet experience. Furthermore, other women fulfill their own creative needs and a desire to provide hospitality to others through tea room ownership.
**Students:** Nicole Ortega and Nicole Mastin  
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**Discipline:** Social Science  
**Title:** Humor is not all about jokes; An exploration of humorous personal stories.  
**Abstract:** Research on the production and experience of humor has focused on the way that people produce (tell) and experience jokes. The formal joke, however, seems to play only a small role in humor. Most humor seems to involve personal experiences. We will administer the NEO-questionnaire to assess extraversion, along with a questionnaire designed for this study that will compare personal experiences of humor vs. the experience of the formal joke. Participants will be Introductory Psychology students in the 2012-2013 year. We hypothesize that: (1) Jokes will play a smaller role than personal experiences in the experience and production of humor, (2) Extraverts should be more likely to deliver jokes in social settings (3) Sex differences in the production of humor will be minimal when it comes to personal stories, and (4) The most hilariously funny experiences nominated by subjects will be socially based and have their source in childhood.

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**Title:** Transracial Adoption: Adapting into a New Race  
**Abstract:** The purpose of this research is to understand and explain the topic of transracial adoption. Mainly focusing on what happens when parents choose to adopt children outside of their race. I will be taking a look at the pros and cons of a child being raised in an environment completely different from what they are used to, as well as adapting to a new life. Looking from the child’s perspective, and exploring how they are effected by the culture shock of adapting to a new race and figuring out what their true identity is. I will also be examining the parent’s point of view. Trying to keep as much of their child’s culture alive while still integrating their own culture. Another factor that plays into transracial adoption is the sexual orientation of the parents. Homosexual parents adopting children outside of their race, and how well everyone adjusts to the situation.
Student: Hollie Rapp  
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School: University of Pittsburg at Bradford  
Advisor: Dr. Helene Lawson  
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**Discipline:** Social Science  
**Title:** To Talk or Not to Talk, That is the Question: A College Student’s Nightmare  
**Abstract:** What type of student were you in school? Did you participate once in a while? Did you sit there in silence or were you a teacher’s pet? The purpose of this research is to find out why college students participate or do not participate in class. Since I am a college student on campus there are many opportunities to talk to other students. Theorists have found that there are many factors behind why students participate or not. I will conduct interviews and use participant observation to gather information. Class size, confidence and interest in subject matter are just a few factors. By doing this research I hope to become more confident in class.

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**Discipline:** Liberal Arts / Humanities  
**Title:** World War One Poetry from Three Perspectives: A Hypothetical Soldier’s Experience  
**Abstract:** This paper explores the emotional dynamics of a World War One soldier through an examination of three war poets’ work. The analyses of select poems combine to create the hypothetical soldier’s narrative, an experience that progresses from confusion and horror to anger and fear to compassion. The hypothetical soldier’s narrative acts as a tool to help clarify and communicate emotional range in the face of chaos. The three poets considered, Guillaume Apollinaire, August Stramm, and Wilfred Owen, each with his own style, contribute to the hypothetical soldier’s story through their poetry, articulating an ideal type of soldier whose composite abstraction pulls together cogent common features that interrelate to gain a full sense of an emotionally complex war. The paper demonstrates not only how each poet contributes to the hypothetical soldier’s complex and varied emotional responses, but how the hypothetical soldier illuminates the relationship between poetry and morality.
Student: Michelle Sink
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School: University of Pittsburg at Bradford
Advisor: Dr. Helene Lawson
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Discipline: Social Science
Title: Life After Divorce: Far from a Fairytale
Abstract: As children, we learn that movies mostly end in “Happily Ever After” but for many families across the country, that is far from reality. This research will focus on the positive and negative aspects of divorce for women. It will entail the trials and tribulations that women experience once their vows have been broken. I will conduct interviews on how women reconstruct their lives and rekindle their identity. I will also try to find out what types of issues divorced women encounter such as finances, problems with trust, as well as their reputation. I’m focusing on this topic because it was a major struggle that my mother and I encountered sixteen years ago when she filed for divorce. To conclude this research, I will need to complete my interviews as well as construct data from online articles.

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Discipline: Social Science
Title: A Digital Love Letter: The Rise of Online Dating
Abstract: As the internet world grows it is becoming more and more a part of our everyday lives. We use it for online schooling, to run our businesses from home and it is becoming more popular as a way of meeting our soul mates. My research focuses on who is using online dating, why, and has it worked for them? I will be looking at the history of how we have evolved to online dating, demographics of who is using it, and also the pros and cons. Using snowball sampling, I have interviewed men and women of all ages. Through my interviews, surveys, and literature I have found gender, race, and age differences. I have also found a major reason for use is to reconstruct their identity.
Student: Griffin C Taylor
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Discipline: Liberal Arts/Humanities
Title: The Crossover
Abstract: Focusing specifically on the cities of the Rust Belt, The Crossover uses artistic expression as a lens to explore the construction of the inner-city ghetto in Postmodern America. While focusing on American culture’s framing of these expressions to fit the dominant hierarchical ideals related to capitalism and hegemony, the essay pegs an underlying message of pain, perseverance and pleasure that is situated within interconnected cultural narratives of social, political and economic inequality. The title of the essay references the dual meaning of the word ‘crossover’ that is found within two outlets of American culture dominated by African-American participants -- the crossover dribble in basketball and hip hop’s crossover from a grassroots niche narrative highlighting urban realities to its adaptation into mainstream mass culture. Both crossovers emerged during a specific time in American history and this essay attempts to connect them to that time by delving into how and why they emerged together.

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Discipline: Liberal Arts/Humanities
Title: The Great Black Gatsby
Abstract: I argue that The Great Gatsby is a book about a black man who died trying to pass as white. I examine the novel alongside secondary sources such as Fitzgerald’s letters and books he referenced to show how Jay Gatsby’s character serves as a metaphor for Fitzgerald’s conflicted feelings on race and miscegenation. Fitzgerald wrote in 1921 that “The negroid streak creeps northward to defile the nordic race,” and four years later The Great Gatsby allowed this perspective to play itself out in his romanticization of the Great Migration. Gatsby’s failed attempt at assimilation makes him the tragic hero who had an admirable though futile hope of reinventing himself to achieve his American Dream. The Great Black Gatsby will use both an in-text and contextual analysis of The Great Gatsby to expose its title character’s true ethnicity and the immense hegemony perpetuated in the classic novel that defines the Jazz Age.
Conference Panels

**Panel Title:** Latin American Literature: Theoretical Perspectives

**Presenter 1:** Lindsey Vicoria  
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**Presenter 1’s title:** Analysis of “The Washerwomen” [“Las lavanderas] as Subaltern Subjects: a Gender Theoretica l Perspective  
**Presenter 1’s abstract:** By examining the socio-economic class hierarchy of the time, in contrast to the hegemonic ideology, I employ the work of Gayatri Spivak, specifically her definition of subalternity, to analyze Mexican author, Elena Poniatowska’s arguably most noted text, “The Washerwomen” [“Las lavanderas]. I view the women, born into the same occupation as clothes washers as subaltern subjects, with no voice or chance for mobility, nearly invisible within the hegemonic discourse. An exceptional example of Spivak’s definition, “The Washerwomen” [“Las lavanderas ] employs important utterances of gender, which I explore as well. The washer women are not only subaltern subjects, but also members of a subordinate group, women. In my paper, I review specific instances from Poniatowska’s text, in which the characters attempt to assert their identity, or have their identities taken from them by the hegemonic discourse.

**Presenter 2:** Samantha Randall  
**Presenter 2’s email address:** slr2@alfred.edu  
**Presenter 2’s title:** “Borges and I”: An exploration of the essential self, culture and poststructuralist theory  
**Presenter 2’s abstract:** The short story “Borges and I” [“Borges y yo”] traditionally is understood as a narrative about the two separate sides of Borges but this paper presents the idea that the essential self does not exist, and that we are simply subjects of culture. This paper combines cultural research, poststructuralist theory in order to argue that Borges’s story shows that the essential self cannot exist untouched by culture.

**Presenter 3:** Danica Ostrander  
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**Presenter 3’s title:** Psychoanalytic References and Socioeconomic Injustice in Juan Rulfo’s “No Dogs Bark”  
**Presenter 3’s abstract:** Freud’s psychoanalytic theories involving unconscious drives and desires as well as the Oedipus complex are central themes in Juan Rulfo’s “No Dogs Bark” [“No oyes ladrar los perros”], in which a young Mexican man, Ignacio, struggles with his fixation in a pre-oedipal state. Through the use of psychoanalytic imagery, Rulfo’s short story shows Ignacio’s rebellion against a patriarchal figure. This rebellion is due in part to Ignacio’s desire for a return to a state of pre-consciousness similar to the womb and also in part to his father’s investment in the maintenance of socioeconomic inequality. Drawing on Lacanian and Freudian psychoanalytic theories, I analyze how Rulfo’s short story emphasizes the metaphorical castration of the father and Ignacio’s rebellion against his father in order to critique socioeconomic injustice.

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Panel Title: Humanities Panel “Film in Spain”

Presenter 1: Sunny (Eun) Cho  
Presenter 1’s email address: ESC1@alfred.edu  
Presenter 1’s title: The Male Gaze in Room in Rome  
Presenter 1’s abstract: According to the Feminist Film Theorists article, male directors cannot escape the pervasive nature of their “male gaze,” especially when portraying women. Although this concept is debatable at best, Julio Medem seems to demonstrate this quality by making the main characters in Room in Rome desirable caricatures rather than realistic individuals. Admittedly, there were some redeeming features of the film, which include unconventional cinematography, engaging music choice, and unexpected plot development. However, despite all the interesting aspects of this film, the most definitive would be how Natasha and Alba were basically projections of Medem’s desire as opposed to an accurate depiction of women. Rather than conveying all the complexities of individuals, Medem focused on the intimacy between the two and urged the audience to do the same with careful use of cinematography. It would almost be an insult to call Room in Rome a lesbian movie because both characters were not lesbians, proposing that women are more suggestible in terms of sexuality.

Presenter 2: Jordyn Larkins  
Presenter 2’s email address: JTL1@alfred.edu  
Presenter 2’s title: The Struggles of Masculinity in Smoking Room and Los lunes al sol  
Presenter 2’s abstract: Smoking Room (Gual 2002) depicts a day at the office for Ernesto who creates a petition against management demanding the right to smoke where employees want. The viewer watches his peers and his employer’s reactions as he attempts to succeed in his cause. Los Lunes al Sol (León de Aranoa 2002) portrays the life of men who have lost their jobs at a shipyard and their struggle to find a new source of income. They all picture different futures for themselves, but in reality they are all joined together for life, like “Siamese twins.” Both movies portray different struggles of male characters, but the use of camera angle and color create completely different environments for viewers. Smoking Room is bleak and surpasses the “personal wall;” shots and natural lighting with a variety of both close up and extended shots. As a result, the viewer is able to see the space and be more aware of the setting and location on set. Los Lunes al Sol and Smoking Room are two movies that explores the struggles of masculinity.

Presenter 3: Cassie (Catherine) Klipera  
Presenter 3’s email address: CSK2@alfred.edu  
Presenter 3’s title: The Female Narrative of the Spanish Civil War  
Presenter 3’s abstract: Unlike most narrative structures, the effect is known and viewers watch it in order to figure out the cause. El laberinto del fauno begins by showing Ofelia dying in the labyrinth, and Las 13 rosas is an historical film in which all thirteen women die at the conclusion. Despite knowing the ending both manage to hook the viewer into discovering how these characters’ lives played out. Viewers are compelled to know why these deaths were meaningful. The use of female narrators creates a more emotional perspective of the war. A masculine perspective tends to focus more on the fighting and sacrifices. A women’s perspective also deals with sacrifice, but it also creates more of a feel of the state the country was in. The importance of family and children is stressed, and the lives of the common people of Spain are enforced. A male gaze would focus more on soldiers. Las 13 rosas is more specific to Spanish culture and is more meaningful in that culture as a result. El laberinto del fauno on the other hand was more internationally advertised to a broader audience. Much of the film focused on Ofelia allowing the audience to identify with the fear of a child and to admire her bravery. Overall the female gaze on the Spanish Civil War is an effective tool in conveying the emotional state of the nation.
Viewers are drawn into their lives to rejoice with them when they accomplish a task and to cry with them as they fail.

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Poster Presentations

**Students:** Katherine Baker and Sydnie Cunningham

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**School:** Houghton College

**Advisor:** Paul Young

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**Discipline:** Social Science

**Title:** How the Activation of Romantic and Communal Goal Affects Career Choice

**Abstract:** Despite progress in the workplace, women remain under-represented at the highest levels of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Goal congruity theory attempts to explain this phenomenon. Diekman, Clark, Johnston, Brown, and Steinberg (2011) predict that beliefs about whether certain fields impede or facilitate communal goals affect career choices. Park, Young, Troisi, and Pinkus (2011) found that women distance themselves from STEM fields when pursuing romantic goals. They suggest that pursuing success in masculine domains conflicts with pursuing romantic success, which is associated with traditional gender norms. We hypothesize that the activation of both communal and romantic goals will result in female participants reporting even lower interest in STEM fields than the activation of just one or none of these goals. Our study seeks raise awareness of these unconscious motivations affecting women’s career choices.

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**Title:** The correlation between binge drinking and short-term academic performance

**Abstract:** Previous research indicates that alcohol consumption does not decrease a person’s test taking performance. Also, research indicates that alcohol decreases a person’s visual declarative memory. This current study will involve 200-250 Hilbert College undergraduate students. The age and gender of these participants will depend on each class that is surveyed. This survey is a paper and pencil, forced multiple choice, and Likert Scale format. The participants will identify if he or she felt that the binge drinking episode caused themselves, the next day, to miss class, not to be able to perform as well on an examination, and to have a difficult time paying attention in class. A Chi-square test will be conducted on each question in the survey.
Title: Synthesis, Characterization, and Evaluation of Diesel Fuel Oxygenate Additives

Abstract: The work in progress deals with a possible solution to the growing demand for a renewable source of diesel fuel that would replace petroleum diesel. To aid in this transition, two diesel fuel additives were synthesized using a Fischer-Speier esterification reaction. The feed stocks used for synthesizing the additives tested are levulinic acid, which is made from the degradation of cellulose; while amyl and iso-amyl alcohol were used because they are the primary components of fusel oil, which is a waste product from fermenting spirits. The additives were evaluated to see if they would meet the ASTM standards for diesel fuel. The additives met all of the ASTM requirements when tested in a seven percent volume to volume ratio in a summer blend of fuel. Further testing is required to identify if the add oxygen in the structure of the additive is providing a cleaner exhaust from the fuel.

Title: Divorce and the negative effects on children’s relationship ties

Abstract: Divorce and the effects on children’s relationship characteristics is not a well-known or researched topic. What makes this topic important is that it could help counselors and psychologists gain a deep understanding on why some children do not have close relationship tie with others. The proposed studied is to show that divorce negatively affect children’s relationship characteristics. The study will involve a random selection of Hilbert College students by using the Junior Symposium class that is offered at Hilbert College. Students will receive a survey with questions relating to their parents relationship status and their outcome from their family situation such as divorce or married and how it affected the five main characteristic needs in any relationship which are trust, loyalty, love commitment and conflict.
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 Discipline: Natural Sciences  
Title: What are you smoking?  
Abstract: The effect of tobacco use on the body have been thoroughly investigated and documented, particularly harmful chemicals leading to respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Lesser documented but potentially as dangerous are the bacteria found in tobacco products. Using nutrient agar plates, samples of tobacco obtained from smoked and un-smoked cigarettes and the filters, cigars and chewing tobacco were cultured. Cultures were incubated for 48 hours at 37° C. Colony morphology, bacterial morphology and gram stains were examined for the different types of tobacco products. Selective and differential media were utilized for the identification of pure colonies obtained from the original cultures. The antimicrobial properties of oral fluid on the pure cultures obtained will also be presented.

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 Discipline: Social Science  
Title: Using the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement as a Predictor of On-Campus Student Involvement.  
Abstract: Students who work on-campus or that are involved in student organizations have been consistently found to be more academically engaged, exhibit greater institutional commitment, and have an overall better learning experience than their counterparts (Astin 1999; Baker, 2008; Strauss and Volkwein’s, 2004;). Kuh (2009) suggests that pre-college surveys, such as the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE), could be used to predict students’ on-campus involvement and that these predictors could help advisors to influence students to get involved on-campus early during their freshmen year. Due to the lack of research on pre-college assessment data to predict on-campus involvement, the purpose of this study is to investigate if BCSSE items depicting high school and hours of co-curricular involvement can be used as predictors of on-campus student involvement. Participants will include BCSSE respondent Hilbert College undergraduate students involved on-campus, that are selected from on-campus organizations and employment rosters, along with uninvolved students randomly selected from the PowerCampus database. Involved students BCSSE high school involvement data will be compared to uninvolved students data using a 2 (high school involvement) X 2 (co-curricular activity hours) between subjects ANOVA.
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Discipline: Natural Sciences
Title: Psychostimulant Abuse, Dopamine Replacement Therapy and Punding: A Comparative Analysis
Abstract: This project will present a review of the current research literature in reference to phenomena of punding. Punding is a behavioral syndrome characterized by obsessive preoccupation with complex, excessive and non-goal oriented activity. The presence of punding will be examined in association with individuals who abuse stimulants such as cocaine and amphetamine as well as individuals undergoing dopamine replacement therapy (DRT) for treatment of Parkinson’s disease. Specific consideration will be given to the neuroanatomical differences between those with Parkinson’s disease and those without (i.e. stimulant abusers). Furthermore, neuropharmacological differences will be explored in reference to the effects of drugs commonly employed in DRT and psychostimulants whose abuse is associated with the development of punding. It is the purpose of this research to present a conceptualization of the differences of punding behaviors manifested within this comparative context.

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Title: The Effect of Religion on Moral Decision-Making
Abstract: While many situational factors have been shown to affect morality, religion is an important component. Religion may affect many different aspects of morality, such as moral orientation, attitudes, and behavior. The relationship between religion and moral decision-making is a complicated one. A meta-analysis by McCleary, Quillivan, Foster & Williams (2011) described negative moral associations that are strongly correlated with religious fundamentalism while a meta-analysis by Bloom (2012) showed that religion had “powerfully good effects and powerfully bad effects” on prejudice. I hypothesize that priming participants with a religious text will lead to scoring high on measures of moral absolutism as well as scoring positively on measures of pro-social behavior. The current study seeks to use several priming experiments to explore these connections.
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**Discipline:** Natural Sciences  
**Title:** Prey and Predation Behavioral Patterns of *Acheta domestica* (Crickets) and *Gramastola rosea* (Tarantula)  
**Abstract:** Tarantulas are carnivorous arachnids that generally feed on insects and other small arthropods. Unlike most spiders, tarantulas do not utilize webs to capture their prey; instead they employ hunting or ambush methods to obtain food. The effects of environmental changes on crickets (*Acheta domestica*) and a tarantula (*Gramastola rosea*) were monitored in a closed system. The enclosed system which included ample hiding spaces was compared to a system with limited hiding spaces for the prey. From the observation of each system, a comparison was made for the predation time of the tarantula and the behavior patterns of the prey and predator.

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**Title:** Just a spark of hope: An analysis of the bottleneck as a literary technique  
**Abstract:** This project analyzes the use of common writing techniques through the gothic and horror genres, especially the bottleneck technique. This is a technique using a type of mouse trap in which a character is moved from a large space into a smaller space (figurative and literal). Methodology includes an examination of the plot and character development included in a story as well as the scrutiny of hope as it relates to the victim(s) of the story. Data shows that the bottleneck technique is seen across genres, but originally developed from the gothic genre. The technique is not dated by age, instead it flows across genres and time. The bottleneck technique initiates a loss of hope of the main victim. Once hope is lost or taken away so is the final chance for the victim to escape.
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**Title:** Psychological Maturity and Emotional Maturity. A Correlational Study  
**Abstract:**

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**Discipline:** Natural Sciences  
**Title:** Behavioral Adaptations of *Chelydra serpentine*  
**Abstract:** *Chelydra serpentine*, commonly known as the freshwater snapping turtle is found in streams, lakes and marshes throughout the Eastern, Midwestern and Southern parts of the United States. In their natural habitat, common snapping turtles are not aggressive unless provoked. When removed from their aquatic environment they become aggressive as a defense mechanism. In their natural environment, these turtles feed on fish, frogs and other small aquatic animals. This project examines the effects of environmental changes on the feeding patterns of the common snapping turtle kept in captivity. Changes to the habitat include a tank that has no shelter to one which mimics the turtle’s natural environment. Throughout the habitat change, the turtle will be offered a food source of processed pellets and minnows.