The advent of effective anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and HIV/AIDS medical treatment has increased the longevity of persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). However, with an increased life expectancy, older PLWHA experience a variety of new challenges that affect their quality of life. The combination of aging and HIV infection weaken the immune system, increasing health complications for this population. They also face social-psychological challenges related to the aging process such as isolation, and HIV/AIDS and aging-related stigma. The aim of the research project is to explore the needs of gay and aging (50 years of age or older), leaning where and what type of services older adults PLWHA receive in Los Angeles, understanding the barriers and challenges, exploring possible program/strategies that can assist with managing the psychosocial and physical complexities of aging with HIV/AIDS, and identifying service gaps for this population in Los Angeles. To accomplish these aims, a qualitative research project utilizing grounded theory methodology has been conducted with three group focus groups in Los Angeles to explore the needs of MSM who are aging with HIV/AIDS. The results of the study suggest that older PLWHA have very complex dynamic situations regarding the uncertainty about growing older with HIV/AIDS regarding their health, financial situation as they hit retirement, and returning to work. The results also suggest that the programs and services that are lacking in Los Angeles are health (dental and medical coverage), social (such as going to social events), and advocacy for resources that are tailored for older PLWHA. The areas for future directions include further exploring important information about the lack of health care within the spectrum of HIV/AIDS in Los Angeles and the type of services older PLWHA receive in Los Angeles.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is an HIV prevention method for individuals who report noncondom use or other risk factors for HIV transmission. PrEP is a daily antiretroviral pill which greatly reduces the chance of becoming infected with HIV. Previous research shows that the disparities in new HIV infections are increasing in YBMSM when compared to other MSM.
Yet, PrEP uptake among YBMSM remains low compared to other MSM. In response, Dr. Mutchler’s team at CSUDH worked with AIDS Project Los Angeles and Reach LA to pilot test an intervention with the intention of increasing PrEP uptake among YBMSM. A mixed methods approach was used to collect data from YBMSM and their close friends in order to better understand how friends communicate and increase knowledge about PrEP. The sample of YBMSM and their Close Friends included in our analyses was 16 participants (8 dyad-pairs). All 16 individuals completed a baseline survey, a brief intervention, and a follow-up survey. The individual characteristics of the sample were as follows: 75.0% African American/Black, 81.0% male, and the mean age was 22.5 years. Using SPSS, we ran univariate, bivariate, and paired sample T-tests on various constructs with our outcome variable, the intention to uptake PrEP, which is as follows: “If this PrEP pill were available today, how likely would you be to use it?” Several of these constructs such as peer sexual health communication; safer sex communication; safer sex intentions; and PrEP acceptability, attitudes, and beliefs, were significantly related to the intention to use PrEP (P<.05). There were also significant differences in the means of two variables between the baseline and follow up surveys. These data will help us understand intentions to use PrEP among YBMSM and their Close Friends, informing PrEP uptake interventions.

6:40:00 PM - 7:00:00 PM
Enya Valentin, Psychology
Levels of narcissism as predicted by selfie sharing and filter usage on Snapchat
Faculty Mentor: L. Mark Carrier, Psychology

Few research studies have examined the relatively new and popular social media application Snapchat. While it does share some similarities with other photo-sharing social media and social networks, it also has some unique qualities as an application that could be investigated and serve as predictors for a variety of different psychologically-related issues including narcissism which is the focus of this paper. Previous research by Fox and Rooney (2015) has suggested that narcissistic men are more likely to edit their photos and share greater numbers of selfies via social networks. It was then hypothesized that higher numbers of selfies shared on Snapchat would predict higher levels of narcissism. It was also hypothesized that greater average filter usage on pictures shared via Snapchat would predict higher levels of narcissism. A survey was administered to university student volunteers who used Snapchat at least once a month. The survey included items on general usage of Snapchat as well as more specific items including average filter usage and numbers of selfies (and photos of self) shared on Snapchat. The Daily Media Usage Scale, Narcissism Personality Inventory (NPI-13), and Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale were also included in the survey. Results supported the first hypothesis by finding significantly higher levels of narcissism when comparing the high sharing group (sharing more than 6 selfies per week) and the low sharing group (sharing less than 3 selfies per week). There was however no correlation between filter usage and scores in the NPI-13. Overall, the results
supported a relationship between Snapchat usage and narcissism, consistent with prior studies of other computer-based social media.

7:00:00 PM - 7:20:00 PM
Marcos Jimenez, Psychology
The Impact of Computer Technology Use on Time Perception
Faculty Mentor: Mark Carrier, Psychology

Computer usage is ever increasing with almost every age group utilizing some form of technology. Research has demonstrated a relationship between the frequency of technology use and a distortion of time perception with regard to computer-related tasks. Additionally, individuals who have more computer technology experience have better expectations of the time duration of certain computer tasks when compared with less experienced. The purpose of this experimental study was to test the reported phenomenon of altered time perception during computer use. In this study, participants (N= 69) participants performed a series of pre-determined tasks, each presented in two different modes: technology-based tasks on a computer or non-technology tasks done with a pencil and paper. At the completion of each task, participants estimated the duration of the given task along with their enjoyment and stimulation levels. Lastly, participants completed a questionnaire that looked at their technology usage. Then, participants were grouped into one of three technology groups: light technology user, medium technology user, or heavy technology user. Dividing a participant’s time estimation by the actual time of the task gave a ratio score that showed that participants underestimated the lengths of most tasks. Additionally, data showed a trend towards significance when comparing participant’s time estimation on both computer tasks and paper and pencil tasks with their technology group. Comparing all three technology groups, results trended towards heavy technology users reporting time more accurately than medium technology users and light technology users but the effect was not statistically significant. The findings from this study are anticipated to add scientific knowledge describing how computer technology usage affects our everyday life and how computer technology is affecting our perception of time.
7:20:00 PM - 7:30:00 PM
Coffee Break

7:30:00 PM - 7:50:00 PM
Heather Malca, Sociology


Faculty Mentor: Matt G. Mutchler, Sociology

A pilot study on Young Black Men Who Have Sex with Men (YBMSM) in Los Angeles County is important because Blacks have three times a higher chance of getting infected with HIV than Whites and Latinos. Research on peer support and increased PrEP uptake is limited. Communicating with a close friend may lower stigma and increase support for PrEP uptake. According to the CDC to be eligible for PrEP the criteria is one or more of the following: anal sex without condoms, or a partner who is HIV positive in the past six months), not currently on PrEP, and HIV negative. Target participants (ages 18-24) and their closest friends (any racial, ethnic, or gender background) 18 years old and within 5 years of the target participant. Consent to the study was requested, a brief survey was administered to each participant, and a dyad interview conducted. There was a hundred percent recruitment and retainment of all 8 dyads in the study. The purpose of the research presentation is to show how the dyads responded on the pre and post surveys and interviews, and how they discussed PrEP uptake. We used SPSS software to analyze the complementary quantitative data and grounded theory to analyze the qualitative data. We examined feasibility (“Did participants attend and did they talk about PrEP?”) and acceptability (“Did participants accept the proposed intervention and why or why not?”). Results included: “Working with a professional staff person would be helpful to me in considering PrEP" showed that 68.8 percent (11 out of 16) strongly agreed. Primary themes found included Fear of Side Effects, Misconceptions about PrEP and Health Care Provider anxieties. These themes that were identified can help with the framing of a prevention program to increase PrEP uptake among young Black MSM.

7:50:00 PM - 8:10:00 PM
Griselda Bernabe, Karina Aguilar, Psychology

Family Diabetes History and its Influence on Health Outcome

Faculty Mentor: Silvia Santos, Psychology

The present study is part of a larger NIH funded investigation that examined diabetes related family history, illness perceptions, and health outcome of Latino college students who are at a heightened risk for future diabetes onset. Type 2 diabetes is a disease that gradually progresses over various years and is most commonly known for occurring as one gets older. In recent years, this has been seen as a progressing disease in children, teens, and young adults. Participants
were 156 Latino university students who had a first or second degree relative afflicted with Type 2 Diabetes. The objective of our study is to examine family history and illness perceptions towards Latino college students’ health outcome. A path-analysis using linear regression was used to test these models. The results revealed a direct positive effect between genetic risk (1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree relative afflicted) and diabetes risk score. Conversely, psychological distress also showed a direct effect to diabetes risk score. The severity of a relative’s illness to health importance was mediated by disease threat. This states that depending on how severe the illness of the family member, the more threatening the disease is, which in turn the individual will value their health more. Psychological distress to Body Mass Index (BMI) was mediated by the individual’s perceived risk of illness. The more an individual is worried about their relative afflicted with disease, the higher they will perceive the risk of illness, which in turn will have a higher BMI. No matter how worried and threatening the disease can be to an individual, unless it is personalized to the self in the present (i.e., quality of life compromised), weight status will not be healthier in terms of lowering their BMI scores.

8:10:00 PM - 8:30:00 PM
Emily Rose San Diego, Carlos Villalobos
Jacqueline Hernandez, Psychology

Examining the relationship between diabetes knowledge and health behaviors in college students

Faculty Mentor: Erin Merz, Psychology

Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) is a serious health concern and an increasing problem among college students. Health knowledge has been shown to be an important predictor of health behaviors. Research suggests that college students engage in behaviors that increase their risk for T2D (e.g., physical inactivity, sedentary behaviors, unhealthy diet, inadequate sleep, excessive alcohol consumption, smoking). This is surprising given that they should be knowledgeable of the risks and consequences of these behaviors because of their high level of educational attainment. The aims of the current study are to evaluate college students’ knowledge of diabetes and to examine the relationship between diabetes knowledge and T2D risk behaviors in college students. Participants (N = 70) were asked to complete a survey containing questions about their demographic characteristics, diabetes knowledge, and health behaviors. A descriptive analysis will be conducted on all demographic and self-report measures. Furthermore, a series of bivariate regressions will be conducted, with diabetes knowledge as the predictor variable and health behavior (i.e., physical inactivity, sedentary behaviors, unhealthy diet, inadequate sleep, excessive alcohol consumption, smoking) as the outcome variables. Examining diabetes knowledge of college students can help researchers and clinicians better understand what college students know about diabetes and how this relates to their health behaviors. Moreover, it can provide a potential explanation on the increasing rate of T2D among adolescents and young
adults. The implications of this research could play an important role, from a theoretical and clinical perspective, in the development of appropriate prevention strategies in college students.

Social influence may be a motivator for increased physical activity and weight loss. However, studies of social influence as correlates of physical activity have been largely inconclusive. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between social influence variables and physical activity and diet. Social influence variables included friends' and family's diet and exercise behaviors, and diagnoses of health conditions by a medical professional. Based on Social Cognitive Theory it was hypothesized that exposure to social influences would be associated with increased physical activity and dieting behavior. College students (N=261, 75.6% female) between 18-30 years of age filled out an online survey which measured social influence variables, and their diet and exercise behaviors. After data was split into males and females, hierarchical multiple regression analysis was employed controlling for age. Observing friends' and family’s diet significantly accounted for 14% of the variance in women’s diet, and 3% of the variance in women's exercise levels. Friends' and family's exercise levels significantly accounted for 6% of the variance in women’s frequency of gym visits. Close friends' and family members' weight loss significantly accounted for 7% of the variance in women’s leisure time physical activity. Being diagnosed with obesity by a medical professional significantly accounted for 14% of the variance in men’s diet, and 7% of the variance in men's gym visits per week. Having been diagnosed with a heart attack or a stroke significantly accounted for 12% of the variance in men’s frequency of exercise. These results show that women are more influenced by observing their friends’ and family’s diet and exercise behaviors, while men are more influenced by an official diagnosis from a medical professional. Additionally, women may associate physical activity with an opportunity to socialize, while men are more focused on health outcomes.
Classification of Tardigrades on Catalina Island

Faculty Mentor: Brendan McNulty, Earth Science

Tardigrades, otherwise known as “water bears” are prevalent on all continents, ranging from Mt. Everest to deep hydrothermal vents. The phylum Tardigrada is divided into two major classes: Eutardigrada and Heterotardigrada. These microscopic organisms have been of interest to scientists due to their ability to withstand harsh environments. Tardigrades are able to enter a cryptobiotic state that enables them to survive extreme temperature, immense pressure, potentially deadly amounts of radiation, and live for up to 100 years (Miller 1997). Before tardigrades enter cryptobiosis, they produce a sugar compound, trehalose, which helps against dehydration and damage against freezing (Satkauskiene 2012). Their ability to produce trehalose has peaked the interest of biomedical scientist because of the potential use in the storage and transportation of organs and unfertilized eggs. (Satkauskiene 2012).

In 2015 Tardigrades were initially discovered on Catalina Island (Aldous et al. 2015 unpublished data). The specimens observed were a combination of terrestrial and marine tardigrades. Terrestrial samples were taken from moss and lichen found throughout the island, and marine samples were taken from barnacles on intertidal rocks (Aldous et al. 2015 unpublished data). DNA sequencing was completed on terrestrial tardigrades by targeting the 18S gene. Images taken this year using a compound light microscope has morphologically confirmed what was discovered molecularly last year. In addition to imaging the morphology of terrestrial tardigrades, a putative new species of marine tardigrade was observed as well. The data generated from this study will also add to the genome database of tardigrades and improve our understanding of the ecology and morphology of Catalina Island tardigrades.

Preventing the Evolution of High-Level Daptomycin-Resistance (HLDR) in Vitro in Strains of Streptococcus mitis by using DAP Combination Antimicrobial Strategies

Faculty Mentor: Nagendra Mishra, Biology

Viridans Groups Streptococci (VGS) are a leading cause of Infective Endocarditis (IE). A prominent pathogen in this group, S. mitis is a commensal organism of the human oral cavity that causes IE as well as bacteremia in immunocompromised hosts. Recently, two S. mitis strains, 351 and SF-100, were shown to develop High-Level Daptomycin-Resistance (HLDR) (DAP MIC > 256 ug/ml) in vitro and in vivo within 48 hours of exposure to Daptomycin (DAP). The goal of this study is to identify antibiotics that, when combined with DAP, prevent the emergence of HLDR in parental 351 and SF-100.
Parental strains 351 and SF-100 S. mitis were serially passaged in DAP alone and DAP + AB combinations for 10-20 days. The following antibiotics were used: Ampicillin (AMP), Ceftaroline (CPT), Gentamicin (GEN), Imipenem monohydrate (IMIP), Linezolid (LIN), Rifampicin (RIF), Tedizolid (TDZ), and Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (TMP:SMX). Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values were measured via Etest or microbroth dilution for all antibiotics. DAP MIC was measured before passaging and at multiple days during passaging. In vitro time-dependent kill curves were conducted with select DAP + AB regimens to assess synergistic activity between antimicrobial reagents.

HLDR prevention in 351 was seen in combinations of DAP with GEN, CPT, and TMP:SMX. In SF100, HLDR was prevented and bacterial growth inhibited by combining DAP with the following: AMP, CPT, GEN, LIN, RIF, and TDZ, at various AB concentrations. Kill curve data shows early synergistic killing of 351 by DAP + GEN, and of SF-100 by DAP + GEN, DAP + LIN, DAP + TDZ.

DAP + AB combinations that prevented development of HLDR in parental 351 and SF-100 may reveal synergistic activity between certain antimicrobial agents. This data, combined with in vitro time-dependent kill curves leads to better understanding of S. mitis virulence regarding antibiotic resistance.

6:40:00 PM - 7:00:00 PM
Hillary Gonzalez, Chemistry
Exploring Methyl Paraben Content of Fresh Blueberries
Faculty Mentor: Barbara Belmont, Chemistry

Online sources have cited that methyl paraben, an ester of p-hydroxybenzoic acid, can be naturally found in plants, including blueberries and thale cress. However, primary literature sources containing data supporting the natural occurrence of methyl paraben in blueberries has not been found. Methyl paraben is widely used as a preservative in foods and cosmetics. Thus, the conclusion that it may be found in blueberries may be due to its use in commercial extracts. Furthermore, previous student research into the presence of methyl paraben in blueberries using HPLC-MS concluded that methyl paraben cannot be found in blueberries at a concentration detection limit of 1 ppm. This study expands on the previous student research by lowering the concentration detection limit. Blueberry extracts were analyzed using GC-MS and showed that methyl paraben was not found fresh blueberries at a concentration detection limit of 0.5 ppm. Future studies include lowering the concentration detection limit even further by freeze-drying fresh blueberries and testing the methyl paraben content of different blueberry species, other berries, and organic blueberries.
Ashley Barbarino, Biochemistry

Aquaculture threatened by global climate change: Physiological responses of purple-hinge rock scallop (Crassadoma gigantea) to decreased pH and increased temperature

Faculty Mentor: Karin Kram, Biology

Global ocean change represents an increasing threat to the aquaculture industry. Among these threats is whether currently farmed species, such as the purple-hinge rock scallop (Crassadoma gigantea), will possess the capacity to acclimatize to rapidly changing ocean conditions, including pH or temperature changes, and therefore remain profitable in the future. Symbiotic relationships between animals and bacteria are ubiquitous in nature and are increasingly recognized as integral contributors in setting the tolerance limits of marine species to environmental change. Despite this importance, little is known about how environmental conditions affect the genetic and functional variability of the microbiome of aquaculture species. This information is crucial to determine if there are detrimental effects to the microbial flora when dealing with climate and pH change, which may cause harm to both aquaculture and natural populations of scallops. Since aquaculture for all types of scallops, including C. gigantea, is a challenge for most aquafarmers, elucidating how the microbiomes of these animals are affected by climate change is another key tool in maintaining production of these key resources. Our research considers the possible outcomes of global climate change for C. gigantea, measuring how well it can survive in the predicted climate of the year 2100. Previously, we grew C. gigantea in conditions with two variables: water temperature (the current 14°C and the predicted 21°C + 0.05) and pH (the current 8.0 and the predicted 7.6) for six weeks. We will use samples of tissue, specifically gill and stomach tissue, from the C. gigantea incubated in these environmental conditions, and test for differences in microbial taxonomy and function by next-generation sequencing using the metagenomes of the samples. This information will help aquafarmers plan for future climate change, also give scientists a better idea of how the environment affects symbiotic relationships between microbes and their host.

Monica Warner, Biology

Evaluating species differentiation in endangered rush lilies using population genetics.

Faculty Mentor: Kathryn Theiss, Biology

The taxonomy of the closely-related rush lilies (Hastingisa; Agavoideae; Asparagaceae) has recently been a point of contention. Morphological comparisons and reproductive biology studies have led to contradictory conclusions on the taxonomic status of the threatened Hastingsia atropurpurea and H. bracteosa. Becking (1986) split H. atropurpurea from H. bracteosa based on morphological
distinctiveness and lack of hybridization. Lang and Zika (1997) argued any distinctions were insignificant and therefore, separation of the taxa, unjustified. Our objective was to explore their species differentiation at the population genetic and morphological levels. We collected leaf tissue samples of a total of 160 of individuals from the two taxa in eight populations in southwestern Oregon. All populations showed sympatry with H. serpentinicola, but we did not find populations that were sympatric for our two taxa of interest. Genomic DNA was extracted and we genotyped the samples using 12 microsatellite loci previously developed for the sister genus Camassia. We analyzed the results for genetic structure across the putative taxa and compared this to morphological data. We also looked for evidence of gene flow between populations, although we found very little morphological evidence of hybridization. We hope that these analyses will help land managers evaluate the connectivity of the different populations and make appropriate conservation decisions. Future studies include a phylogenomic study of both Hastingsia and its sister genus Camassia to evaluate the evolutionary relationships among these taxa.

7:50:00 PM - 8:10:00 PM

Eric Medina, Biology

Using BACs to Study Gene Expression in Zebrafish

Faculty Mentor: Fang Wang, Biology

I am investigating genes enriched in the skin of zebrafish (Danio rerio). This study will help us understand fundamental skin cell biology that is likely relevant to various diseases. Our lab has analyzed the gene expression profiles of zebrafish skin using RNA-seq. Several candidate skin-enriched genes were identified: occludin-b (oclnb), desmocollin-2 (dsc2), collagen 28 (col28), and ARAP1. Little is known about ARAP1, while previous research suggest that oclnb, dsc2 and col28 encode proteins that are important for skin cell structure, but more studies are needed. I am using bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs) to detect gene expression. Recombinant DNA molecules are regularly used for gene expression in a model organism with the desire to detect which cells produce the protein that is encoded by that gene. BACs can carry very long DNA fragments (up to 300 kb) and frequently incorporate the entire structure of a gene. When compared to smaller expression-plasmids, which hold up to 10 kb, BACs provide more accurate information on gene expression and protein localization. In order to examine if our genes of interest express in a specific skin layer (periderm or basal), I used a BAC transgene fused to a green fluorescent protein (GFP). I conducted microinjections in two different transgenic zebrafish lines corresponding to specific fluorescent markers for periderm cells or basal cells. The expression of oclnb was observed at two days post fertilization (dpf). In order to localize the protien, I took images of live zebrafish larvae mounted in agarose gel using confocal microscopy. OCLNB protein was observed only in the periderm layer. Currently, BAC transgenes for dsc2, col28, and ARAP1 are being developed. Since BAC transgenes can be used to illustrate the specific protein location in skin cells, they are also great tools for studying the defects that affect skin cell structure and function.
In 2012, President Obama announced he will be taking unilateral action by issuing an Executive Order to help young undocumented individuals who were brought to the US as children receive temporary deportation relief through prosecutorial discretion.

Some hailed the Executive Order as a first step toward legitimizing the 4 million individuals who are in the United States with no formal paperwork but contribute significantly to the country. Others argued against the Order as executive over-step and unconstitutional amnesty for individuals who broke the law and should be deported.

The research focuses on the economic, societal, and political impact of DACA on all levels of government. To aid the research in this study, we utilized two research methods; the logic model and the criterion and alternatives model (CAMS). The logic model identified the problem that DACA was intended to address and evaluated the success of the DACA. The logic model highlighted seven areas for research to aid with the assessment of DACA; resources, activities, outputs, customers, short, intermediate, and long-term outcomes.

The CAMS research model was used to analyze the data on the two alternate policies to DACA; the Dream Act and Amnesty. The CAMS research model was used to analyze and assess each alternative policy based on the following criteria; cost benefit, political feasibility, effectiveness, and equity.

Based on our research models, we recommend amnesty as the best immigration policy. Our recommendations are synthesized by five arguments in support of amnesty for undocumented immigrants.

With the election of Donald Trump, the fate of DACA and other immigration reform is unknown. However, it is important to present information based on facts and research to educate the public on the effects of DACA.
The research aims to examine the attitude and readiness of students preparing for careers in the STEM field.

The data was gathered through a survey consisting of 28 questions. The first four question ask the interviewee for their gender, ethnicity, grade, and major; these first questions function to split the participants so that different social aspects can be incorporated in the study. The rest of questions examine the influences, readiness, and attitude towards careers in the STEM field. The participants are students from California State University Dominguez Hills and Long Beach Community College. Analysis is conducted in R and its graphical packages.

Statistical data of survey results are calculated and visually presented, including means, standard divisions, and correlations to exhibit the significance and relevance of multiple factors impacting students’ readiness for STEM careers. The overall results show that females are more easily adversely influenced about their attitudes towards the STEM field; although, they in general have a more favorable perception of STEM career than male students.

As opportunities in the STEM field rise, it is important to analyze how different our diverse students attempt to partake. The findings from this study offer us some clues on what our education system can do to help students in general, and female students in particular, gain confidence in pursuing a STEM career amid rapid changes in the STEM field as globalization intensifies.

6:40:00 PM - 7:00:00 PM

Natalie Liberman, Jose Franco, CBAPP - Marketing and Management

Google Glass: The Influence of Recording Interviews on Prefrontal Cortex Activation

Faculty Mentor: Thomas Norman, CBAPP - Marketing and Management

The prefrontal cortex of the brain is responsible for executive functioning including decision-making, problem solving, multitasking, attention and focus, and working memory. Although there is little research directly examining oxygenation in the prefrontal cortex during employment interviews, there is research that examines the use of recording devices during employment interviews. The current study closes this gap by examining whether different recording devices influence anxiety levels which can predict impaired executive functioning, and, in turn, predicts poor interview performance. This study tests whether there is a difference between applicants in interviews that are either being recorded by an interviewer wearing google glass (n = 5), recorded with a large video camera (n = 5), or not recorded through video at all (n = 5). The Functional Near Infrared Spectroscopic device (fNIR) is used in this study to enhance understanding of how the use of recording technology such Google Glass may affect applicants’ oxygenation in the prefrontal cortex as well as their use of executive functions during the
task of a mock interview for a job position. fNIR measures the amount of oxygen being delivered to brain tissues using near infrared light, and the amount of nearly visible red light from a low power light beam that is reflected from blood flow. Five questions replicated from sales position interviews with a large retail corporation were asked during the mock interview. Pre-interview state anxiety was measured using the six-item short-form of the state scale of the Spielberger State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI). Post-interview anxiety was measured using the Measure of Anxiety in Selection Interviews (MASI) scale. Data collection from 15 students is complete and currently undergoing preliminary analysis. Final analysis of the data will be completed mid-December. This analysis will determine if different recording devices influence anxiety levels which can predict impaired executive functioning and, in turn, poor interview performance.

7:00:00 PM - 7:20:00 PM
Dhanushka Kumarasinghe, Communication

Come Catch Pokemon at the Celadon City Department Store!: Player Perceptions Toward Businesses Within Pokemon Go Hotspots

Faculty Mentor: Keun Yeong Kim, Communication

This study examined the perceptions of Pokemon Go players toward local area businesses within hotspots for play. Previous marketing practices related to this augmented reality (AR) game focused on consumer mobilization, but did not consider that these players have more in common with enthusiast communities rather than typical consumers. Research on enthusiast communities has shown their motivations for mobilization center around their chosen activity. The goal of this study was to identify the marketing practices that appealed to players and translate this data in order for businesses to effectively market using AR games in the future. These marketing practices are categorized into four groups: businesses that benefit play, businesses that do not benefit play, promotions that benefit play, and promotions that do not benefit play. An online questionnaire was used to test the typical habits, behavioral intentions, and attitudes of Pokemon Go players toward these competing elements. This study investigated whether players associate positive behavioral intentions with businesses and promotions that benefit gameplay. The findings showed that players do associate positive behavioral intentions with businesses and promotions that benefit play and social interaction (e.g. food services or community events). Participants were uninterested in businesses that did not benefit play (e.g. retail stores or entertainment services) and promotions that did not benefit play (e.g. discounts and themed products). The results suggest that AR games are a marketing tool that benefits specific types of businesses and can only be successful when the promotions utilized benefit the gameplay.
Keywords: augmented reality, gameplay marketing, Pokemon Go, proximity marketing, player perceptions

7:20:00 PM - 7:30:00 PM

7:30:00 PM - 7:50:00 PM

Danielle Clack, Business Administration

Targets Failure in Canada

Faculty Mentor: Orie Berezan, Business

This presentation gives voice to the people of Canada about their shopping experience with Target during its time in Canada. Many researchers have evaluated Target’s failure in Canada, but few have done so from the perspective of the consumer. This study will bring the consumer to the table and help provide better understanding as to why Target failed its first time going global.

This paper will look into the viewpoint of the Canadian consumer to answer the main question: Why did Target in Canada fail? By creating a research survey, I will be able to measure the consumer’s expectations and needs and if Target actually met them using the Gap Model, specifically with Gap 1: Knowledge Gap 4: Communication being the main focus and tools used. They apply to my study because these will be the best gaps to use to measure satisfaction. Discussions among researchers and business professionals look into the business perspective of Targets failure. By using the gap model this discussion invites discussion as to what the Canadian consumers were expecting and needing. The results will help not only Target but other companies in the long run to get a better understanding of Canadian consumers and their expectations.

How my methodology will be implemented is by using social media mainly twitter and Facebook, to get in contact with actual Canadian consumers making it a snowball sampling method since everyone was asked to pass the survey on to others. For the results the data is currently still in progress. So far, I have results from 27 participants. This data analysis will be complete by research day.

7:50:00 PM - 8:10:00 PM

Leonel Arana, Business Administration

Elon Musk Bio-Poem

Faculty Mentor: Gary Polk, Department of Management & Marketing
Our assignment asked us to write about a successful business person and encapsulate what they have done throughout their life along with how they run their businesses. We were tasked with evaluating their managerial style, the education they pursued, why we chose them, along with basic information about their life. When presenting our findings to the class we had the choice of whether we wanted to present in the third or first person along with a choice to emulate the mannerisms of our businessperson. When researching our businessperson we were tasked with reading a book related to our person and afterwards we had to contrast the information with what we read in our textbook throughout the semester. Our poem, while only twelve lines long, contains enough information to get a real sense of what this person has gone through in their life and how the habits they developed made them successful. I chose to do my presentation on the tech billionaire, Elon Musk. His research into electric cars, space travel, and even internet banking made me want to learn about how he started. When presenting to the class I chose to do my presentation in a first person format. Along with presenting in first person, I chose to emulate one of his personal habits as well which helped me give a memorable presentation.
Kent Oguma, Computer Science
The Inevitable Relationship between People and Social Sites
Faculty Mentor: Mohsen Beheshti, Computer Science

When people use social media, users need to understand what it means to place personal information on the internet. While this new age of technology is making daily lives easier for people around the world, it is also making cyber thief easier as well. These “Social Engineers” will normally target people on popular social sites as OkCupid a social dating site for lonely people, FaceBook a social page where people post any random information that may be important, and LinkedIn an professional website that has people’s resumes and work related information. I will be using the social engineering attack method of “Baiting” to collect information on these three sites. Baiting is done by creating a fake account that will be easily found, and people will let their guard down to chat with this fake account. Then people unintentionally leak information out to these thieves. I am explaining the possible damage social engineers can do with the information retrieved from people over the web.

Lewis Gray IV, Computer Technology
Phishing
Faculty Mentor: Mohsen Behesti, Computer Science

Phishing is defined as the act of defrauding an online account holder of financial information by posing as a legitimate company. Phishing is the leading cause of credit card fraud and also data leakage inside of companies. However, phishing not only can affect the user’s personal information but those around them. It is the most common form of social engineering and is the most popular. Everything from personal information such as addresses and even little information such as the high school you went to. The most common way phishing happens is through email. Log onto anyone’s Yahoo or Gmail account and sift past the thousands of messages. Almost certainly there will be some type of spam phishing in the inbox. A tech savvy individual can spot a phishing attempt a mile away and simply removes it. But what about the individuals that do click on the link, what happens? What about those individuals makes them susceptible to these types of phishing attempts? This paper will give analysis on what types of phishing attempts are out there. It will also show the demographics of who are mainly targeted by phishing attempts and how these people typically fall for the phishing attempt. This paper also aims to educate those who may not know much about phishing and what they can do to prevent it from occurring in the future.
Mobile Gaming has seen an extreme increase in popularity with the proliferation of smartphones, tablets, and personal computers. Together with the widespread access to faster internet, research data shows that a significant portion of time spent online is dedicated to playing games. As a result, independent game development has also gained attention as a possible career choice for the average creative. With the emergence of new game making tools, individuals and small teams are able to utilize intuitive software to develop commercially viable products. One of these tools is Construct 2, the HTML5 based game editor that uses drag and drop functionality. This software allows users to create complex and engaging two dimensional games with little to no programming experience. Utilizing pre-existing game design techniques and conventions this paper shows how I developed an original RPG/simulation/tower defense game that incorporates procedural generation. Upon completion of a beta I will have the class test the game and give feedback on whether PG enhances the players experience positively or negatively. This paper also covers the publication and monetization process of a mobile game.

Keywords: Construct 2, HTML5, procedural generation, game design, publication
media and other data. Beyond that however, the P2P model offers legitimate uses and advantages over more common server-based methods. A major issue with the use of public Peer-to-Peer networks is that of maintaining one’s privacy. In this paper I describe how P2P networks function, with special attention to the Bittorrent protocol, and the issue of maintaining anonymity.

7:20:00 PM - 7:30:00 PM

7:30:00 PM - 7:50:00 PM

Alexander Ing, Computer Science

Efficient Middlebox Placement in SDN-Enabled Data Centers

Faculty Mentor: Bin Tang, Computer Science

Data centers consist of tens of thousands of server machines that support a large number of Internet services such as social networking, video streaming, and search engines. The increase of devices connecting to the internet and the growth of internet services pose new challenges to these datacenters and the networks that support them. Software Defined Networks (SDN) and Network Function Virtualization in cloud data centers provide unique opportunities to optimize the performance and improve quality of service within these data centers. One such opportunity for improvement is effective middlebox placement within the datacenter’s network. A middlebox, also called network appliance, is a computer networking device that transforms, inspects, filters, or otherwise manipulates traffic for purposes other than packet forwarding. Examples of middlebox includes firewalls, load balancers, intrusion detection/prevention systems. Traditional middlebox hardware is widely deployed in enterprise networks to improve network security and performance. However, deploying middleboxes is currently a hard and complex problem, which involves network operator to manually install them inside networks. This is neither flexible nor efficient, and error-prone. Data center policies require that VM traffic in data centers traverse a sequence of specified middleboxes, for the purposes of security and performance. There are a few studies that address such middlebox placement problem, however, none of them are from an algorithmic angle. In this work, we first formulate this problem formally. We propose two time-efficient heuristic algorithms that can be used to solve the middlebox placement problem, one is Random, the other is Greedy. We show via extensive simulations that Greedy always outperforms Random in different network scenarios. As a future work, we would like to take into consideration of load balancing. That is, the VM communication traffic on different switches and middleboxes should be equally distributed, without overloading any of the particular device.
Since wireless networks are becoming increasingly popular due to the ease and low cost of routers. Most LANs now use wireless technologies. Wireless Networks provide different challenges compared to wired networks, especially for Network IT personal and in securing data transit between the customers and access points. The wireless standard, 802.11b provides possibilities for securing wireless connection and despite the limitations. Mechanisms are provided to maintain and secure the network in a good manner. Wireless communication is the most growing communication because everyone needs to be connected with the device that they carry. In addition, wireless local area networks currently replace or supplement wired networks in many homes, business, and campuses. Wireless Networks enables people to communicate and access computers, files, and peripheral devices. It provides mobile movement and the ability to move around to different parts of the world. Wireless Networks also allow people to connect wireless with mobile devices, laptops, tablets and internet of things from a location that they prefer.

The information content that will be explained in the next passages will pertain to game servers. The passages will dive into many aspects of game server’s. For example, the history of game servers. Another aspect of the investigation will also lead me to explain the process of setting up a personal web server that let certain users access its content. My content will consist of a few things, but the main focus will be the installation and setting up of a web game server. A game server is a program that allow for users to play online video games with each other.
Classifying America through Art

Faculty Mentor: Kristin Ellsworth, Art and Design

At first glance, American colonies did not seem to possess classes in their society. With further research one can definitely see a few societal differences. In the period spanning 1492-1865 there are several works of art that exemplify America’s attempted class structuring. At first, people all seemed to want to emulate recognition like the established English’s society. They also strived to imitate Classical architecture because of its acclaim and reference to a previous great civilization. This then led to acceptance of their new identity as a wholesome country of their own. The “America” class explored and revered their surroundings. With this, we can definitely see America’s class ramifications through the arts.

Lastly, America used its rural state and growing nationalism as a means of categorization. Along with its vastness of nature and Manifest Destiny ideology, this burgeoning society was deciding to differentiate themselves through their government, camaraderie and patriotism. Also, one can definitely see the re-occurrence of landscape and wilderness; Nature forms a unifying platform.

Amelia Soto, Kiana Seva'aetasi
Briana Garcia, Art/Design

No Labels CSUDH

Faculty Mentor: Michele Bury, Art/ Design

NoLabels CSUDH is an awareness campaign created by three students. The group is a mixture of Art/Design students Kiana Seva’aetasi, and Brianna Garcia, and Amelia Soto as a Communications student. We have designed a campaign strategy to raise awareness about the importance of tolerance on campus with a unique voice that is also designed to gain awareness on the topic. Discussed will be the the strategy of using Art/Design and Communications together to promote awareness efforts.

Our Methods have incorporated Art/Design and Communication skills by our efforts in: Social media influence, logo design, advertisements, infographics, GIF advertisements, radio advertisements, deliverables, establishing partnerships on campus, and holding a campus event. The event will took place Nov. 29, 2016, and we plan to produce another event in January. We will be distributing our deliverables which are make to look like the labels the Japanese- American put into internment camps had to wear. We will also purchased a snapchat filter at that time, so that students can show their support
on social media. As a group we have established connections with the campus newspaper, Loker Student union, the Peace Club, and the PSRSSA CSUDH chapter.

6:40:00 PM - 7:00:00 PM
Meredith Gossland, Art and Design
Japanese Family Crests as an Japanese Art History Timeline
Faculty Mentor: Kirsten Ellsworth, Art and Design

Japanese Family Crests are a major component of Japanese art history from 600 CE until today. Can historians use these designs to track the changes and influences in Japanese art history over the centuries? Can crest design be used as a timeline in Japanese art, social, and political histories?

Most history books that focus on Japanese art have completely omitted the family crest as part of the art of Japan; yet Kamon have survived and blossomed from the 6th century and remain in use today throughout the world. Nevertheless, there has been a sharp decline in the number of designers who specialize in this area and the art is in danger of being lost. Today the handful of Japanese designers that remain have been deemed National Living Treasures in Japan and the purpose of this research is to serve as a tool to help the revive this art and to inspire historians and those who write art history textbooks to include this national design technique in their works. Even world renowned artists such as Hiroshige, Hokusai and Utamaro created Kamons during their artistic careers. These crest designs are found on architecture, in paintings, on clothing and other textiles, and are used as logo designs, as well on the ubiquitous Japanese signature seal used for personal legal documents.

The crests show marked changes in symbolism and design over the years, reflecting the influences of Chinese, Korean, and Western design and culture, as they were introduced to the island nation, as well as the cultural transitions within Japanese society. Through these crests one can see the historic transition from individual family crests to corporate logos of today and the transmission of these designs and their influence on the logos of corporations around the world as Japan came into the sphere of global trade.
Living with Crohn’s Disease: A Phenomenology

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Crohn’s disease is a chronic condition that interrupts daily functioning because it negatively affects the lining of the digestive tract. While there is no cure, symptom management and ability to cope with this disease is crucial for people affected by this condition. A qualitative study was conducted to better understand the experiences of people living with Crohn’s disease to investigate personal perspectives on how this disease impacts occupational engagement. Using a phenomenological research design, open-ended semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven adults who have been experiencing symptoms of Crohn’s disease for ten years or more. Through hermeneutic analysis, five themes emerged: (1) interruptions of valued occupations, (2) learning how integrating disease management daily can influence routines and choices, (3) insight into personal limitations and pain tolerance influences social participation, (4) continued need for adaptation, and (5) emergence of mentor role. This substantiates previous literature that discusses the importance of creating therapeutic encounters to arrive at a thorough understanding of perceived supports and barriers. Treatment goals that support individuals living with CD can best promote the incorporation of medical needs into daily routines and participation choices. Such a partnership incorporates the multitude of medical, personal, social, and societal factors that adults with CD internally balance on a daily basis. Through modeling client-centered care to find personalized solutions to daily occupations, occupational therapists become active in fostering role competency that can evolve into assuming mentorship roles with others diagnosed with CD across occupational development stages.

Keywords: Crohn’s disease, qualitative, illness experience, lived experience, daily impact, routines, phenomenology, interviews, chronic

You Show Them Love, They Show You More: Narratives of Animal Shelter Volunteers

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

The motives of long-term animal shelter volunteers, defined as those who have participated for 5 or more years and are 18 years or older, have been underrepresented in research on volunteering. Their
volition, as it impacts their identity, routines, and sense of purpose, warrants further investigation. The purpose of this study is to understand the motivations of long-term animal shelter volunteers. The researchers utilized a qualitative narrative approach that gathers thick, rich descriptions of participants’ experiences to explore common themes. The researchers audio-recorded and transcribed interviews of seven animal shelter volunteers. Researchers analyzed the transcripts independently, then reviewed the data together to establish inter-researcher agreement. Twenty-two categories relating to volunteer motivations were determined and, from these, six themes were identified: (1) time as a facilitator or barrier; (2) escape from life stressors as initial motivation; (3) ability to cope with challenges of the position; (4) nonjudgmental environment; (5) positive emotional effects of helping animals; (6) caretaker as identity. Motivations were found to span personal, social, and environmental domains across the dimensions of past, present, and future time. Practical implications of this study include assisting occupational therapists (OTs) in establishing the just-right fit between clients and the occupational domains of volunteer exploration and participation. OTs can apply these findings to assist in treating the psychosocial needs of clients who may benefit from volunteering with animals.

6:40:00 PM - 7:00:00 PM
Stephanie Evangelist, Meredith Brockriede
Michelle Branchini
Kalvin Alpizar, Occupational Therapy

Occupational Therapist Experience: Addressing Sexuality with Persons with Spinal Cord Injury
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Background. Spinal cord injury is a life-changing diagnosis that may alter an individual’s sexual functioning and sexuality. Addressing sexuality is becoming increasingly important for occupational therapists, as it plays an important role in a person’s health and well-being. Currently, the occupational therapist’s perspective in addressing this topic is not widely represented in the literature. The purpose of this phenomenological study is to understand the lived experience of occupational therapists in addressing sexuality for persons with spinal cord injury. Methods. A transcendental phenomenological approach was used to represent the lived experience of occupational therapists in addressing this issue. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with nine occupational therapists with a minimum of one year experience. Results. The research demonstrates that factors that influence the occupational therapist experience in addressing sexuality include therapist and client attributes (e.g. culture, age, sex, comfort level), workplace characteristics (e.g. staff support, facility policies, education), and client priorities. Conclusions. Given that the perspective of occupational therapists has not been addressed in the current body of literature, this study aims to develop a deeper understanding of sexual functioning and sexuality education and interventions with spinal cord injured clients. This study provides supportive evidence of factors that contribute to healthcare professionals’ knowledge of the issues surrounding sexuality with persons with spinal cord injury. Findings from this study may enhance the ease of occupational
therapists, physical therapists, and other healthcare professionals in working with spinal cord injured clients. Further research on this topic could increase the quality of therapy received by persons with spinal cord injury.

7:00:00 PM - 7:20:00 PM

7:20:00 PM - 7:30:00 PM
Coffee Break

7:30:00 PM - 7:50:00 PM
Shannon Moy, Ling Li
Woo (Abe), Kim, Occupational Therapy
"Managing her pain is a little bit of a guesstimate": Caregiver experience managing pain in a child with Rett syndrome - A phenomenological study
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Issue statement: Existing literature on Rett syndrome primarily focuses on biomedical considerations and biological causes or genetic research surrounding Rett syndrome. However, few studies look at the lived experience of the primary caregivers.

Purpose: To investigate how the responsibility of managing pain in a child with Rett syndrome affects the primary caregiver.

Approach and Method: A qualitative transcendental phenomenological approach was selected to investigate the experience of navigating and balancing the concerns and variables present when caring for a child with Rett syndrome. Seven participants were asked to describe how the phenomena of managing pain for their child has affected their lives. Semi-structured interview questions were used to elucidate the lived experience of participants during informal interviews.

Discussion: Our data alludes to facial expression and vocalizations as indicators of pain. The interviewed parents were confident that they could detect pain from indirect cues from their children. Use of medication was prevalent in the interview data, though parents expressed reservations about over-medicating their children. The interviews revealed a predilection for relying on other parents of children with Rett syndrome for information. Discussion about help from medical professionals was not
prevalent. In fact, caregivers felt their care was superior to that of medical professionals because of their connection with their children.

Future Research: Questions for future research include the effect of a Rett syndrome diagnosis on marriage relationships, the relationship between a Rett syndrome diagnosis and finances, and the relationship between children with Rett syndrome, their parents and healthcare professionals.

Conclusions: This research provides insight into the lives of the parents of children with Rett syndrome, and a better understanding of the problems they face in managing their child’s pain.

7:50:00 PM - 8:10:00 PM
Serli Nazarian, Carey Maust
Elaine Medina, Occupational Therapy
"My Dog Saved My Life": Dog-Veteran Companionship
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy
Veterans have long been one of the most underserved populations in the U.S., yet the number of veterans who return home with a disability incurred during their military service continues to rise. The addition of a companion dog in a veteran’s life can aid in his or her adjustment to daily activities and demands. The purpose of this study is to investigate how dog companionship impacts veterans’ social and emotional well-being. The study discusses the lived experiences of veterans and their interactions with a companion dog. Data was collected using semi-structured interviews with ten participants who were recruited through convenience sampling. Interviews were transcribed, reduced, and analyzed using the phenomenological research method developed by Moustakas (1994). Data analysis included the following steps: bracketing, horizontalization, and creation of clusters of meaning; concluding in the development of the essential structure of the phenomenon. The uniqueness of this study is veterans’ descriptions of the impact of companion dogs on their lives and ability to function. The results illuminated two themes: (1) the impact of having on dog on social participation and (2) the emotional support a companion dog offers to participants on return home from military service. These findings reinforce previous findings that the addition of a companion dog provides significant social and emotional support to veterans following their military service and has highlighted the importance of finding alternative therapeutic options that will alleviate the stressful transition from military service to civilian life. Findings may impact public policy and help local communities develop stronger animal-assisted programs to assist with veterans’ reintegration into society. Further research may help occupational therapists and other health care providers better understand the value of utilizing dogs as a therapeutic intervention.
Occupational Therapists’ Experiences of Grief with Client Death: A Phenomenological Study

Occupational therapists (OTs) routinely encounter client death yet little research exists on how they manage associated grief. The purpose of this qualitative transcendental phenomenology is to describe the OTs' experiences of bereavement surrounding client death. Data was collected using semi-structured interviews from seven OTs with a minimum of five years of experience and who lost at least one client due to death. The transcribed interviews were analyzed using the following steps: The investigators bracketed their presuppositions on the topic, participant data was reduced to significant statements, duplicate statements were eliminated and then clustered thematically, and finally the essential structures of the phenomenon were depicted and then synthesized to describe the common essence of the experience of grief due to client death. The uniqueness of this study's findings indicate the emergence of five themes: (1) The OTs’ personal beliefs and perspectives affected their experience of losing a client. (2) The OTs’ personal characteristics influenced their response to client death. (3) The OTs utilized various strategies to honor and remember the deceased. (4) Anticipation of a client’s death allowed for mental preparation for their forthcoming grief. (5) The unique nature of occupational therapy lends itself to building relationships with clients which affects the experience of grief. Implications of this study suggest a need for improved education in OT programs to prepare new graduates for dealing with grief regarding the death of a client. An area for future research could focus on perceptions from male therapists or of new graduates, as this study only included females’ perspectives.

“Hard, but Worth It”: The Lived Experience of Foster Parents Caring for Children with Prenatal Substance Exposure

PROBLEM. Each year, approximately 10 percent of all infants are exposed to substances prenatally (Young et al., 2009). These children are often removed from their homes and placed in foster care. Although there is an abundance of literature published addressing the effects of prenatal substance exposure on the child, there is little research describing the perspective of the foster parent. In the occupational therapy literature, the research on this topic was not found.
PURPOSE. The purpose of this study is to address this gap in the literature by examining the lived occupational experience of foster parents caring for children with prenatal substance exposure.

METHOD. To examine this experience, a phenomenological approach was selected. This method provides a collective essence of the experience of a phenomenon through reduction of individual descriptions of a lived experience. Data was collected from seven participants through two semi-structured interviews. All interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim and significant statements, clusters of meaning and overall themes were then extracted from the interviews culminating in an exhaustive description of this phenomenon.

RESULTS. A thematic analysis was conducted, and several themes emerged from the data that captured the experience of parenting a foster child. Foster parents described how parenting impacted many relationships, how coping with difficult emotions was challenging, and how restructuring of their daily routine was essential. However, despite all the challenges, the foster parents concluded that the experience was “hard, but worth it.”

CONCLUSION. This study contributes to closing the gap in the occupational therapy literature and provides a deeper understanding of the shared experience of caregivers of children prenatally exposed to substances.
Luis Candelario, Earth Science (Geography)

Vernacular Architecture

Faculty Mentor: Ralph Saunders, Earth Science

My research is on the symbiotic relationship between environment, architecture and culture. It is based on research I conducted in Chiapas, Mexico, in June of 2016. I focus on one house in Chiapas, in evaluating vernacular architecture and how newer government implemented construction affects the placement and design of the kitchen, a major part of the local culture. I will conclude by reflecting on a Chiapaneco living here in Southern California, and what cultural practices he brought back and how he implemented them in his home.

Ivett Gabriella, Psychology

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND ALCOHOL USE AMONG OLDER COLLEGE STUDENTS

Faculty Mentor: Carl Sneed, Psychology

Physical activity and exercise may be risk factors for problematic alcohol use. Many studies have found that physical activity was associated with increased alcohol use, which may be due to the confounding variables of sensation seeking, or increased opportunities for socialization through sports involvement. However, recent findings suggest that this relationship may be moderated by age. Most studies examining the association between physical activity and alcohol use have been conducted among college students between the ages of 18 to 24 years. Fewer studies have investigated this connection in an older sample. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between physical activity and alcohol use in a sample of older college students. We hypothesized that physical activity would be positively correlated with frequency of alcohol use, amounts of alcohol consumed per occasion, and frequency of binge drinking. College students were recruited through convenience sampling to fill out a survey online. A total of 177 of the students were between the ages of 21-62 years. The data was split into males (n=45) and females (n=131). Partial correlations statistical analysis was employed controlling for age to assess the results. Results showed that physical activity was significantly positively correlated with frequency of alcohol use, number of drinks consumed per occasion and binge drinking for females, but significantly negatively correlated with binge drinking for males. Frequency of alcohol use and number of drinks consumed per occasion was not significantly correlated to physical activity for males. These results suggest that physical activity and alcohol use may be associated with different sensation-seeking patterns for males and females. Moreover, females may view engagement in sports as a chance for socialization thus more opportunities for
drinking. Exercise centered prevention programs for alcohol use may be suitable for men, but not for women.

9:40:00 AM - 10:00:00 AM

Lilian Azer, Psychology

Smoking Mediates High Blood Pressure and Cognitive Decline

Faculty Mentor: Karen Wilson, Psychology

480,000 deaths occur annually in the United States due to cigarette smoking and 16 million individuals are currently suffering from tobacco-induced diseases (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2015; CDC, 2016). The CDC (2016) reports that cigarette smoking has been linked to cardiovascular disorders, emphysema, stroke and COPD. Televised and educational antismoking campaigns primarily emphasize the physiological harm of smoking. However, the neurocognitive effects are infrequently brought to the attention of the public. The use of tobacco may lead to a reduction in cerebral blood flow, which in turn reduces the amount of oxygen delivered to the brain and thus resulting in cognitive impairment (Cha, Patel, Hains & Mahan, 2011; Kubota et al., 1983; Moss & Scholey, 1996). Whalley et al. (2005) found that individuals who reported smoking tobacco performed lower on cognitive assessments. The current study investigated the relationship between blood pressure and cognitive functioning in smokers and non-smokers. Participants included 64 residents (57.8% female) of the greater Los Angeles area over the age of 18-years-old (mean= 26.92, SD = 6.892). Participants were solicited from the California State University, Dominguez Hills campus and nearby vicinities via the use of flyers containing information regarding the study. A cross-sectional survey design was used along with neuropsychological testing to examine the relationship between variables. Results revealed that when compared to non-smokers, smokers scored significantly lower on the Number-Letter Sequencing working memory subtest. In addition, individuals who have reported to smoking demonstrated higher blood pressure than non-smokers. Future studies should investigate the association between the number of years an individual has been smoking and its effect on working memory and cardiovascular risk factors. This should be studied in conjunction with the relationship between chronic smoking and depressive symptoms, as symptoms of depression are correlated with a decrease in working memory capacity.

10:00:00 AM - 10:20:00 AM

Lilian Azer, Psychology

Tobacco Use Mediates Social Economic Status and Cognitive Decline

Faculty Mentor: Karen Wilson, Psychology

Among diseases acquired by tobacco use, smokers have a decrease in educational attainment and an increased prevalence of poverty (CDC, 2016). Advertisements and educational programs
report on the physiological harms smoking can cause; however, economical and cognitive
dysfunction are seldom discussed in association with tobacco use. The use of tobacco may lead
to a reduction in cerebral blood flow, which in turn reduces the amount of oxygen delivered to
the brain and thus resulting in cognitive impairment (Kubota et al., 1983; Moss & Scholey,
1996). According to Whalley et al. (2005), smokers performed lower on cognitive assessments
than non-smokers. Additionally, Lindstorm (2010) found that a higher prevalence of daily
smoking was associated with lower social economic status. Therefore, lower educational
attainment and social economic status was associated with poorer cognitive functioning (Osler,
Avlund & Mortensen, 2013). The current study investigated the relationship between social
economic status and cognitive functioning in smokers and non-smokers using a sample obtained
from the Los Angeles area. A cross-sectional survey design was used along with
neuropsychological testing to examine the relationship between variables. There was a
significant difference in income and cognitive functioning for smokers when compared to non-
smokers. Smokers scored significantly lower than non-smokers on cognitive assessments of
working memory. In addition, smokers on average reported a lower annual household income
than non-smokers. Future studies should investigate the association between cognitive
functioning as a result of blood pressure and heart rate and social economic status in smokers
versus non-smokers. A limitation to this study is that 83.3% of smokers reported to smoking
more than 20 grams of tobacco a week as opposed to 16.7% who smoke less than 20 grams a
week. A wider variation in the amount of tobacco individuals smoke should be used in future
studies.

10:20:00 AM - 10:30:00 AM
Coffee Break

10:30:00 AM - 10:50:00 AM
Melissa Tolosa, Sociology
Spatial Struggles of Latino Street Vendors in Los Angeles County
Faculty Mentor: Katy Pinto, Sociology

In the United States, immigration is seen as an epidemic. The fear and hatred towards numerous
groups affects the living situation of these individuals. This study focuses on undocumented
Latino street vendors and the struggles they face while trying to find a safe space to sell their
product. The safety measures for the street vendors can be seen as a concern, especially when
dealing with local law enforcement and the community. This research will connect to the
criminalization of the working poor and undocumented immigrants. Criminalization affects the
way in which they make a living by using regulated/privatized spaces in an informal economy.
The study was conducted over the 2016 summer/fall months in the greater Los Angeles county area. Methodologically, the study will use an ethnographic approach to gather data. I will use in-depth and street based-interviews, as well as participant observation, to gather significant data for the study. This study extends on previous literature on an informal economy on other street vendors. The study also explores some of the gender differences in this informal economy and how this might affect the spaces that are attainable for each individual.

10:50:00 AM - 11:10:00 AM

Carla Redmon, Aimee Fabila
Nicole Trejo, Psychology
The Good Social Life: How Social Support and Gratitude Support Mental Health in Teens
Faculty Mentor: Giacomo Bono, Psychology

Character strengths research indicates that gratitude and optimism are positive traits that are linked to better adult mental health. Some of the most important character strengths for promoting life satisfaction and quality of life among youth are gratitude, optimism, persistence and self-regulation (Gillham et al., 2011). Furthermore, other-directed strengths, like gratitude, have been found to predict fewer symptoms of depression in children. Gratitude also appears to be important because it positively impacts children’s social skills, health habits, mental health and happiness (Froh & Bono, 2014). One reason may be because gratitude helps reinforce social support. Indeed, researchers have found that support from family can contribute to improved psychological adjustment and development in children (Lamis, Wilson, King & Kaslow, 2014). Gillham et al. (2011) also found that social support partially mediated the relationship between other-directed strengths and depression.

The aim of this study is to examine the associations between adolescents’ social support, gratitude and mental health. In particular, this study will examine the correlations of gratitude with these variables and whether gratitude mediates any associations between social support and anxiety and depression in a large sample of in-school youth (grades 7-12). Preliminary analyses with a smaller subset of 8th graders (n = 63) found that trait gratitude was negatively correlated with depression, $r = -.51$, and anxiety, $r = -.30$, $ps < .02$, and positively and more strongly correlated with social support from family, $r = .78$, and from friends, $r = .66$, $ps < .001$, providing initial support for our hypotheses. The current study will examine these associations in a larger, more diverse sample of adolescents (approx. $n = 250$) and test whether gratitude helps explain social support’s links to depression and anxiety. Implications for theory and understanding gratitude’s role in positive mental health will be discussed as well.
Esmeralda Cabrera, Sociology
Latino Paternal Alcohol Effects on College Students
Faculty Mentor: Matt G. Mutchler, Sociology

Latinos/Hispanics are the largest and fastest growing ethnic group in the United States making up approximately 17 percent (50 million people) of the total U.S. population. Furthermore, Latino men have been reported to drink more frequently, have heavier intake, and experience more alcohol problems when compared to both Caucasian/Anglo populations and African Americans. In many studies, the key focus on parental and alcohol use is mainly the influence they have on their children; however, limited studies have examined intergenerational effects of paternal alcohol use on their children. The proposed qualitative exploratory study seeks to explore how Latino/Hispanic college students’ alcohol use is shaped by the effects of their fathers’ alcohol misuse. Sixteen Latino/college students were targeted for semi-structured interviews. Interviews focused on perception of their paternal father’s alcohol misuse, alcohol norms and current alcohol use by both father and participant, followed by a complementary survey to collect basic demographic items and alcohol use items. Preliminary findings show three strong themes: Alcohol use is socially acceptable, children of Latino fathers choose not to drink excessively due to witnessing fathers’ alcohol use, and the presence of alcohol abuse and verbal abuse. All participants agreed that alcohol is socially acceptable; however, Even though alcohol is socially acceptable to the participants, they expressed caution on their own alcohol intake because of what they witnessed by their father. The most prevalent theme was the relationship between alcohol abuse and verbal abuse. In almost all cases of fathers’ alcohol abuse, there was verbal abuse. It is important to continue researching the effects of paternal alcohol on their children.

Joshua Lozano, Psychology
Investigating the Long-Term Memory Benefits of Cued Recall vs. Recognition Tests
Faculty Mentor: Larry Rosen, Psychology

A large body of research has demonstrated the testing effect: being tested on information enhances memory for that information relative to re-study. This suggests that tests should be frequently implemented in classrooms - not just as an assessment tool, but also to improve learning. However, little research has directly compared whether cued recall or recognition tests are more beneficial. We hypothesized that recognition tests will enhance learning relative to re-study (i.e., a testing effect), but that cued recall tests will enhance learning the most (i.e., a larger testing effect). To test this hypothesis, we used a two-session, within-subject experimental design. Session 1 began with subjects studying a list of 54 weakly associated word pairs. Three
counterbalanced conditions followed: (1) re-study 18 word pairs (view pairs again), (2) a recognition test for 18 word pairs (determine whether a given word pair was previously studied), and (3) a cued recall test for 18 word pairs (given one word of a pair, type the missing word). After 24 hours, subjects’ long-term memories for all word pairs were assessed via a cued recall test in Session 2. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and post-hoc t-tests were performed on the results. Planned follow-up Bonferroni-corrected t-tests revealed that performance in the cued recall condition (mean proportion correct = 0.48, SD = 0.27) was substantially better than re-study (mean proportion correct = 0.33, SD = 0.26), $t(45) = 5.80, p < .0001$, and also substantially better than recognition (mean proportion correct = 0.38, SD = 0.27), $t(45) = 5.93, p < .0001$. There was also indication of a more modest advantage of recognition testing over re-study, $t(45) = 2.41, p = 0.02$. Our results support the hypothesis that cued recall produces more learning than recognition, which is also consistent with productive retrieval-based accounts of the testing effect.
Behavioral and Social Sciences III  
Ballroom B

Thursday Morning

9:00:00 AM - 9:20:00 AM

Jonathan Pedroza, Psychology

The Effects of Media and Technology Use on Psychological Well-Being Independent of Health Habits.

Faculty Mentor: Larry Rosen, Psychology

While media and technology use has been studied sufficiently when it comes to the effects on physical health, there’s lacking research on psychological health. Technologies such as TV viewing have been shown to be detrimental to not only physical health but psychological health as well, primarily due to television viewers’ sedentary (couch potato) behaviors. The current study examines the impact of technology use and health habits on psychological well-being (depression, anxiety, stress). To assess daily media and technology use, the Media and Technology Usage and Attitudes Scale was used. To assess levels of physical activity, the Concise Physical Activity Scale was used. A factor analysis identified as unhealthy eating factor from the Food Frequency Questionnaire which was used to predict psychological well-being. Depression, anxiety, and stress were examined from the DASS-21. Participants (N = 409) were recruited through upper-division courses at California State University, Dominguez Hills. In order to determine if technology use, unhealthy eating, and physical activity predicted depression, anxiety, and stress, a path model was constructed where the first level (media and technology use) and the second level (physical activity and unhealthy eating) were hypothesized to predict psychological well-being. Results indicated that unhealthy eating habits were predictive of psychological well-being as well as lower levels of stress. Physical activity was not predictive of any of the constructs of psychological well-being. Lastly, after factoring out the influence from the health habits, specific forms of media and technology use were predictive of depression, anxiety, and stress. Overall Internet searching was predictive of all the constructs of psychological well-being. Smartphone use and social media use were also predictive of higher levels of stress. It seems that being attached to one’s smartphone as well as what they do with their devices may be a factor in lower levels of psychological well-being.

9:20:00 AM - 9:40:00 AM

Amanda Hawk-McFadzen, Sociology

Food Access and its Impact on Healthy Eating in California

Faculty Mentor: Kelin Li, Sociology

Food access is a complex field, as barriers to healthy food can vary greatly by community. One aspect that is well-studied, yet important to monitor is food access’ effects on dietary habits. Previous literature shows that food access is worse in low-income, urban areas with non-white populations, and so are health outcomes.
We were curious if convenient access to fresh produce affects the healthfulness of one’s diet. For the purpose of this study, we define food access as availability and affordability of fresh fruits and vegetables. California is ideal for our research given its diversity and patterns of racial segregation. To research, we analyzed population-based 2014 California Health Interview Survey data with a large sample size of 19,516. We first conducted a set of bivariate analyses to discover disparities in food access by race. We then examined the correlations between food availability/affordability and the healthy habit indicator of fast food consumption.

Our results showed that racial disparities in food access persisted in California in 2014. Our cross-tabulation showed that whites had better food availability and affordability compared to Latinx and Blacks (p<0.001). We also discovered a correlation between increased availability of affordable produce and reduced fast food consumption. The cross-tabulation showed that those who reported always finding affordable produce consumed significantly less fast food (p<0.001).

One limitation of the study is its self-reported data; respondents may have been inclined toward social desirability. Also, geographic locations are not specified. However, this research documents fresh, strong evidence pointing to the fact that food access remains better in white communities, and may result in better health for those Californians. The reasons may include time constraints and transportation and are worth investigating. We will address the implications of our findings for further research.

9:40:00 AM - 10:00:00 AM

Gabriela Peraza, Alejandro Armenta, Human Services

Culturally Sensitive Mental Health Care for Vietnamese Older Adults: A Qualitative Study of Mental Health Providers' Perspective

Faculty Mentor: Hannah Nguyen, Human Services

Background: The burden of mental illness is pronounced among Vietnamese American older adults who had first-hand experience with war trauma, forced migration, and adjustment to life in the United States. As such, the ethnic-specific workforce holds a critical role in providing culturally relevant care to older, monolingual, and low-income older Vietnamese who otherwise would have difficulties navigating mainstream mental health services. Yet, limited research has sought to examine the effectiveness of services provided by bilingual and bicultural providers. The purpose of this study was to understand how providers deliver culturally responsive mental health care to Vietnamese older adults to effectively respond to the needs of this aging population.

Methods: This study followed a qualitative research design using in-depth interviews with 20 Vietnamese American providers, ranging in age from 27 to 67 years, and are mostly female
Interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim (averaging 66 minutes per interview). Data were coded by a team of three coders using thematic coding.

Results: Findings focused on two themes: 1) persisting physical, psychological and social needs of Vietnamese older adults, and 2) providers’ perspectives on culturally responsive mental health care for this population. Participants highlighted the needs of older Vietnamese Americans in several areas: chronic health and mental health problems, isolation and loneliness, lack of financial support, and marginalization due to language and cultural barriers. Participants further identified key aspects of culturally responsive care in two categories: general factors (listening with compassion, showing respect and nonjudgmental attitudes, understanding participants’ pre- and post-migration contexts, meeting the clients where they are), and culturally-specific factors (Vietnamese language proficiency and culturally-appropriate communication).

Conclusions: Findings could contribute to improving the training of future mental health workforce serving Vietnamese older adults, and ethnic minority older adults more generally, that takes into account the sociocultural contexts of their mental health needs.

10:00:00 AM - 10:20:00 AM

Jose Franco, Psychology

Prevalence of Depression: Associated with Usage Patterns of Technology and Social Media among Latinos

Faculty Mentor: L. Mark Carrier, Psychology

Depression is a devastating disorder affecting 350 million people worldwide (WHO, 2010). According to the National Institute of Mental Health, in 2015, 16.1 million adults experienced at least one major depressive episode throughout their lifetime. This number represents 6.7% of all U.S. adults. Prevalence of symptoms of depression has been associated with the amount of technology and social media individuals use. Acculturation has also been associated with higher symptoms of depression in the Latino community. In the present study, the association between technology/social media usage, acculturation, and depression was investigated. Hypothesizing that the more acculturated the person is, the more technology/social media they will use and therefore they would have greater symptoms of depression. The measures used in the study were the Media and Technology Usage and Attitude Scale (MTUAS) to measure technology, and social media usage, Beck Depression Inventory-Version 2 (BDI-II) was used to measure symptoms of depression, and the Short Acculturation Scale (SAC) to measure levels of acculturation. Through convenience sampling, 199 California State University, Dominguez Hills undergraduate college students were sampled. The self-report survey was delivered to the student through the school’s Blackboard account; students were compensated extra credit by their professor to participate in the study. Usage patterns of technology and social media were created through a factor analysis conducted on the eleven subscales of the MTUAS. The three top usage
patterns were (1) Phone-based Communication, (2) Gaming/TV Fun, and (3) Social Media. Hierarchal multiple regression analyses were conducted to test each of the three usage patterns while controlling for SES, age, gender, and class standing. Results did not support the hypothesis, but a significant interaction between social media usage pattern and depression was found. Further analysis is being conducted to test other predicting variables like generation, age groups, and gender.

10:20:00 AM - 10:30:00 AM
Coffee Break

10:30:00 AM - 10:50:00 AM
Alejandra Regla Vargas, Chicana and Chicano Studies
Amigas Chingonas: Friendships and school integration for undocumented immigrant Latina college students
Faculty Mentor: Corina Benavides Lopez, Chicana and Chicano Studies

Undocumented immigrant college students face numerous challenges throughout their transition to college (Soria & Stebleton, 2013; Pérez, Cortés, Ramos, & Coronado (2010), thus hindering their school integration. Previous deficit-based studies have found that familial obligations, lack of academic preparation, financial constraints, and fear of family separation contribute to this hindrance. Using Yosso’s (2005) Community Cultural Wealth framework, this project seeks to determine the effect female friends have on the school integration of undocumented Latina college students. Additionally, this project seeks to illuminate the strengths female friendships have on the collegiate experiences of undocumented Latinas. This research study is based on five semi-structured interviews of undocumented immigrant Latina college students at an institution located in Southern California. Based on the findings, undocumented immigrant students reported that their female friends empowered and validated them, made them feel normal, given their legal status, and ultimately motivated them to pursue goals that they felt were above their reach. Using Community Cultural Wealth, can help policymakers and educators discard of any assumptions that depict undocumented students as “the problem” (Rendon, Nora, & Kanagala, 2014). Instead, administration and faculty members should work in conjunction with undocumented students to create services that accurately reflect the needs of undocumented students.
Jonathan Pedroza, Psychology

Pokémon GO and Meet People. Examination of Technology's Effect on Physical Activity and Social Connectedness.

Faculty Mentor: Larry Rosen, Psychology

Pokémon GO is a new augmented reality game that uses a smartphone to immerse an individual in the Pokémon world. While studies have shown that technology overuse such as watching TV or using a computer is associated with a more sedentary lifestyle there is also research utilizing technology as an intervention to help reduce sedentary behaviors. Technology may also provide a social benefit. Research on Facebook social connectedness has found that it may act as a medium to maintain relationships and provide an alternative form of meeting new people. Pokémon GO may provide similar benefits. The current study examines the relationship between playing Pokémon GO and levels of physical activity as well as social connectedness. Participants (N = 415) were recruited through several social media outlets as well as word of mouth. Technology use was assessed through subscales of the Media and Technology Usage and Attitudes Scale. Physical activity was evaluated using the Concise Physical Activity Scale and the Cognitive Behavioral Physical Activity Questionnaire querying activity before and after downloading and playing Pokémon GO. The Facebook Social Connectedness Scale was adapted to pertain to those playing Pokémon GO. Results indicated that hours of Pokémon GO daily played was predictive of better social connectedness. In addition, daily hours and weekly days of playing Pokémon GO were predictive of higher levels of physical activity. These results suggest that augmented reality games may be a viable option to increase physical activity and social connectedness.

Ian Klinger, Sociology

Completing the master’s degree: the effect of student satisfaction with advisors on time to degree (TTD)

Faculty Mentor: Katy Pinto, Sociology

Over the past 30 years, the growth in the percentage of master’s degrees conferred has outpaced the growth of the corresponding figures for both bachelor’s and Ph.D. degrees in the United States; however, research during this period has focused mainly on the factors influencing degree attainment for bachelor and doctoral students. This study uses data on former master’s students from a predominately undergraduate institution to examine factors which influence timely master’s degree attainment. We created an exit survey based on the Graduate Council survey and administered it through SurveyMonkey to a stratified randomized sample of the most recent graduates in the 2014-2015 academic year (n=175). The survey consisted of items including individual characteristics (e.g. race, gender, and age), satisfaction with one’s advisor, and time to degree. We asked, what is the relationship between satisfaction with one’s advisor and time to
degree? Using regression analysis, we found that neither individual characteristics nor satisfaction with one’s advisor was predictive of time to degree for our sample. These findings suggest that advisors for master’s level students are not as influential in influencing the rate of degree completion as they are for Ph.D. students.

11:30:00 AM - 11:50:00 AM

Venita Polonio, Georgiana Garrels, Psychology

Thriving or Merely Surviving?

Faculty Mentor: Steven Frieze, Psychology

Thriving is a vital construct that is seldom applied to student populations. Thriving can act as an adaptive function by providing internal cues for students which can help them assess progress and lead to increased health and career performance and satisfaction. Research has investigated many issues concerned with well-being and flourishing but limited studies have looked at what constitutes a fully developed and thriving student. It is known that students confront an overwhelming amount of obstacles and stress during the time they are enrolled in universities. There are additional factors that substantially impact on the student’s ability to function and this research is intended to explore constructs such as hope, positive thinking, and gratitude and how they impact on a student’s ability to thrive. Thriving promotes the ability to flourish and should be considered a multidimensional conceptual measure comprised of multiple individually valued domains like Seligman’s well-being theory, PERMA (Forgeard et al., 2011; Huppert & So, 2013; Seligman & Csikzentmihalyi, 2010; Seligman, 2011). A comprehensive thriving survey will be administered that is intended to investigate how this construct impacts on other dimensions of a student’s experience (Myers & Sweeney, 2008).

The following research questions are proposed with respect to those factors that play a role or impact student thriving and stress:

To what extent do individuals thrive in academic environments?

How much does thriving contribute to the growth and success of college level students?

How does a thriving student differ from those who just survive?

How do they translate these stressors into positive outcomes? Can an individual’s perception of their own stress shape their impression success and well-being and what level of intervention is necessary to achieve a so-called thriving state?

Does stress inhibit the ability to thrive? If it does, is it inevitable that toxicity will result?
The objective of this television public service announcement is to increase awareness of how ethnic stereotypes can color our perception of people before we even get to know them. Co-producers, Bryan Bostic and Johnny Gonzalez, took this project through the entire production cycle: research on the topic, pre-production (script writing, auditioning actors and narrators, location scouting, storyboarding, and creating shot lists) to production (crew assignments, lighting, art direction, camera, audio, and directing the actors) and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, sound design with ADR, foley and walla-walla, and recording original music) with the goal of showing how prejudice affects our perception of people.

The objective of this television documentary is to increase awareness of the dangers and equipment involved in taking surf photographs while in the water. Co-producers, Johnny Gonzalez, Cynthia Gutierrez, and Jonathan Domingo, took this project through the entire production cycle: research on the topic, pre-production (script writing, arranging for interviews with experts, location scouting, storyboarding, and creating shot lists) to production (crew assignments, lighting, art direction, camera, audio, and directing the interviewees and the narrator), and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, sound design, and recording original music) with the goal of showing how water surf photography is completely different from taking surf photos from the shore.

“Texting & Driving”
The objective of this television public service announcement is to show how a passenger should handle a driver who is texting while driving. Co-producers, Nicholas Thompson and Uriel Murillo, took this project through the entire production cycle: research on the topic, pre-production (script writing, auditioning actors and narrators, location scouting, storyboarding, and creating shot lists) to production (crew assignments, lighting, art direction, camera, audio, and directing the actors) and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, sound design with ADR, foley and walla-walla, and recording original music) with the goal of showing how a passenger should handle a driver who is texting while driving.

10:00:00 AM - 10:20:00 AM
Nicholas Thompson, Joseph Garcia
Bryan Bostic, Digital Media Arts
“Battle Foam: The Art of Larping”
Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts

The objective of this television documentary is to increase awareness of the new phenomenon of Live Action Role Playing or Larping. Co-producers, Bryan Bostic, Joseph Garcia, and Nicholas Thompson, took this project through the entire production cycle: research on the topic, pre-production (script writing, arranging for interviews with experts, location scouting, storyboarding, and creating shot lists) to production (crew assignments, lighting, art direction, camera, audio, and directing the interviewees and the narrator), and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, sound design, and recording original music) with the goal of showcasing the art of larping along with its weapons, costumes, and colorful characters.

10:20:00 AM - 10:30:00 AM
Coffee Break

10:30:00 AM - 10:50:00 AM
Joseph Garcia, Abdulla Alsuwaidi, Digital Media Arts
Suicide Prevention
Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts
The objective of this television public service announcement is to increase awareness of the negative effect that suicide can have on the family and friends that are left behind to deal with the tragedy. Co-producers, Joseph Garcia and Abdulla Al-Suwaidi, took this project through the entire production cycle: research on the topic, pre-production (script writing, auditioning actors and narrators, location scouting, storyboarding, and creating shot lists) to production (crew assignments, lighting, art direction, camera, audio, and directing the actors) and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, sound design with ADR, foley and walla-walla, and recording original music) with the goal of showing that suicide can leave unforeseen victims in its aftermath.

10:50:00 AM - 11:10:00 AM
Ruben Bautista, Karina Illescas
Abdulla Al-Suwaidi, Digital Media Arts
The Queens
Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts

The objective of this television documentary is to showcase the rising phenomenon and art of drag queen performances. Co-producers, Abdulla Al-Suwaidi, Ruben Bautista, and Karina Illescas, took this project through the entire production cycle: research on the topic, pre-production (script writing, arranging for interviews with experts, location scouting, storyboarding, and creating shot lists) to production (crew assignments, lighting, art direction, camera, audio, and directing the interviewees and the narrator), and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, sound design, and recording original music) with the goal of showcasing the performers, costumes, make-up, and art of drag queen shows in today’s entertainment venues.

11:10:00 AM - 11:30:00 AM
Ruben Bautista, Jonathan Domingo, Digital Media Arts
Just Like Mommy PSA
Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts
The objective of this television public service announcement is to increase awareness of the negative effect spousal abuse can have on children. Co-producers, Ruben Bautista and Jon Domingo, took this project through the entire production cycle: research on the topic, pre-production (script writing, auditioning actors and narrators, location scouting, storyboarding, and creating shot lists) to production
(crew assignments, lighting, art direction, camera, audio, and directing the actors) and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, sound design with ADR, foley and walla-walla, and recording original music) with the goal of showing how spousal abuse can have unforeseen consequences on children.

11:30:00 AM - 11:50:00 AM
Omar Solorio, art and design

Jeff Koons and Postmodernism
Faculty Mentor: Kirstin Ellsworth, art and design

In this research paper, I will analyze the work of Jeff Koons at the Broad museum to explain how he is a product of Post-Modernism. The works that I will be analyzing are Michael Jackson and Bubbles (1988) and Balloon Dog (blue) (1994-2000). In this paper, I intend to use Fredric Jameson’s concepts on Post-Modernism and Jean Baudrillard’s idea of hyperreality to see if Jeff Koons’s work can be categorized as Post-Modern. Also, I will use Karl Marx’s idea of alienation to critique Koons’s work process. Upon researching, it became evident that Fredric Jameson’s idea of the blending of high and low culture is epitomized in Jeff Koons’s work, especially because the subject matter and the materials Koons uses are kitsch, although he presents them as “high” art. Also, Koons often takes ordinary objects or images from popular culture and recreates them to be monumental, fun, and better than reality. This aspect of Koons’s work can be seen in terms of Jean Baudrillard’s idea of hyperreality. Lastly, research into Marx’s idea of Alienation reveals that Koons’s work process was having alienating effects on his assistants because the assistants’ artistic talents were being used to create artwork that ultimately did not belong to them.
父权视角下的儿童：多重案例研究

教育者：Claudia Peyton，职业治疗

这个描述性多重案例研究探讨了父亲作为孩子的监护人角色的界限。这项研究旨在发展对父亲挑战和成功的理解，他们的责任和期望对他们的孩子在时间中，以及他们的价值观和身份感。七次深入半结构化访谈被系统地组织成关键主题，包括比较内和跨案例，结构化关系，和识别模式。研究发现，父亲们在与孩子建立联系方面遇到挑战，专注于过去的期望，找到了安慰在认识到并专注于孩子的优点，以及强调了倡导的重要性。这项研究突出了父亲角色的独特的特征，并揭示了父亲在这个独特情况下的需要，对健康专业人员最有效地支持他们的福祉，心理健康，和作为父母的成功。

9:20:00 AM - 9:40:00 AM

Kaylynn Esguerra, Jazmin Bolduc, 职业治疗

了解女性性工作者如何看待回到常规工作环境

教育者：Claudia Peyton, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA, 职业治疗

性剥削是一个日益增长的人权问题，需要研究和实施满足幸存者独特需要的恢复项目。六名女性幸存者目前在住宅恢复项目中描述了他们对工作的感知，使用摄影声音数据收集。照片叙述和个别半结构化访谈被录音和转录。按照描述性现象学数据分析的步骤进行了括号化，水平化，编目和意义的集群，并推导总体主题以总结一个详尽的描述。发现的主题包括：(a) 过渡是一个具有挑战性过程；(b) 过去影响目前；(c) 重视积极的工作环境；和 (d) 对有意义结果的渴望。发现包括：(a) 对工作准备感到需要和工作准备的缓慢和困难；(b) 负面情绪源于过去的经历，使他们认为不能在典型的工作环境中成功；(c) 积极的工作环境应包括对他们的理解的非判断态度；和 (d) 对有意义结果的渴望。
background, accommodations for their mental health needs, and an atmosphere of teamwork; and (d) a career is perceived as a means to provide personal fulfillment and a better quality of life. These findings support a potential role for occupational therapists (OTs) to provide client-centered, trauma-sensitive life and work skills training that addresses female sex trafficking survivors’ unique perception of the return to work recovery process.

9:40:00 AM - 10:00:00 AM
Samantha Chow, Ashley Carey
Aileen Chau
Sherilyn Chau, Occupational Therapy

Occupational Changes After Death of a Long-Term Spouse: The Widow's Experience
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Widowhood and its effects on occupation have not been well documented in occupational therapy (OT) literature. Although previous research addressed some areas of occupation, widows’ participation in occupations such as activities of daily living (ADLs), instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), rest and sleep, work, and leisure have been underrepresented, as well as changes in routines, habits, and roles. The purpose of this study was to gain a better understanding of how occupations changed after the death of a spouse, as well as the impact engagement in occupations has on the transition to widowhood. This study used a transcendental phenomenological approach, interviewing seven participants who met the following criteria: aged ≥ 60 years, widowed for a minimum of three years, married (15+ years), independent living in California, cognitively intact, and English-speaking. Semi-structured interviews were audio-recorded and later transcribed verbatim. Significant statements were determined from each interview, clustered into themes, and developed into individual textural-structural descriptions that formed the essence of this phenomenon. Follow-up interviews were conducted for member-checking.

The results revealed the following themes: missing routines with late spouse, need for community and spiritual connection, and more time to enjoy occupations. While the participants had more time to participate in their desired leisure activities, they missed taking part in certain activities with their spouses. They had fewer relational responsibilities (i.e. taking care of spouse), but took the initiative to seek out social participation and occupational engagement to live fulfilling lives. The knowledge gained from this study will add to the existing body of OT literature on widowhood. The results can be used to benefit therapists and clinicians in developing strategies and interventions for treatment planning. Additional research on widowhood and its effects on occupations is needed to further understand its impact on the lives of widows.

10:00:00 AM - 10:20:00 AM
Erin Besinque, Samantha Gruen
Robyn Cho
Elisa Becker, Occupational Therapy
Gynecological Health and Spinal Cord Injury
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy
There is a paucity of research concerning the personal experience of women with spinal cord injury (SCI) in dealing with female reproductive health and education. The purpose of this study is to analyze the lived experience of women with SCI and their thoughts and feelings about their injury and their subsequent gynecological healthcare. Through two semi-structured in-depth interviews of up to 60 minutes, researchers gathered information from each participant in regards to reproductive health and education and family planning experiences pre- and post-injury, including their thoughts and feelings pertaining to menstruation, childbirth, and overall gynecological health. Findings suggest issues associated with occupational and social justice due to an overall need for more accessible examination tables in gynecological settings. Women with SCI from T10 to T11 indicated few difficulties whereas women with SCI from C6 to C7 indicated a greater degree of difficulty with family planning and gynecological management. Other themes include gratitude for their perceived lack of SCI-related complications and hope for future research to aid in better care for women with SCI. Researchers have concluded that because this population has unique healthcare needs, healthcare professionals must be more knowledgeable with SCI and its implications in order to provide the best practice. Future research is required to understand the specific needs of this population on a larger scale to identify the barriers preventing medical professionals from providing comprehensive services to women with SCI and how these barriers can be overcome to ensure equality in treatment.

10:20:00 AM - 10:30:00 AM
Coffee Break

10:30:00 AM - 10:50:00 AM
Kristina Steinbruner, Princess Reyes
Stacey Tsuboi, Occupational Therapy
A Phenomenological Study on the Lived Experiences of Having a Sibling with a Mental Illness
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy
Background. Siblings have a unique and dynamic relationship given the considerable time spent together in childhood and continued interaction across their lifespans. When a sibling is diagnosed with a mental illness, it may change their responsibilities and the sibling relationship. Previous research has found that there are advantages and disadvantages to having a sibling with Autism or Down Syndrome. There has been limited research on the relationship between the sibling with a mental illness and the typical sibling who does not have the mental illness. Method. This paper presents a phenomenological study describing the lived experiences of having a sibling with a mental illness. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven participants having a sibling diagnosed with either schizophrenia, bipolar, or major depressive disorder. Results. The research resulted in four major themes which emerged out of the experiences shared by the siblings: 1) stress comes from fear of developing the mental illness; 2) worries were expressed for the future of their sibling; 3) coping strategies were utilized to manage stressors; and 4) siblings experience a shift in their perception of mental illness. Conclusions. In contrast to the current literature on siblings of individuals with Autism or Down Syndrome, this study did not show an advantage for siblings of individuals with a mental illness. Alternatively, there was a significant finding of there being a slight disadvantage for typical siblings in terms of increased stressors. As the first generation of expected caregivers, siblings of persons with a mental illness require increased research attention. This study will help to direct future research about siblings of individuals with a mental illness and can be a helpful informant in practice.

Keywords: adult sibling, sibling relationship, mental illness, schizophrenia, bipolar, major depressive disorder, qualitative research, phenomenology
apparent when discussing participant’s reformation of identity. It is the researcher’s hope that these findings will inspire future research to develop therapeutic services in correctional facilities and community reintegration programs to provide opportunities for meaningful occupational engagement which may aid in successful community reintegration and identity reformation for formerly incarcerated individuals.

11:10:00 AM - 11:30:00 AM
Yemesrach Zewdie, Stephanie Portillo
Kai Yamamoto, College of Health, Human Services, and Nursing
Understanding Light Care Residents’ Decision to Stay in Skilled Nursing Facilities
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapists play a critical role in skilled nursing facilities, which provide a home for those with minimal care needs. This transcendental phenomenological study aims to describe the meaningful occupations that influence light care residents’ decisions to stay in a skilled nursing facility. A phenomenological approach was needed to allow researchers to characterize residents’ experiences and the significant reasons for their desire to stay since there is a lack of research on the lived experiences of light care residents from their unique viewpoint. A total of seven participants were interviewed at four skilled nursing facilities located in Los Angeles County. Semi-structured interviews with open-ended questions permitted residents to freely state their reasons for staying. Results indicate several themes that influenced their decision to stay including familiarity, spirituality and financial security. This study contributes to the literature on light care residents’ perspectives of their quality of life in a long-term care facility.

11:30:00 AM - 11:50:00 AM
Lauren Schick, Christina Trieu
Michelle Yoo, Occupational Therapy
Occupational Therapy Assistant / Occupational Therapist Collaboration: A Phenomenology
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Employment of occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) is projected to increase 40% by 2024, making this level of the occupational therapy profession the second fastest growing career in the United States. OTAs are critical team members who work alongside and under the supervision of the occupational therapist (OT), and carry out the OT’s plan of care. The purpose of this research was to learn how OTAs
experience the interprofessional relationships with their OT counterparts. This research is unique in that the voice of the OTA is very limited in current occupational therapy literature. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven currently practicing OTAs, and later transcribed verbatim. A transcendental phenomenological approach was used to analyze the data. Data reduction and analysis involved the following steps: bracketing, formulation of significant statements, and development of clusters of meaning which were foundational to describing the essential structure of this phenomenon. As a result of this process, the following themes emerged from the data. Aspects of a successful interaction with the OT included feelings of mutual respect, feeling valued for their contributions to care, building rapport, and maintaining clear communication with the OT. Issues of conflicting personalities, the OT’s perceived lack of regard for the OTA’s experience and skill level, and concern for crossing role boundaries were factors that may hinder the ability for OTAs and OTs to work as a team. This knowledge could contribute to the literature by emphasizing how OTAs perceive this relationship, illuminating both positive and negative aspects. Future research should explore methods to prepare occupational therapy practitioners for working collaboratively, especially prior to entering the workforce.
Interferon Beta and Interferon Alpha differentiate Acute Myeloid Leukemia Cells

Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) is a type of blood cancer characterized by abnormal proliferation of myeloid-lineage cells at an immature stage of differentiation. Interferon-g (IFNg) is a cytokine capable of shifting myeloid cells such as monocytes and macrophages toward an antitumor phenotype, and earlier work in our laboratory tested whether IFNg would have the same effect on AML cells. Results from these initial experiments showed that IFNg led to an increased expression of the phenotype marker CD86, and upregulated the high affinity Fcg receptor (FcgR) CD64, which is involved with the antibody-mediated antitumor responses. Importantly, IFNg significantly increased CD38, the target of the antibody daratumumab now in clinical use for multiple myeloma. Functional studies showed that co-treatment with IFNg and daratumumab led to the destruction of AML cells in vitro and to reduced tumor growth in vivo. Despite these positive effects of IFNg, issues with toxicity prevent its widespread use in the clinic. Hence, the purpose of this project was to examine related interferons, IFNa and IFNb, to determine whether they could similarly modulate the phenotype of AML cells. To test this we treated AML cells with IFNa or IFNb, then measured expression of CD86, CD64 and CD38. Results showed that treatment with IFNa led to modest effects but that treatment with IFNb led to marked changes in expression, as well as to enhanced FcγR function. Hence, IFNβ may be a candidate immune-modulatory agent for AML. Experiments are ongoing to further examine IFNβ in vitro and in vivo.
A growing body of evidence demonstrates that continued occupational engagement is an important concern for clients who are dying and that the provision of occupation-based services affords significant benefits and prevents psychological complications at the end of life. The role of the occupational therapists who provide these critical end of life services is often misunderstood by caregivers, patients, and other healthcare professionals. Research literature on the personal perspectives of occupational therapists who work in end of life care settings in the United States is limited. This phenomenological study was conducted to develop a better understanding of occupational therapists’ role in end of life care by examining their perceptions of offering services to this population. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven occupational therapists currently working in end of life settings. Settings included oncology units, lung transplant departments, and a pediatric hospital. Interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim, and analyzed. Data analysis included bracketing, horizontalization, and developing significant statements from the transcriptions. Significant statements were grouped together into units, called meaning clusters. From these clusters of meaning, our study discovered several themes. The unique themes included the idea of death as an individualized process, the challenge of conflicting priorities, and the need for strong communication and a supportive multidisciplinary team. These themes illustrate the essential nature of working with patients who are dying. This study may add to the existing literature regarding occupational therapy and end of life care.

9:40:00 AM - 10:00:00 AM
Betsy Cunningham, Lee Hasson
Briana Gonzalez, Occupational Therapy
Caring Touch: An Occupational Therapist's Perspective
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Touch has become a dominant area of research in other professions but there remains a lack of research in occupational therapy (OT) literature. Therefore, the aim of this study was to explore how OT practitioners perceive caring touch and its impact on clients with dementia. The study followed a phenomenological approach in order to compile subjective experiences, perspectives, and opinions from OT practitioners about caring touch with their clients. Data was collected using semi-structured interviews, audio-recordings, and verbatim transcriptions for analysis. Seven participants were selected based on the following inclusion criteria: California state licensed OT practitioner, fluent in English, a minimum of six months experience practicing, and consistent treatment of clients with dementia. The following themes emerged from the data and encompassed OT practitioner perspectives and client responses to touch. Results indicated that OT practitioners perceive caring touch to have positive outcomes such that it puts the client at ease, it should be personalized based on client needs and level of impairment, and it helps build rapport between therapist and client. Also, it was found that OT practitioners are more likely to utilize touch with their clients if they use touch in their personal life. Regarding client responses, results showed that clients attend more to tactile cues rather than verbal
cues. Clients are accepting of touch, allowing them to respond more openly and it enables reciprocal interaction. Such positive responses increase participation during interventions. Negative responses to touch were also described and are dependent on various factors such as the sex of the therapist. The benefits of this study include expanded insight on caring touch with clients with dementia, in addition to encouragement of implementation of caring touch in various healthcare professions. Such benefits create opportunities for future research regarding caring touch with other populations and diagnoses.

10:00:00 AM - 10:20:00 AM
Lauren Walker, Tessa Siu
Derek Wong, Occupational Therapy
Fantasies of Escape: A Chronological Narrative of Sex Trafficked Women
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy
Human trafficking remains the third largest and the fastest growing illicit crime industry in the world; annual profits generated from the trafficking of persons are estimated to be in excess of $30 billion. Despite increased awareness, there is a lack of research concerning sex trafficking survivors and their experiences. The aim of this study was to explore the multiple dimensions of survivors’ experiences in order to better understand an individual’s personal narrative, locate themes that have not been thoroughly explored in the literature, and discuss the themes through the lens of occupational therapy. A qualitative narrative analysis was used to capture the experiences of seven women, “restory” them into a framework, and present them in a chronological order. The use of a qualitative narrative analysis fits the aim of this study because it allows for development of an understanding of sex trafficking experiences. A three-dimensional model (3-D) was developed from the work of Clandinin and Connelly (2000) and used in the data analysis process. The uniqueness of this study contributes to the existing literature on sex trafficking because it elaborated on themes not previously studied. Unique findings were that sex trafficking survivors’ eventual exit from captivity and subsequent recovery involved a complex, multidimensional process of interactions with personal, social and environmental factors. Fantasies of escape and transition into recovery were among the research findings. Discussions included applications to occupational therapy and public health. This study provided insight into how occupational science theories may help providers better understand the needs of this group. More research is needed to further understand the significant experiences of sex trafficking survivors so that service providers can better address and treat this population.

10:20:00 AM - 10:30:00 AM
Coffee Break
According to the American Stroke Association (2016), stroke also known as cerebrovascular accident (CVA) is the leading cause of adult disability around the world. The issue this study addresses is the lack of research in the literature concerning stroke survivors’ thoughts, feelings and experiences associated with neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NMES) as a treatment. The purpose of this transcendental phenomenological study is to understand the perceptions of stroke survivors who have received the treatment modality of NMES within the past two years. The perceptions of stroke survivors were generally defined as their thoughts, feelings and experiences about the rehabilitative journey of their NMES treatment. NMES is an electrical current that innervates paretic or paralyzed muscles, which can be used to innervate the muscles affected by the stroke to regain functionality. There is little to no research in the literature concerning stroke survivors’ opinions and stories concerning this treatment modality or its lasting effects. In order to explore this topic, seven stroke survivors who met the inclusion criteria were interviewed. Upon completion, the interviews were transcribed and analyzed. The following four themes were derived from the data: family support, autonomy, hope, and motivation. Themes from this study illuminate possible factors that contribute to the participants’ perceptions of the lasting effects of their NMES treatment. The true essence of stroke survivors’ perceptions was captured by this study and contribute a unique perspective of their experiences.

Families living in homelessness is a growing issue in our society and necessitates more research. Homeless single mothers tend to be marginalized, disenfranchised, and live on the fringes of society. Mothers living in transitional housing often lack the autonomy to make parental decisions and instead transitional housing employees make these decisions. Families not only need to adapt to the new physical environment, but they also need to change their routines for everyday activities to fit the structure of the housing unit. It has been shown that routines positively contribute to a family’s physical and mental health, yet mothers experiencing homelessness spend a lot of energy maintaining family routines that often are disrupted.
The purpose of this study was to explore the lived experiences of mothers living in transitional housing using a Photovoice method to conduct our research. Data was synthesized using a phenomenological approach. Steps included bracketing and horizontalization. Clusters of formulated meanings were developed that later contributed to the formulation of the essential structure of this phenomenon. The use of a Photovoice methodology allowed for the collection and analysis of rich qualitative information using photos taken by participants. Seven mothers living in transitional housing were recruited. Results from this unique study showed that the mothers often felt a lack of stability, and experienced difficulty establishing roots, yet were also grateful to live in transitional housing. This study additionally found that communication between the families and the facilities was often lacking, which impacted their daily lives and routines.

The results from this study can help Occupational Therapists and other health care professionals working with this population and may inform interventions and program development. In conclusion, the uniqueness of the findings of this study supports and contributes to the knowledge base contained in the literature about this population.

11:10:00 AM - 11:30:00 AM
Natalia Hartoonian, Nursing

Do Stroke Patients Receive Recommended Physical Activity in Rehabilitation Units?

Faculty Mentor: Terri Ares, Nursing

Over 795,000 Americans suffer from the stroke every year (CDC, 2015). Stroke imposes $34 billion on the U. S. economy and holds the first place for long-term disability (AHA, 2016). Immobility remains a major cause of concern (CDC, 2016). People affected by stroke have much greater chance of recovery from immobility when they involved in physical activity during stay in Inpatients Rehabilitation Units (IRF). However, hospitalized stroke patients do not get enough that much needed physical activity and remain inactive.

The purpose of this integrative research was to examine if the patients received recommended amount of physical therapy in IRF.

Methodology:

The goal was to evaluate available literature and draw the conclusion about amount of physical activity received by the stroke patients in IRF. The integrative review method was used to summarize literature and provide more comprehensive understanding of the phenomena.
Results and Discussion:

Findings confirm that majority of the patients admitted to IRF do not receive recommended amount of physical therapy, and spend majority of their days left alone and inactive. One of the interesting findings which author thought is worth to mention is that patients whose family member were present during therapies received longer therapy sessions compare to stroke patients receiving therapies without family being present.

Conclusions and Future Directions:

Due to limited number of studies performed in the U. S., future research is needed to further examine physical activity in IRF. More concise understanding of how much physical activity stroke patients have in IRF will aid in testing and development of interventions to improve outcome of stroke survivors. Simple interventions such as providing patients with a therapy guide that includes exercises patients can do by themselves or together with nurses or their family and getting patients ready for therapy time could be implemented to increases physical activity and overall outcome of stroke survivors.
In the political advent of a certain discourse called “locker room talk”, studying sexuality in the media is important for unblurring the lines between sexual identity and consent. This research regards the prevalence of Latina representation in Hollywood by the use of the Spicy Latina trope which is a stereotype portraying female characters of Latin heritage as sexually deviant, with a fiery temper who can become violent because they are over emotional or passionate. This is problematic because women are expected to serve subordinately in a patriarchal society without its implications of race to further antagonize them.

The Latina club dancer in a short-skirt nor the yoga-pants shopper give consent by mere presence. When the media has a Spicy Latina in her place, sexual attraction appears invited by the character. She may end up as a trophy wife, like Sofia Vergara’s Gloria (Modern Family), or an enticing servant as the ladies of Devious Maids. By placing Latinas in sexual, subservient roles, audiences are given reason to affirm their beliefs about Latinas, assuming any Latina is capable of being sexually aggressive yet docile enough to be controlled.

Contrary, the Latina actresses of early Hollywood breathe life into a stereotypical character having control over who they desire, how they handle being desired by others, and their own fate. My research shows that some early Hollywood films portray these Latina characters with some agency when serving as a foil to (U.S.) American women. To show how these rouges maneuver through (U.S.) American idealized sexual moralities, I will observe two films of three Latina actresses— Dolores del Rio’s Bird of Paradise and Fly Down to Rio, Lupe Velez’s Hot Pepper and Palooka, and Carmen Miranda’s The Gang’s All Here and Copacabana— between 1932-1947 by analyzing their relevancy to the film and their character development.

This research will examine gender disparity and lack of non-male (including but not limited to: female, and genderqueer, gender non-conforming) artists at three alternative 2016 music festivals in the United
States: ‘Fuck Yeah Fest’, Riot Fest, and Governor’s Ball. The seemingly progressive events are in fact perpetuating a trend in the music industry that upholds the patriarchy. In addition to the overwhelmingly male dominated performers, many of the few non-male artists hired to perform at the festivals represent an ‘atypical’ standard of heteronormative sexuality or womanhood. The artists defy typical standards of womanhood through androgynous physical characteristics and openly identifying as transgendered, genderqueer, and non-binary, among other identifiers. It appears that through the inclusion of ‘atypical’ non-male artists, the festivals are able to project a progressive and inclusive image while actually refusing to acknowledge the disparity. Festival circuits need to be held accountable for both failing to address the lack of female and non-binary artist representation on their lineups, and for using ‘atypical’ non-male artists as a tool to hide their sexism. The research aims to understand this problematic trend, and address the implications of male domination in this particular festival circuit.

The rise in popularity of music festivals and the development of ‘festival culture’ has created a powerful platform for either the reinforcement or the rejection of gender stereotyping in the music industry. Additionally, music festivals (particularly alternative festivals) are expected to provide exposure for a diverse group of artists. Unfortunately, it is clear that these alternative festivals in the United States are overwhelmingly dominated by male performers. This research aims to address a gap in existing research by analyzing the implications of the gender imbalance and omission of non-male identifying performers in the particular arena of semi-corporate music festivals (festivals with both small scale and large scale sponsors/partners).

9:40:00 AM - 10:00:00 AM
Matthew Dlouhy, Advertising & Public Relations
Carl’s Jr. And Pornography/WMS Panel
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Carolina San Juan, Women Studies 495

The advertising world is facing a crisis because most viewers are not paying attention to commercials on television. In a last-ditch attempt to make a bold statement, gain viewership, and test the limits of legality, Carl’s Jr. is referencing pornography in their commercials. In an average Carl’s Jr. commercial, a viewer will see women fight over hamburgers and lick sauce to seduce men. Carl’s Jr. commercials are pornographic in nature but surprisingly legal to air on television because they do not use profanity or nudity. A branch of the United States government, known as the Federal Communications Commission, is powerless to censor Carl’s Jr. because the restaurant references pornography with their food. Controversy is the key to understanding Carl’s Jr’s media campaign. The referencing of pornography causes shock-value and controversy, which leads to complaints on social media, thus spreading free awareness of Carl’s Jr. and their products.
It is estimated that the average person witnesses 5,000 advertisements per day (CBS). Advertisers and public relations firms know that the most successful advertising campaigns are those that gain the most media attention from viewers. A more intriguing campaign tactic that helps advertisers sell products is shock value. Shock value is very important for advertisers to manipulate because advertisements receive millions of views on YouTube and various social media websites if the content of an advertisement is comical, sad, or inappropriate. I will prove that Carl’s Jr. is referencing hardcore pornography by providing five commercials, an analysis of pornographic references in each commercial, and actual responses from viewers on social media. This topic is beneficial to Women’s Studies because it will explain how Carl’s Jr. is using women’s bodies and exploiting viewer’s reactions to spread awareness of their company.

10:00:00 AM - 10:20:00 AM
Robyn Manrique, Psychology
Harley Quinn and the Joker: The Ideal Relationship Paradox- WMS Panel
Faculty Mentor: Carolina San Juan, WMS
Since the beginning of the 2000s, there has been an increase in Hollywood adaptations of North American comic books and graphic novels. Previous literature has examined the dynamics of hyper-masculinity in these films and have attempted to explain the prevalence of this genre. With the influx of comic book films, it is imperative to analyze the messages and themes this genre perpetuates. It has also been observed that the complexity and story-telling of comic books and graphic novels have been filtered in film adaptations. In the Batman universe, one character who has risen to prominence is Harley Quinn. Although Harley Quinn has become a symbol of empowerment in comic books, her relationship with the Joker, which has grown in popularity, indicates that she is actually a victim of abuse. The scope of this research will examine Batman: The Animated Series (1992-1994), various comic books from the 2000s, and the film Suicide Squad (2016) and the methodology will use a psychological lens in diagnosing the behaviors of the Joker towards Harley Quinn and how she responds. Over time and across genres, my research demonstrates the dynamic of Joker and Harley Quinn’s relationship that normalizes his abuse. Her character development as an anti-hero is introduced in the comic books and grows from her struggle to distance herself from the Joker’s abuse and the process of her progression of finding her sense of self. Animation, comic books, and film genres are disconnected because there is a lack of resolution for Harley Quinn. This is particularly dangerous for her growing fan base of young men and women because she is often seen as an empowering anti-hero.

10:20:00 AM - 10:30:00 AM
Coffee Break
Menstrual products, as they are traditionally known today, have only been around for the last century. Prior to World War I (WWI), American women were absorbing their menstrual blood with cotton rags or diapers, which they washed and re-used (Delaney, Lupton, and Toth 129). The “pad” was “invented” at the close of WWI when the Cellucotton Company needed to find a new use for the highly absorbent pads they manufactured to dress battlefield wounds (Mikkelson). In the 1930s, Tampax entered the menstrual product market, producing commercial tampons (Tampax). Nearly a hundred years later, American women are still buying tampons and pads. No one can question the value of pads and tampons, which have enabled women to work outside the home and participate in public life. However, while the product itself has promoted gender equality, the language used to advertise menstrual products to women has traditionally been sexist, promoting feminine stereotypes. This paper facilitates a historical analysis of the language strategies used by advertisers to sell menstrual products to women. The purpose of this paper is to determine how slang, imperatives, rhetorical questions, and euphemisms within the genre, have evolved in the last hundred years, and how these changes mirror prevailing social attitudes toward women in America. While sexist language and implications can be found in menstrual product print advertisements from the 1920s through to the present decade, progress has been made, indicating a gradual progression toward gender equality in America.
The impact of the American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s-1960s is profound and enduring. The movement changed the lives of Black people in America and around the world and paved the way for other movements that advocate for the rights of marginalized groups throughout the fabric of our democracy. Because language is the most important facet of any movement, a data-driven assessment of its impact was conducted to examine the ways that the movement has endured in American English. This research charts and analyzes this impact by assessing the rise and fall of specific language used during the movement.

Methodology

There are certain lexical terms and phrases that were used during and after the 1950s-1960s to describe the movement. Some were widespread during the movement (“non-violence,” “boycott” “segregation,” “integration”) while others were coined after the movement (“African-Americans”). Using the Corpus of Historical American English, the researcher charted the number of times these terms were used in popular culture from 1950-2015, dividing them into political and identification-type terms.

Results and Discussion

Widespread use of the political terms has fallen sharply as America has moved past the Civil Rights era. Usage of the identification terms follows a more scattered trend. Terms used to identify Black Americans after the movement have never reached the high frequency that the word “negro” did prior to the movement.

Conclusion and Future Directions

This analysis points to a possibly troubling conclusion: Americans are not talking about civil rights as much or in the same way that they did during the Civil Rights Movement despite the ongoing struggle for justice. Future research on this topic will include an analysis of the terms that have come to characterize modern movements (primarily, the #BlackLivesMatter movement).
The focus of this paper is the Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua, which took place from 1979 to 1991. This revolution had roots from the failed Nicaraguan uprising decades before in the 1920s. Augusto César Sandino was a Nicaraguan patriot from the 1920s and may have died before liberating his country, but his spirit would carry on and inspire an entire generation to rise up. The Sandinista Revolution succeeded in overthrowing a dictatorship that had been instilled 50 years before, in part due to unwanted United States occupation, and placed a revolutionary government in charge. This revolutionary government, the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), will be looked at through the social movements it functioned through. The goal of this paper is to explore how the FSLN utilized movements such as the nationalist, women’s, and anti-imperialist movements as conduits of support and participation. These movements were crucial to the success of the Revolution and further utilized by the Sandinistas. The approach that will be taken in this paper is a social and political analysis. I will be focusing on political leaders and reforms. These issues intersect on a social level in the way they relate to the FSLN. Speeches made by political leaders, government documents, and published interviews will give insight into the revolution. My main argument is how the Sandinista National Liberation Front used the nationalist movement, women’s movement, and anti-imperialist movement as conduits to support and promote democratic socialism and the new revolutionary government. All three movements were vital in order to unify the country as well as ensure the nation’s participation and survival of a new Nicaragua. This will contribute to the historiography on this topic by examining why all three movements were needed to help the revolution succeed and how they gained momentum through FSLN support.

This project was designed to reintroduce and address a key issues in the criminal justice system. Once a person is found guilty and put into the system, it is very unlikely for prosecutors to fight it again, even if the suspect is claiming innocence. Wrongful convictions are often looked at as forensic error, but there are many other ways the justice system allows innocent people to be sentenced to a lifetime in prison.
During today’s day and age the presumption of innocence is lost and people are guilty the second they become a suspect. This research highlights the difficulties for a person who is innocent, yet found guilty of a crime they did not commit.

9:40:00 AM - 10:00:00 AM
Jade Harvey, Literature
A Question of Literary Agency in the Slave Narrative
Faculty Mentor: Helen Oesterheld, English

The slave narrative is meant to stand as a statement to the enfranchisement of Africans formerly in bondage; it is also known as the Freedom Narrative and Liberation Narrative. An individual who is the subject of a slave narrative is understood to be a morally upright individual who has been the victim of enslavement and has earned freedom, ideally through some form of divine providence. Cases that do not represent these categories properly are edited at the behest of white voices of authority. Given the tendency to edit and filter the original voices of the once-enslaved African individuals, one might posit that the slave narrative genre is itself a form of enslavement to the imperial mindset of the European collective. The Narrative of Mary Prince is one example of this misappropriation of agency. The autobiography of this individual is filtered by three known individuals, as well as several others who are suspected to have had a hand in the editing of her voice, but the latter interventions remain in the realm of speculation with the confluent expanse of primary influences such as public opinion, and actionable influences. The question that must be asked, then, is this: given the persistent filtering of voices and violation of narratives that are the natural course in this genre, is there any difference in the understanding of the literary relationship and social relationship or is the Slave Narrative merely another method of asserting white superiority?

10:00:00 AM - 10:20:00 AM
Charlotte Rodriguez, IDS
What Exactly is the Electoral College and Why Was it Preferred Over Direct Voting
Faculty Mentor: Vivian Price, Interdisciplinary Studies/PACE

The goal of my research is to show why the Electoral College process was created and the reason it was chosen over direct voting. I investigated different methods the founding fathers considered when deciding how the country would elect a qualified person to become president. Upon examination of the
reasons for the Electoral College, it is clear that the founding fathers did not trust the population to make these decisions. By examining why the founding fathers agreed upon the Electoral College, this research shows that perhaps the reasons behind choosing the Electoral College, which worked in the 1700s, do not necessarily apply today.

10:20:00 AM - 10:30:00 AM
Coffee Break
10:30:00 AM - 10:50:00 AM
Lawrence Ramirez, Creative Arts and Design
Significant Possessions: Altered States of Consciousness in Yoruba Masquerades
Faculty Mentor: Kirstin Ellsworth, Art and Design

Art historical analysis of the ceremonial costumes used in Yoruba rituals tend to focus on semiotic principles of representation and the formal elements of the design. Yet, these costumes and masks were not designed with the intention that they be treated as mere objects of art. Rather, the intended function of such works is that they are used within ritual performance. Hence, this study examines the Egungun masquerades in light of the broader cultural context of Yoruban religious practice, specifically in relation to ancestor veneration. From this analysis of the Egungun, the same principles will be applied to the paraphernalia of the Yoruba elites, specifically the royal obas. In both cases, the costumes and performance transform the masquerader into a manifestation of the spiritual entity signified by the costume. This experience of possession demonstrates the masquerader's connection to spiritual powers, thereby conferring or confirming an elevated social status.

This study uses art historical methods of object analysis and a theoretical orientation of cultural materialism as the basis of exploration. This methodology is combined with an ethnographic literature review and observed performance analysis. Thus, the premise that the masquerades are means of gaining or preserving status can be asserted, specifically within the historical context. This is significant because globalized western influences have created a disruption in Yoruba cultural practices, in which the costumes and performances have become aesthetic commodities. Moreover, traditional signs of legitimacy have been weakened by the western concepts that have been imported into west Africa as part of "developmental" ideology, wherein "rational" policies are pitted against local traditions. This crisis of legitimacy may be a contributing factor to the political turmoil that has characterized west African government in the post-colonial era.
Ashlee Papillion, English

Reality’s Looking Glass and The Price of Ignorance: The Rhetoric of Enslavement in Jonathan Swift and Sarah Scott

Faculty Mentor: Helen Oesterheld, English

The interactions and experiences British citizens gained during colonization, expansion, and the slave trade led them to question many of their societal norms, expectations, and foundational beliefs which in turn, caused them to develop concerns for the resulting effects of these actions and the morals of those that perpetrate and/or perpetuate them. Along with the increase in these concerns rose the concept of sensibility which placed them at odds with the enormous profits the British Empire was gaining from the slave trade. With this in mind, Sarah Scott’s Sir George Ellison contains slavery, but never actually describes it and places the focus anywhere else. Ellison does consider the effects of slavery on the master and seems concerned for the morality of slaveholders, but after a while, he embraces the advantages and benefits that slavery brings with the idea that if he treats them better than other slaveholders then everything is all right. Which leads the reader to question if the colonists understand, or care about, the institution they are implementing and perpetuating. Then there is Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s Travels in which Gulliver plays the role of the slave and every country, the enslaver. Books 1 and 2 show Gulliver’s induction into slavery while Book 4 is where the psychological effects of slavery take place and Gulliver obtains the enslaved mindset. Written within 50 years of each other, Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s Travels and Sarah Scott’s The History of Sir George Ellison reveal the ignorance, concerns, and developing attitudes of amelioration towards slavery as well as a façade of ignorance for slavery’s reality that 18th century British citizens, and Europeans more generally, portrayed in order to continue to reap the benefits of and maintain this egregious institution while also justifying it.

Shonte Clayton, English

Let The World Be Your Oyster: Visions of Utopia in Sarah Scott's Millenium Hall and The History of Sir George Ellison

Faculty Mentor: Helen Oesterheld, English

In Sarah Scott's novels Millenium Hall (1762) and The History of Sir George Ellison the theme of utopia is used to suggest an idealized society where one can live in relative tranquility, without discord or conflict. It is a society that respects beauty in nature, as well as the beauty that is reflected inwardly when one does good deeds for others as is the case of the philanthropy evidenced in both of Scott's novels. In Millenium Hall Sarah Scott's focus is on creating a utopian society for women who have been marginalized or mistreated by the male patriarchy so that they can reach their full potential. The ideal
female resident of Millenium Hall is one who wishes to be educated, adhere to Christian values, and serve others by performing charitable deeds. In The History of Sir George Ellison, Scott's objective is to create a plantation utopia for Sir George Ellison's slaves so that they can live free from the evils of that institution. This text was published in the earliest days of the abolitionist movement, and advocates for an ameliorationist approach, not abolition. Although in both novels the concept of utopia is presented as an attainable ideal, readers soon discover that elements of dystopia exist and that essentially the utopian ideal evidenced in both novels is a limited or imperfect one. This tension suggests that in Scott's case, despite her best efforts to project a truly ideal society, she cannot but help reproduce some of the problems she seeks to resolve. My aim in this paper is to argue that an idealized utopian society does not, and can not exist in these two novels.

11:30:00 AM - 11:50:00 AM
Yesenia Flores, NCRP

Abstract Homelessness in Santa Ana: The Ugly Truth of Orange County
Faculty Mentor: Margaret Manning, NCRP

Abstract

Homelessness in Santa Ana: The Ugly Truth of Orange County

Yesenia Flores

Mentor: Margaret Manning, M.A.,Dip.Ed.

We live in California, the sixth richest economy in the world, yet it fails to provide decent housing for the over 200 homeless camped around the Santa Ana Civic Center for over two years. This paper explores this silent phenomenon occurring in Orange County and its causes and effects to better understand the reasons. Theories have been suggested, such as the result of Prop. 47 releasing many formerly incarcerated prisoners, gentrification around downtown Santa Ana, and increasing rents in Orange County. Santa Ana has become the epicenter of this homeless congregation that has been forming for several years and has not received due attention or action. This researcher did observations at multiple civic centers and libraries in Orange County, conducted two in-depth interviews with a college professor and a teacher, who have special knowledge of the situation, and analyzed many local newspaper articles. The results showed that Santa Ana was the only location in Orange County with a homeless population camped outside its Civic Center and encroaching on its Library as well. The conclusions reached in this study were that the homeless have been criminalized by policies that have been strategically created to target the homeless community. As a result, the majority of the homeless at the Santa Ana Civic Center are suffering from mental illness, and the service organizations and non-
profits that used to provide services are no longer funded and forced to close down. Prop 47 does play a small role in this issue, as well as the gentrification and higher rents in Orange County. Society has normalized homelessness and it needs to change, which is a topic for further research.

Abstract

Homelessness in Santa Ana: The Ugly Truth of Orange County

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Homelessness in Santa Ana: The Ugly Truth of Orange County

Yesenia Flores

Mentor: Margaret Manning, M.A., Dip.Ed.

We live in California, the sixth richest economy in the world, yet it fails to provide decent housing for the over 200 homeless camped around the Santa Ana Civic Center for over two years. This paper explores this silent phenomenon occurring in Orange County and its causes and effects to better
understand the reasons. Theories have been suggested, such as the result of Prop. 47 releasing many formerly incarcerated prisoners, gentrification around downtown Santa Ana, and increasing rents in Orange County. Santa Ana has become the epicenter of this homeless congregation that has been forming for several years and has not received due attention or action. This researcher did observations at multiple civic centers and libraries in Orange County, conducted two in-depth interviews with a college professor and a teacher, who have special knowledge of the situation, and analyzed many local newspaper articles. The results showed that Santa Ana was the only location in Orange County with a homeless population camped outside its Civic Center and encroaching on its Library as well. The conclusions reached in this study were that the homeless have been criminalized by policies that have been strategically created to target the homeless community. As a result, the majority of the homeless at the Santa Ana Civic Center are suffering from mental illness, and the service organizations and non-profits that used to provide services are no longer funded and forced to close down. Prop 47 does play a small role in this issue, as well as the gentrification and higher rents in Orange County. Society has normalized homelessness and it needs to change, which is a topic for further research.
Harmonic numbers are numbers written as products of powers of two and three. Their differences have been looked at before (e.g. by Lenstra, De Vitry, and Gersonides) and it was noticed that there is a finite number of ways that differences of harmonics numbers are equal to one. Looking at the harmonic numbers below one thousand, and looking at their differences, we noticed that eleven numbers below one hundred could not be written as a difference of harmonic numbers and gave a proof of this fact. We note that 41 is the first number that is not a difference of harmonic numbers, and it has appeared as a notable number in the works of Euler, Heegner, and (according to Smend) even Bach. Following this, we show there are infinitely many numbers that cannot be written as a difference of harmonic numbers. We connect this with the famous ABC conjecture from number theory, and show that the conjecture is true on the union of set of harmonic numbers with finitely many of non-differences of harmonic numbers. This is a report on work in progress joint with Natalia da Silva and Serban Raianu, with support from PUMP and NSF Grant DMS-1247679.

Mersenne primes are prime numbers which can be written as a prime power of 2 minus 1. We investigate in how many ways Mersenne primes can be written as a difference of harmonic numbers, and we find that all the ones greater than 31 can only be written as the original power of 2 minus 1. One of our main results is that we can extend the set on which the ABC conjecture is true by adding the set of Mersenne primes to the set of harmonic numbers. This is a report on work in progress joint with Serban Raianu and Hector Salgado, with support from PUMP and NSF Grant DMS-1247679.
Elastic Lambda-proton Scattering in CLAS

Faculty Mentor: John Price, Physics

Λp elastic scattering can lead to a greater understanding of the strong nuclear force. Obtaining a beam of Λs is difficult, however, because they do not exist in nature, and because they decay rapidly. The CLAS Detector at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in Newport News, VA creates many Λs using the process γp→K+Λ. The produced Λ can then lead to the elastic scattering process Λp→Λp using a second proton in the target. A data-mining project was undertaken by the CSUDH Hadronic Structure Laboratory using data from the CLAS g12 dataset, in which a tagged photon beam with \( E_γ \) from 3.6 to 5.4 GeV was incident on a liquid hydrogen target. The final state of the process \( γp→K+Λ; \ Λp→Λp; \ Λ→π−p \) is \( K+π−pp \), an apparent violation of baryon number conservation which provides a very stringent cut, reducing the data sample considerably. In the remaining data, we have observed a number of Λp→Λp events that is roughly twice the world's data sample. The upgraded CLAS12 detector and improvements to target design may allow better detection rates and will allow the study of more complicated processes beyond simple elastic scattering. This talk will present the motivation for this work, the current status of the project, and future work.

Gas Clumps and Stellar Clusters in Merging Galaxies using FIRE

Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Price, Physics

Galaxy interactions are an efficient mechanism to spark the birth of stars. Stars are born from the cool gas in Giant Molecular Clouds, sometimes called stellar nurseries, and usually form in groups or clusters. During this process newly formed stars heat the surrounding gas, which heats the material and inhibits the formation of new stars. In this work, we analyze the environments surrounding star clusters of simulated merging galaxies. Our framework employs Feedback In Realistic Environments (FIRE) model (Hopkins et al., 2014). The FIRE project is a high resolution simulation of galaxy formation that resolves star forming regions and incorporates stellar feedback in a physically realistic way. The locations of these star clusters are identified with astrodendro.py, a publicly available dendrogram algorithm. Once star cluster properties such as mass, radius, star forming rate, etc., are extracted, they will be used to create a sub-grid (smaller than the resolution scale of FIRE) prescription of gas confinement in these clusters. We can also examine how the star clusters interact with these available gas reservoirs (either by accreting this mass or blowing it out via feedback), which will determine many properties of the cluster (star formation history, compact object accretion, etc). These simulations will
further our understanding of star formation within stellar clusters during galaxy evolution. In the future, we aim to enhance sub-grid prescriptions for feedback specific to processes within star clusters; such as, interaction with stellar winds and gas accretion onto black holes and neutron stars.

10:20:00 AM - 10:30:00 AM
Coffee Break
Characterization of the Nectar Microbiome of Asclepias species

Faculty Mentor: Karin Kram, Biology

The flowers of native and non-native Asclepias species (common name: milkweed) vary in size, color, and blooming time, and presumably also in pollinator types. Previous research has shown that pollinator preferences correlate with the microbiome, a community of bacteria, fungi, and other microbes, living in the nectar of the plant. We hypothesized that the microbes that live in the nectar of Asclepias may vary based on plant species or location due to differences in pollinator preferences. We bagged whole inflorescences of multiple Asclepias species before the flowers open at South Coast Botanic garden, CSUDH nature garden, and a home in Anaheim and watered the plants for two days to encourage as much nectar production as possible. We then exposed the newly opened flowers to pollinators for one day before re-bagging them for re-production of nectar. We extracted the remaining nectar, and isolated the genomic DNA, which should mainly consist of microbial DNA. Sequencing libraries were prepared for whole metagenomic shotgun sequencing and sequenced using next-generation sequencing technology. Using MG-RAST, the taxonomic units of organisms present in the nectar of native and non-native Asclepias were analyzed. The most striking observation has been in the much larger diversity found in non-native nectar as compared to native nectar. We hypothesize that this may be due to pollinator visitation differences based on flower size. We plan to expand our sampling across the urban environment as well as observe floral visitors, isolate nectar after single pollinator visits, and correlate floral visitors to microbial populations to further elucidate the relationship between the pollinators and the nectar microbiome.

Using population genetic analyses to distinguish between two morphologically similar species of rush lilies (Hastingsia)

Faculty Mentor: Kathryn Theiss, Biology

Integrative taxonomy allows us to evaluate multiple lines of evidence used to differentiate difficult-to-distinguish species. The rush lilies (Hastingsia, Agavoideae, Asparagaceae) are one such group. Hastingsia alba and H. serpentinicola were differentiated as separate species fairly recently (1989) based on geographic location and plant size. Hastingsia alba is found in the Trinity mountains and Northern Sierra Nevada mountains of California and Oregon. Hastingsia serpentinicola is found farther north in the Klamath Mountains and as suggested by its name, is limited to serpentine soils. Unlike H.
serpentinicola, H. alba is not restricted to serpentine soils, but is often found near them.

Morphologically, the two species typically differ in size with H. alba having an overall larger stature than H. serpentinicola. Hastingsia alba also develops more flowers and greater raceme density than H. serpentinicola. However, recent phylogenetic studies failed to distinguish between these taxa. In this study, we are evaluating genetic diversification and gene flow across multiple populations of H. alba and H. serpentinicola using microsatellite markers. We collected leaf material from a total of eight populations in Oregon and Northern California, which span almost the complete range of these taxa. Sixteen to thirty individuals were sampled from each population and full morphological measurements were taken whenever possible. Twelve microsatellite loci were evaluated for population genetic structure, as well as evidence of gene flow between populations of H. alba and H. serpentinicola. We compared these population genetic results with the field-collected morphological measurements to evaluate species boundaries.

2:40:00 PM - 3:00:00 PM
Keva Williams, Anthropology
New World Plants
Faculty Mentor: Janine Gasco, Anthropology

It was originally thought that the idea of agriculture developed from a single source and spread throughout the globe, passing from one group to another. However recent research suggests that agricultural practices developed independently, multiple times in several areas around the world. In light of these findings archaeologists have begun to reexamine old data on early cultivation, domestication and agricultural practices in places like North and South America. Additionally new techniques in archaeology, biology, geology and other fields have produced more accurate results. This multidisciplinary scientific approach has been very beneficial to the understanding of agricultural patterns in pre-Columbian America. But data from even more disciplines could also be helpful. Using information gathered from studies on plant cultigens and field work on medicinal plant names and uses
by indigenous people in Chiapas, Mexico, my research shows that cultural and linguistic analysis should also be included into the holistic, multidisciplinary approach to the study of new world plants.

3:00:00 PM - 3:20:00 PM
Zuly Negro, Jasmine Lau, Biology
Effects of the Rich Media Environment on Escherichia coli Adaptation
Faculty Mentor: Karin Kram, Biology

Escherichia coli can grow in different environments and survive in laboratory culture for up to five years without the addition of nutrients. During long-term incubation, cells experience many stresses which leads to selection of beneficial mutations within the population and therefore, adaptation to these conditions can occur. However, it remains unknown how the environment affects what mutations are adaptive within the population. E. coli was previously incubated in long-term culture in four commonly-used rich media. Whole genome re-sequencing was then performed on aged populations and several potentially adaptive point mutations were found in genes including acrB, deoR, dsdC, and sspA. Some of the mutations were identified in only one medium, while others were identified in several media. We hypothesized that the identified mutations will confer an adaptive phenotype in the media in which they were selected. In order to determine how the mutations affect adaptation to each environment, each point mutation was made by site-directed mutagenesis in a wild type cell. The strains were incubated and the behavior of the strains were analyzed during competition with wild type cells in all four media. The mutations in acrB and dsdC did not confer an advantage to cells in any of the media, and the deoR mutation only conferred an advantage in one medium. However, strains with an sspA point mutation can outcompete wild-type cells in all environments. From these data, we can conclude that different environments lead to the selection of different mutations, but that even high-frequency mutations identified in long-term cultures are not necessarily beneficial. Further, we’ve shown that even small changes in the environment can affect the ability of cells to accumulate beneficial mutations and adapt to that environment.

3:20:00 PM - 3:30:00 PM
Coffee Break
3:30:00 PM - 3:50:00 PM
Joselyn Yamamoto, Maricruz De la Torre
Steven Sanchez, Biology

Investigation of Gene Expression in Zebrafish Skin using In Situ Hybridization
Multicellular organisms depend on various factors, including cell-cell interactions, for proper development. For example, the interaction between neurons and skin cells is essential for animals to be able to react appropriately to their environment. The purpose of our study is to analyze the interaction between touch-sensing neurons and skin cells, and the role they play during early development of zebrafish, our model organism. Three stages of zebrafish development were strategically selected to study the cell-cell interaction between neurons and skin cells. These stages were 20-somite stage (SS), 52 hours post fertilization (hpf), and 72 hpf. At around 18-somite stage, the skin cells start interacting with the peripheral axons of the neurons. Between 52 and 72 hpf the axons of the neurons become engulfed by the basal cells, which are part of one of the two epithelial layers of the zebrafish skin. To understand the role of the genes involved in the skin-neuron communication, we began by investigating the gene expression profiles at these three different developmental stages. We used second-generation sequencing technology (RNA-Seq) and online bioinformatics analysis tools to identify genes that are highly expressed in skin cells. Currently, we are performing whole-mount in situ hybridization to further examine the expression patterns of several candidate genes. In situ hybridization is a technique that allows us to confirm the presence of the candidate genes and their location. We have discovered that two genes, AEP1 and PLEK2, are highly expressed during the later developmental stages of 52 and 72 hpf, while at 20 SS their expression is not detectable. Furthermore, we only noted expression in skin and no other tissues. These results suggest AEP1 and PLEK2 might play a role in skin development and skin-neuron interactions. In the future we want to inhibit these genes’ functions, so that we can start to understand their exact role in the interaction between skin cells and touch-sensing neurons.
Jasmin Corona, Business Administration

The Effect of Exchange Rate Uncertainty on Geographic Diversification of Customers in Global Supply Chain

Faculty Mentor: Jian-Yu Ku, Business Administration

Abstract

Exchange rate is one of the most important factors that affect global supply chain decisions. This study examines the impact of exchange rate volatility on geographical diversification of customers in global supply chain. We argue that the exchange rate volatility of each country determines the geographic diversification of customers in global supply chain, while the competition intensity of an industry and global financial crisis moderate the relationship.

Hilary Valenova Dayag, Cale Espinel
Mallika Dasanayake
Cameron Islas, Public Administration

Enhancing the Transparency and Accountability of Government: A Comparative Analysis of U.S. State Budgets

Faculty Mentor: Rui Sun, Public Administration

California represents the eighth-largest economy in the world. With 37.25 million residents the state has the largest population in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). However, the budget crisis has been an expressive fixture for the state for a number of years. The state budget needs to be reevaluated. This study compares and contrasts the state budget of California with that of other states in the Northeast, Midwest, South and West regions. The purpose of the study is to assess what, if any, refinement can be made to the California budget in order to better address transparency, accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness of the state budget.

Data was collected from online sources on the state constitutions, statues, budget documents, financial statements, and other government reports. The sample states were selected according to the location and population size of the state as well as the availability of the data. Both qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed.
Based on an examination of the budget processes, budget classification systems, expenditures patterns, revenues sources, and legal constraints of the sample states, the study identifies the budget challenges for each state and makes policy recommendations on the California state budget. The study concludes that the California state budget is generally moving in the right direction, but further improvements could be made including extending the budget timelines, implementing a new performance-based or program budget, stabilizing state revenues, and reforming the state pension system.

Future studies are suggested to examine the issues more systematically, for example, conducting surveys and interviews with the state budget directors and including more states in the analysis.

2:40:00 PM - 3:00:00 PM

Hilary Valenova Dayag, Vandeysha Benford
Cale Espinel, Public Administration

Conventional or Authentic? Case Studies of Citizen Participation in Local Public Budgeting
Faculty Mentor: Rui Sun, Public Administration

The role of the public in public administration continues to be deliberated and defined. One of the intended consequences is to move toward a more participatory democracy. For example, many local governments solicit public participation in their budget preparation and a few governments involve citizens in budget implementation stage as well. This paper examines the role of the citizens in local budgeting process using four case studies of California local governments.

King, Feltey, and Susel (1998) argued that public participation involves four factors: (1) the issue, (2) the administrative process, (3) the administrators, and (4) the citizens. Based on the relationships between these factors, the authors proposed two competing public participation models: conventional participation vs. authentic participation. The former places the citizen furthest away from the issue and administrative processes, whereas the latter places the citizen closest to the issue.

Using King, Feltey and Susel (1998)’s theoretical framework, we identified Manhattan Beach and Long Beach, District 9 as two examples of authentic participation, the City of Gardena as an example of conventional participation, and Lawndale Elementary School District as an example of a transitional model (from conventional to authentic participation). Data were collected from both government documents and interviews of public administrators and local residents.

Based on a comparative analysis of local budget processes, challenges, and outcomes of the sample governments, the study finds that citizen participation is generally low and there is a disconnection between government and average citizens. The study provides important policy implications that will enhance citizen engagement and government transparencies and accountabilities that benefit the diverse
local community. Future research may conduct citizen surveys and focus group interviews to gain further insights on the topic.

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3:00:00 PM - 3:20:00 PM
Daniel Davidson, Public Administration
Old Town Torrance Business Improvement District
Faculty Mentor: Fynnwin Prager, Public Administration

This research informs discussion of a possible Business Improvement District (BID) in Downtown/Old Town Torrance. This case study analysis considers how a BID might improve and impact Downtown/Old Town Torrance. Four cases of BIDs in the Southern California region – Studio City, Fullerton, Pasadena, and Long Beach – are examined and compared with Torrance to provide insights into what potential successes might be achieved, and what challenges might be faced, with the implementation of a BID in Torrance. This case study analysis is complemented with analysis of the discussion at Mayor Furey’s Breakfast with the Old Torrance Business Community, hosted by the Office of Economic Development (Thursday, November 3, 2016, 8-10am at the Toyota Cultural Arts Center). Overall, this report foresees opportunity for the city to refocus their attention on a district that has faced increased competition in recent years. Cases from around the region suggest that redevelopment could lead to an increase in revenue through sales tax and eventually even property tax.

Of the four Southern California city BIDs studied, five common elements were observed. Studio City’s mission was to build on their businesses while keeping an environment friendly atmosphere. Over the years, Fullerton had a mission to keep their historic landmark while building on their businesses to bring in more customers. Both Studio City and Fullerton have demonstrated and proven that originality can still be kept. Pasadena and Long Beach decided to build a more modernized feel to their environment keeping less of the historic atmosphere. Both cities focused on the idea of bringing more attractions and driving the needs of what customers want. Our studies have shown that all four regions designed a plan
to connect to their residents and visitors. Each region has also proven that change can definitely bring in success.

3:20:00 PM - 3:30:00 PM
Coffee Break

3:30:00 PM - 3:50:00 PM
Tenzing Sorbel, Business Administration (emphasis in Human Resources)
Can Social Media Increase HR’s Strategic Value in a Corporation?
Faculty Mentor: Orie Berezan, Management and Marketing

Abstract: In this work, we argue that the use of Social Media adds additional value to a company with respect to Strategic Human Resource Management (SHRM). Although this is in the context of corporate management and their Human Resources (HR) decisions, the concept is that Social Media enriches and extends the importance of the Human Resources (HR) department in corporate value. HR professionals today may not see the benefits of Social Media in their current workflow, or the value it has on a company. The methodology used to answer this corresponds to a series of research questions to determine how much of an effect modern Social Media technology has with respect to the overall strategic value HR provides in corporate strategy. An online survey was used to help gather data and 28 filtered results (out of a total of 32 results) were used for the analysis. Descriptive analysis was used to analyze the data. The results of the survey inferred that Social Media was a tool utilized in modern SHRM and effective in driving value towards a company in the eyes of corporate level management. Implications of these results may guide corporate level management decisions by providing an HR department information in utilizing Social Media in their SHRM activities, in addition to including it in their overall corporate strategy.

Keywords: Human Resources Management, Strategy, Social Media, Corporate Value

Faculty Advisors: Dr. Orie Berezan & Dr. Natasa Christodoulidou

3:50:00 PM - 4:10:00 PM
Nestor Rogel, Public Administration
Reviving a movement
Faculty Mentor: Brenda Riddick, Public Administration

Abstract

The focus of this paper is to provide an analysis of the impact of people living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in treatment, advocacy, and policy from the early 1980s to present day in the United States. Some of the impacts included in this paper are changes in the language incorporated in recent legislation and the creation of programs and services to improve the quality of life of people affected by HIV. Additionally, this paper will discuss the current issues to involve people affected with the disease through active civic engagement to help solve some of the issues belying this community. This will be achieved by using current trends to analyze issues specific to civic engagement and the effects of non-participation at the individual and collective levels of our society. The paper will conclude with recommendations for possible solutions and ideas of new practices based the data collected.

Keywords: HIV, civic engagement, policy

4:10:00 PM - 4:30:00 PM
Carlos Kattan, Scott Sibley
Monique Powell, College of Business Administration and Public Policy

An Analysis of Los Angeles Unified School District's Instructional Technology Initiative

Faculty Mentor: Fynnwin Prager, College of Business Administration and Public Policy

Despite the technological advancements in the modern workplace, little has been done to truly integrate technology with the daily education of students to prepare our next generation with digital skills essential for them to succeed in the dynamic workplace in the 21st century. To respond to the increasing needs for students’ digital skills and to address the growing inequities of the digital divide, the Los Angeles Unified School District’s (LAUSD) Instructional Technology Initiative sought to bring 21st Century technology into every classroom and provide every student with access to computers. Through the use of a digital curriculum and tablet computers, LAUSD aimed to prepare the next generation for an increasingly technology-dependent workforce. Although the initiative was audacious in both its scale and objective, the initiative’s implementation was fraught with obstacles and setbacks, culminating in the resignation of LAUSD Superintendent John Deasy. With a budget exceeding one billion U.S. dollars, the LAUSD initiative underwent several revisions throughout three phases of implementation before satisfying district goals. The distribution of personal computers, however, is only the first step in the preparing a new generation for a rapidly evolving workplace. This study qualitatively analyzes the goals of the program, the three phases of the LAUSD’s Instructional Technology Initiative, as well as the various obstacles that the program encountered throughout its implementation. In this
study, we evaluate LAUSD’s current Instructional Technology Initiative, along with four alternatives, based on three criteria: cost, effectiveness and equity. Using a logic model allows us to visually explain the relationships between resources and activities, as well as the intended results of those activities. The study concludes that, for LAUSD to effectively leverage technology in the education of students, it must reevaluate its moratorium on take-home devices and expand upon efforts to provide student households with Internet access.

4:30:00 PM - 4:50:00 PM
Roxana Pleitez, Public Administration
Marketization of Public Education
Faculty Mentor: Rui Sun, College of Business Administration and Public Policy
Abstract

The Charter School system was formed to enhance students’ learning and achievement by involving educators and parents to develop new curriculum to help increase students’ grading level. Charter schools are established by teachers, parents, and community leaders or groups under a contract or “charter” with a local or state authority (California Department of Education, n.d.). Existing literature showed mixed results. Some indicated that Texas charter school students performed worse in reading and mathematics subjects compared with district school peers (Credo, 2015). In contrast, other studies suggested that charter school students performed similarly as those in a traditional school system (Epple, Romano, & Zimmer, 2015; Miron & Urschel, 2012). Additionally, critics have argued that charter schools drain public resources away from public schools and raise the concern that public assets may be unnecessarily transferred to private hands, at public expense, risking the future provision of public education (Baker & Miron, 2015). Studies on charter schools with a Public Administration emphasis is limited. Thus, this study intends to determine whether marketization of public school improves the quality of education.

The study will use a sample of charter schools and traditional public schools in the Los Angeles County, California. Data will be collected from the California Department of Education’s DataQuest online portal and individual schools’ websites. Regression analyses will be used to estimate the impact of charter schools on student performance.

The study will not only contribute to the public administration literature on the effectiveness of marketization of public education, but also provide policy implications to school board members and administrator as well as state policy makers on how to improve the quality of public education through innovations with limited resources. Future studies are suggested to systematically examine the effectiveness of charter schools in other states.
Keywords: Charter schools, Public Administration, scores, performance.
Reference


Emerging Technology

Faculty Mentor: Mohsen Beheshti, Computer Science

With the rapid growth of technology, it is difficult to stay on top of what can be of use in our everyday life. Day by day new types of technology become available aiding in the betterment of this world we call home. People from all around no matter they be engineers or uneducated individuals, are creating breakthrough advancements in the technology field. Fields such as Claytronics, Ambient Intelligence, and Autonomous Vehicles are breaking into knowledge barriers humans have never stepped into. For my senior project I have chosen the topic of emerging technology, not only because I believe it is interesting, and there is a great arsenal of technology at our disposal that we might not be aware of. This paper will give the reader a glimpse of what new technology is emerging, and what advantages/disadvantages they might have for users.

Hosting a webserver and professional website on a Raspberry Pi

Faculty Mentor: Mohsen Beheshti, Computer Science

With the introduction of cheap microcomputers, the Raspberry Pi 3 is the perfect platform to create a working webserver from existing free to use open source software. With the creation of a website, to represent a professional portfolio, for future employers to be able to see my work first hand. To be able to see a website that I developed, as it runs through a webserver that I build. This paper will go into more detail of that idea and will show the hardware and software that is going into the development of this website and server. This project will be a representation of how good of a program California State University Dominguez Hills has for its future, and current students wanting to pursue a career in Computer Technology.

Computer Network Security - Attacks & Defenses

Jose Hernandez, Computer Science Department
After 30 years of work on computer systems security, we ask ourselves, why almost all the systems that are connected to a network today are extremely vulnerable to attacks. A main factor for this reason is that security is expensive to set up and a nuisance to run, so that leads people to judge from experience how little of it they can get away with. Since there has been little damage, people tend to decide that they do not need much security protection. In addition, setting up security is so complicated that it is hardly ever done the right way. While we await a catastrophe, simpler set up is the most important step toward a better security implementation. Network administrators need to keep up with the recent advancements in both the hardware and software fields to prevent theirs as well as the user’s data. This paper outlines the various attack methods which are used, as well as various defense mechanism against them.

Hacking is a hot topic in the world today, and not have business become aware of this topic, but also people in general. Today everyone is connected through technology in same kind of way either they have a computer desktop at home or a laptop or they have a smartphone. Hackers have the ability to expose your life or business information in a matter of seconds by getting their hands on. Password have become a necessity to protect your information from people, but what people forget is that your WIFI can be hack as well. Now hackers have the ability to use methods against anyone with the tool they are provide with. This paper will give the readers a general idea of the process when trying to penetrate passwords or Wi-Fi.

Kevin Daley, Computer Science
RTMP Video Streaming: Server Tool Development for Accessibility and Efficiency
Faculty Mentor: Mohsen Beheshti, Computer Science
RTMP (Real-Time-Messaging-Protocol) is widely used in today’s internet networks. Many live video streaming services such as Twitch or Hitbox use this protocol to distribute their media across many different platforms. The basic implementation of using RTMP live streaming is using a single PC to capture and send media content to a livestreaming server to be viewed by an audience. Unfortunately, the use of a single PC for both capturing and streaming content is not the most efficient way of providing quality video streams. It is my motivation to create a far more efficient system utilizing a variety of software and hardware applications.

My goal is to implement a RTMP video streaming system that will include using two PCs to distribute the work load. The first PC will be creating a video stream using the built in H.264 hardware encoder. This video stream will then be sent over a local network to a second PC that is utilizing a NGINX server with an installed RTMP Module. This server will then re-encode the video stream using x264 CPU encoding settings. Once the stream is re-encoded it will be then be redistributed to various live video streaming services. To further simplify this process a third party server tool application will be developed to provide an ease of access to the server from any PC on the local network.

My contribution is to create a more efficient system of live streaming digital media and developing a server tool manage the NGINX server that will enable an ease of access to server settings. The server tool will be developed in C++ and utilized a variety of third party libraries. This server tool will allow users to access it through SSH so that anyone on the local network can make changes to the server.

4:10:00 PM - 4:30:00 PM
Paul Pardew, Computer Science
Attacking and Defending a System
Faculty Mentor: Mohsen Beheshti, Computer Science

Computer systems are the cornerstone of the modern age. The world relies on computers to accomplish an extensive number of important tasks. In order to keep the world running, computer systems must be defended against by attackers. It is no secret that individuals with malicious intent strive to access systems with sensitive data in order to exploit and steal all they can. Fortunately, with the right plan and the right utilization of that plan, a computer system can be successfully protected. The goal of this project is to inform computer users alike on the many ways an attacker can break into a vulnerable computer system and the equally various ways that system can be toughened in order to keep the system from being compromised. This project will contribute detailed information associated with the constant threats that are targeting computer systems as well as the responsible practices used to help fortify a system from further threats.
Genetic algorithms are modeled after what we know of evolution. In both the physical world and the digital world, more fit individuals have a better chance of surviving and producing offspring with those beneficial traits. Traits can be inherited, from two or more “fit” parents, or created through the event of mutation. This project will focus on implementing genetic algorithms in a game written in C# using the Monogame framework. The computer players, of which there will be three factions, will consist of groups of twenty members that initially know nothing, but “reproduce” frequently to produce generations that, in theory, should be better at solving the task. The individuals in a group will have different strengths and speeds. This variation is how the faction as a whole can “learn” to play the game. The point of the game will be for each set of players to reach the goal area of the map. Also, power-ups are scattered throughout the map to boost the traits of an individual. When any character reaches the goal, they earn points (individually for the human player, and for the group for the enemy players). The map is then immediately reset; the enemies keep their lifetime and their genes. This means that as the game goes on, the enemies will start reaching the goal faster and faster.
Cyphers/Sessions brings positive vibes and emotions such as joy and happiness, which is why I decided to examine a thesis that will investigate how dance Cyphers/Sessions can be used to relieve stress. Cyphers were established during the early years of Hip-Hop in the 1970s. They are created through a group of dancers forming a freestyle circle, where one by one each dancer would dance inside of the circle. Then came sessions, which are considered as organized Cyphers where Cyphers are set-up as a meeting for dancers. The dancers who participate in Cypher/freestyle sessions believe that it allows them to move freely where they are sometimes able to tell a story through their movements. The aspects I will be looking into include:

The history of where dance Cyphers/Sessions originated and how related they were toward the relief of stress.

How participating in Cyphers/Sessions today has the effect to increase levels of positive emotions and endorphins.

No other research has been conducted specifically on dance Cyphers/Sessions. To gather more information for these aspects, surveys were sent out to dancers who participate in Cyphers/Sessions. These surveys were sent through social media (Facebook) and emailed to a small sample of ten respondents. The results from the surveys is where the information was drawn from to support the idea that freestyle Cyphers/Sessions are effective as dance therapy. Though most Cyphers have Hip-Hop dancers that are participants, dance Cyphers/Sessions allow all styles of dance to participate within them.

College students have the highest risk to be engaged in, witness, or know about an abusive relationship. Know Love is an awareness design campaign started by CSUDH Design students aimed at CSUDH students. We are informing students about the warning signs of abuse, what would be considered abuse,
and how to find the resources to get out of an abusive relationship. Our objective is to enlighten students about the differences between a healthy and abusive relationship. We will accomplish this goal by comparing and contrasting a healthy and unhealthy relationship through design visualization. Our campaign focuses on this split duality of both healthy and abusive relationship by juxtaposing an image with signs of a healthy relationship right next to an image with signs of an abusive relationship. We feel that desaturated photographs convey the appropriate tone when visualizing this issue. During our event on campus, we talked to students and handed out heart shaped lollipops to symbolize a healthy relationship. We interacted with students by instructing them to write their name on a post-it, and then telling the student, “Now you know the difference between a healthy and abusive relationship,” and then had them rip the post-it in half. Finally we had them place their post-its on a board where eventually a heart was formed with ripped pieces of paper, symbolizing that you can still have, and deserve, a healthy and full heart.

2:40:00 PM - 3:00:00 PM
Ayisha Price
Against Campus Sexual Assault
Faculty Mentor: Michelle Bury,
Against Campus Sexual Assault is an awareness campaign designed to inform all college students about sexual assault. This design campaign brings awareness through definition, resources, and relation to current and past cases. These cases highlight the brutal facts of sexual assault on college campuses. The goal of the campaign is to bring awareness to the different types of assaults, which are showcased through a series of visual imagery including posters, photographs, deliverables and on social media. Through awareness, students will be informed and empowered enough to report sexual assault when encountering it. This design campaign aims to create a safe environment by providing resources on campus and of, and reassuring students that they are not objects.

3:00:00 PM - 3:20:00 PM
John Frandsen, Christian Jimenez
Jacob Cruz, Art
Unplugged Technology Addiction Campaign
Faculty Mentor: Michelle Bury, Art

The purpose of the Unplugged design campaign is to raise awareness in regard to technology addiction with a primary focus on cell phones and their link to social media. Our goal is to make CSUDH students reflect on this global problem, technology addiction, which affects a small 8-10% of the world’s population which presents a low profile. To make an impact through our design, we created strong imagery consisting of a series of hand-drawn illustrations that relate technology addiction to drug addiction. These illustrations were later incorporated into four posters and a GIF graphic image to be showcased on our website. Additionally, we conducted a campus event in which deliverables were displayed to promote our cause. We hope to make a difference by asking students whether they relate to the problem of technology addiction that we are addressing, or not. This will allow students to become self-conscious about the use they give technology, and to decide whether they have an addiction or simply use technology constantly.

3:20:00 PM - 3:30:00 PM

Coffee Break
Diana Madrigal, Chicana/o Studies

“Parent Involvement” in Educational Discourse

Faculty Mentor: Corina Benavidez Lopez, Chicana/o Studies

It is an accepted value that parent involvement and advocacy is imperative in education because it helps prepare their child’s educational development. In marginalized communities of color that are predominantly low income, such as working class Latina/o communities, parents are usually viewed as uneducated, ignorant, and uninvolved. Unfortunately Latina/o parents are categorized as “uninvolved parents” because they lack the socioeconomic stability and availability that is needed to fit mainstream, white middle class, educational models. In educational discourse “Parent Involvement” is identified through volunteering, PTA meeting, fundraisers, and attending parent teacher conferences. (Lopez, 2001)

Educational discourse fails to acknowledge the intersections of race, class, immigration within the lives of Latina/o parents. For example, Latina/o parents that are working class may sometimes have to work more than one job to support their families, making it difficult for these parents to be involved in the traditional way schools and educators expect. This case study uses an assets-based Community Cultural Wealth (Yosso, 2006) lens to provide evidence contrary to popular/mainstream ideas, Latina/o working class immigrant parents value education and use the resources these communities have to get their children ahead in the educational system.

Cheryl Creese, College of Education- M.A. in Special Education

The Impact of Re-teaching Basic Math Concepts to Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities using TouchMath strategies to improve ability to Count Money

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Caron Mellblom-Nishioka, College of Education

Study Abstract

Previous research has demonstrated that students learn best with active learning strategies that involve multi-modality design and movement. The purpose of this study is to determine the impact of re-teaching basic math concepts (identifying, addition and subtraction), using strategies such as simulated instruction and TouchMath, will improve the potential for High School students with Intellectual Disabilities to grasp the concept of counting money effectively as they transition to the adult world. Subjects will gain potential benefits that may result from the instruction procedures being conducted in modified group instruction with modeling and on a one-to-one basis during community training sessions. The study will be developmentally appropriate, easy to follow and conducted in settings that are familiar to the participants. The risks are minimal and may be due to students aging out of the
program, vacation, illness or environment. Subjects will be protected by risk management which will allow subjects to transition out of the research study without any emotional, physical, or psychological harm.

2:40:00 PM - 3:00:00 PM

Janet Ibarra, Chicana/o Studies

Examining the Impact Informal Mentoring has on First-generation Latina/o Community College Transfer Students

Faculty Mentor: Corina Benavides-Lopez, Chicana/o Studies

How do first-generation, Latina/o community college students resist and survive educational inequalities they face by utilizing informal networks, personal knowledge and awareness in order to create their own system of success? This qualitative study aims to examine and highlight the impact informal mentors and informal networks have on first-generation, Latina/o community college transfer students. Using critical race theory along with ventajas, assests y reconocimiento, knowledge as a framework and community cultural wealth (Rendon, Nora & Kanagala, 2014; Solorzano & Yosso, 2002; Yosso, 2005), analysis is provided regarding the educational inequalities faced by first-generation, Latina/o community college students during their transfer process to a four-year university. To examine the impact of informal mentoring and networks, oral history interviews were conducted with Latina women community college transfer students, who are currently enrolled at a four-year institution in Southern California. Through the analysis of oral history interviews the findings illustrate how informal mentor networks help students resist educational inequalities in order to successfully transfer. In the end, the goal of this study is to support future research focusing on the educational assets first generation, Latina/o students utilize in combating educational inequalities they encounter.

3:00:00 PM - 3:20:00 PM

Magaly Ordonez, Chicana/o Studies

Critical Pedagogy Honoring Community Cultural Wealth/Ventajas y Conocimiento in Non-Traditional Learning Spaces

Faculty Mentor: Corina Benavides Lopez, Chicana/o Studies

This research study provides an analysis of critical pedagogical and curricular perspectives in non-traditional learning spaces and its impact on Chicanas/os Latinas/os high school students in Los Angeles, CA. This research project centralizes the theories of community cultural wealth/ ventajas y conocimientos and critical pedagogy to deconstruct deficit notions of non-traditional high school
students Chicana/o Latina/o students (Yosso 2006; Rendon 2014). The methods used to document this educational ethnography on the experiences of Chicanas/os Latinas/os in non-traditional learning spaces in Compton, CA include observations, interviews, and literature analysis. The research focuses on the educational experiences of students who have been “pushed out” of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) within Chicana/o Latina/o communities and are now enrolled in a local “alternative” learning school. The outcomes of this study exposes the restorative teaching methods at “continuation” schools that deconstruct institutionalized banking methods (Freire 2000; Wachtel 2012) of education and it’s impact on Chicanas/os Latinas/os students. The transformative curriculum honors knowledgeable sources of cultural capitals students contribute from their lived experiences to the classroom and transform the relationship between students with teachers and their own education. The research implicates a questioning of the validity in the current teaching practices in educational spaces that serve Chicana/o Latina/o students in Los Angeles. This research study may provide critical insights to provide alternative social justice-based pedagogical curriculum and teaching in K-12 to ensure individual and communal success of communities of color.

3:20:00 PM - 3:30:00 PM

3:30:00 PM - 3:50:00 PM

Giselle Salinas, Psychology

Social Support and Family Involvement for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Higher Education

Faculty Mentor: Phu Phan, Human Services

One out of sixty-eight children have been identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). People with ASD have social, communication, and behavioral challenges which impact education and social environments. Individuals diagnosed with ASD are more likely to have poor outcomes transitioning into educational and independent living environments than others with different disabilities. Although there are many commonalities among those who have ASD, the diagnosis occurs from lower to higher functioning. Because of this variation, not everyone shares the same characteristics, needs, and preferences. It is important each individual with ASD receives tailored needs and preferences because although some services may be helpful to some, others may not be as useful. Since individuals with ASD have certain characteristics, needs, and preferences, it is important for educational systems to provide the adequate support. The purpose of this study will be to understand the social support and family involvement of university students with ASD at a mid-sized diverse public education university in Southern California. A qualitative approach is going to be employed and in-depth semi interviews will be held to provide detailed information. Students who want to participate must identify with having ASD and must be enrolled on campus. Students with ASD who have social support and have their families support will have higher retention and success in higher education unlike those who do not receive as much help. Results from this study will contribute to the limited literature focused on
individuals with ASD in higher education. Findings will further advance the development of support programs for students with ASD and while emphasizing the need for tailored individual services and support.

3:50:00 PM - 4:10:00 PM
Navia Ramirez Cerda, Credential Program

Classroom Vibes
Faculty Mentor: Robert Boyd, Credential Program

Introduction and Purpose

My qualitative research study is centered on student aesthetic perceptions and how they affect their high school educational experience? My goal is to inspire guiding elements of holistic and humanistic aesthetic pedagogies that are anti-racist, anti-xenophobic, and anti-violent. Incorporating critical theorists notion that, “ALL PEOPLE have the capacity and the ability to produce knowledge and to resist domination”(emphasis added)(Darder, & Baltodano & Torres, 2003, p. 14). I believe that integrating aesthetics in the urban classroom can potentially enhance Student’s of Color educational experience.

The purpose of my study is to find alternative elements to facilitate the creation of a positive learning environment with minimal resources. Practicing reflexive mindset, to be better able to serve individual student preferences in low- income segregated communities, whose daily livelihoods are metaphorically living “under the gun,” by policing them, continually questioning their daily legal status. Living “under the gun” can be compared to Foucault’s (1997) idea of governmentality, in relating to how social institutions exercise control over populations; i.e., defund, cut, and restrict people’s everyday actions. Aesthetics is a counter-hegemonic pedagogy that inspires new ways of teaching and learning in the classroom.

The social phenomenon of learning is complex and all learning is contextual; therefore, instructional pedagogies should be reflexively heterogeneous to maximize student-learning experience. Aesthetic pedagogies can be visual, auditory, or tactual according to preferred learning style. Integrating aesthetical collocations to the classroom culture can enrich students’ educational experience. Teaching is an art. Art is love. Love mends social tensions in diverse communities, and engagement elements become the vehicle to create a positive learning environment. Visual Story-Click Here
Study Context

My study was conducted at John C. Fremont High School, in South Central, Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Unified School District currently serves over 600,000 students from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and with unique learning needs. A recent Los Angeles Times report states that “budget cuts and a narrow focus on subjects that are measured on standardized tests have contributed to a vast reduction of public school arts programs across the country”(Torres & Menezes, 2015). Additionally, high stakes testing is a problem that is faced by the nation, because test don’t take into account outside forces that influence students historical-contextual consciousness, which can affect overall educational outcomes. Consequently, art programs are non-existent in most of our public school education systems, particularly schools in low-income neighborhoods.

Theoretical Framework and Methods

Incorporating Critical Realism (CR) as my theoretical framework, as developed by philosopher Roy Bhaskar. Maxwell (2013) explains that CR combines two paradoxical common sense perspectives “that have often been seen as logically incompatible” (p.43). The first common sense perspective is ontological realism, which he describes as “the belief that there is a real world that exists independently of our perceptions and theories” (p. 43). The second common sense perspective is epistemological constructivism, which he described as “our understanding of this world is inevitably our construction, rather than a purely objective perception of reality, and no such construction can claim absolute truth” (p.43).

Borrowing Maxwell’s (2013) conceptualization of bricolage, as my method to observe qualitative research to focus on classroom nuances, occurring in natural settings. Additionally, using a theoretical approach that borrows Jacques Rancière (2006) conceptualization of critical art as an element “to produce a new perception(s) of the world”, and “therefore to create a commitment to its transformation” (p.150) and critical theory to advocate the practice of developing a reflexive mindset that heightens one’s awareness to hegemonic mechanisms that privileged and unprivileged social classes into structural realities that perpetually dominated the unprivileged classes, I documented candid photography to showcase aesthetic elements in a 9th and 12th grade classroom. The classroom teacher and myself co-instructed the art workshop, using everyday materials; i.e., crayons, makers, color pencils, classroom computer repurposed to play contemporary music, creating a customized youth survey that incorporated a Facebook iconography borrowing their Emoji-reactions as question responses, and the back of the survey upcycled to resemble a blank canvas. Students were advised to use any writing tool to create their autograph-logos and open dialogue was highly encouraged and often initiated by the classroom teacher and me.
This aesthetic educational workshop was inspired by Greene’s (2009) critical theory notion on aesthetics, featuring elements that demonstrate artistic tinkering and dialogue could aid in the cultivation of a democratic classroom. Greene’s analysis is focused on the notion of freedom; i.e., human beings can achieve freedom by having a sense of imagination, which then through reflexive practice could lead individuals to overall life freedom. In other words, freedom is not a destination, but it is conceived through informed choices.

Findings and Implication for Practice

The five major themes uncovered in my study were a heightened sense of focus, culture, experience, space, and engagement. Using photography as a tool to record classroom behavior allowed a visual story to unfold. Students engaged in dialogue were they discussed their feelings and perceptions about the idea they were creating. The ARTifacts using was made using crayons, color pencils, and markers. The literature suggests that using varying media to aid the holistic notion of classroom aesthetics is a valuable tool that can create a more pleasant educational experience for all students across public school systems.

Moreover, I found that students loved expressing themselves, by dialoguing. The dialogue flowed organically and it was guided by student responses. The ARTifacts expressed students’ everyday life experiences, and the Emoji Reaction surveys were answered thoroughly, revealing their unique personalities. https://slate.adobe.com/cp/LPyvi/

Conclusion

Aesthetical elements could be utilized as tools to promote holistic and humanistic urban schooling pedagogies. Integrating aesthetic elements in the classroom enhances student’s nuanced learning preferences, varying in relation to student’s contextual reality. Oxford (1990) defines learning strategies as “actions taken by the student to make learning easier, faster, more self-directed, more effective, and transferrable to new situations (Oxford, 1990) Using aesthetics sparked dialogue, created a focusing environment and hosted an enjoyable classroom experience. Varying aesthetics elements serve as tools to help aid the creation of more inclusive learning spaces that supports scholar’s cognitive development in public schools.

For further study, research must be done to see how using social media content in the classroom aid students’ educational experience? New aesthetical elements must be utilized to enhance urban students learning experiences.
In view of our ever increasing technological interconnectedness and our efforts to continuously improve the field of education, this project aims to gauge how comfortable learning communities are with integrating audio and visual recording technology inside their facilities. The first phase of this project would question and survey those individuals involved with the education of students such as; the students themselves, parents, teachers, school psychologists, and administrative staff. The last phase would categorize and analyze the responses of the various participants. It is hypothesized that there will be an overall acceptance of the technology with the condition that it be implemented with certain restrictions. If the results prove to be in favor of the implementation, the implications could include; the facilitation of National Board Certification for teachers, more accurate and objective observations for psychologists, more accurate and objective implementation of IEP’s, and the elimination of SIDS in professional day care facilities.

The California State University (CSU) educational system is predominately an undergraduate institution that offers an array of graduate studies programs. There is a rising number of students attending graduate programs within southern CSU higher education institutions. More than half of CSU’s students are low income and often first-generation students attending a four-year institution. In previous studies, undergraduate student involvement outcomes impact the student’s experience by influencing time to bachelor’s degree completion. However, the academic and research responsibilities that graduate students encounter during graduate school can be socially, physically, and intellectually challenging. Many graduate students live off campus and the majority of the students commute to campus. The CSUDH campus does not have dedicated student support services that target only graduate students. Previous literature suggests that graduate students (in particular Ph.D. students) and the relationship with advisors is important to degree completion and attrition. This study examines factors, which impact graduate student experience and influence graduate degree attainment for CSUDH graduate students. We focus on the graduate students’ responses to advisor support and examine how this is related to feelings of satisfaction with their program and their feelings around their graduate student experience.
addition, we examine how enrollment status, work status, and family/school conflict influence student perceptions. The data collected for this research was collected from a sample of 300 graduate students during the 2014-2015 academic year. From this pool of individuals, 175 responded to our survey. The results from this study will add to the existing research on higher education by examining an understudied group of master’s students.
Justin Tsan, Christina Kneen, Clinical Lab Sciences

Pre-Analytical Performance Improvement of the AM Rounds Through Phlebotomy Teams

Faculty Mentor: Payman Nasr, Clinical Lab Sciences

At Huntington Hospital, a Performance Improvement (PI) project began in 2011 to improve the percentage of AM rounds completed by 0700. This was accomplished by implementing a team phlebotomy strategy as well as changes to working shift hours. Team phlebotomy, called “swarming”, is a technique in which a group of phlebotomists and a designated lead travel together during the AM rounds to perform venipuncture on in-house patients. The technique separated venipuncture and communication responsibilities so that common difficulties, such as line draws or hard sticks, can be solved with teamwork and improved efficiency. Drawn blood tubes are continuously sent through the pneumatic tube system to the laboratory, establishing a one-piece-flow of samples. This eliminates the possibility of bottle-neck effects upon arrival in the laboratory. The implementation of team phlebotomy and the shift change produced a noticeable change in AM round completion before 0700. The laboratory was completing 53% of AM round results by 0700 in January 2011, prior to the start of the project. By October 2011, 90% of AM round results were completed by 0700. The PI project is continuous and daily reports are sent out each day with details of % completion and notes of instrumentation failure, census count, and phlebotomy staffing issues. Analysis of the complications that cause the hospital not to meet the daily goal of 90% completion will allow for ongoing improvement and efficiency of the AM rounds.

Alexander Garcia, Clinical Science

Preventing the Spread of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus: A Spring 2016 screening of the gym, library, and student center at CSUDH.

Faculty Mentor: Payman Nasr, Clinical Science

Staphylococcus aureus, normally a harmless skin and nasal bacteria among healthy individuals, can lead to serious and potentially fatal infections upon invasion of sterile body environments. Antibiotics are the common treatment for such infections, but the emergence of antibiotic-resistant strains of S. aureus have become a prominent public health threat. While rapid treatment of S. aureus prevents serious complication from infection, one such strain, Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), can be difficult to treat due to resistance to many commonly used antibiotics. Once a strictly hospital-acquired infection, since the mid-1990s, MRSA has exhibited an epidemiological shift in distribution from healthcare-related facilities to surrounding communities. In order to detect, track, manage and prevent the spread of MRSA, screening of major public areas of the gym, library, and student center at CSUDH were performed. The goal of this research was to determine whether MRSA is present at
CSUDH facilities and if so, determine the local MRSA modes of transmission and develop a MRSA School/Community Action Plan.

A total of 150 surface samples were screened for MRSA with conventional clinical laboratory methods, 75 at the beginning and 75 at the end of the Spring 2016 semester. Surfaces were swabbed and inoculated on a selective growth medium used for the isolation and differentiation of gram-positive bacteria. Bacteria isolated from each surface were evaluated by a CSUDH Student Health Center Clinical Laboratory Scientist to determine if MRSA was present. One Methicillin-sensitive Staphylococcus aureus and no MRSA were isolated from the major public areas of CSUDH. While lack of isolation of MRSA is a positive finding for the campus community, certain surface samples exhibited high levels of bacterial and/or mold growth. This highlights the importance of cleaning and sanitizing facility surfaces with frequent human contact in order to prevent the potential spread of pathogenic bacteria.

2:40:00 PM - 3:00:00 PM
Polin Derbarseghian, Hannah Go
Erlinda Gamboa Nava, Occupational Therapy

The Perceptions of Occupational Therapists on Work-Related Injuries

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

The purpose of this transcendental phenomenological study was to explore and describe how perceptions of work related injuries influence the choice of practice areas for occupational therapists (OTs). OTs experience a variety of work related injuries that occurred as a result of a multitude of factors. Some injuries occurred as a result of a simple mistake made by the therapist, while other injuries resulted from rushing to help a client, or working in certain settings that may have placed a greater physical demand on the therapists. Current research has generally explored the incidence and the severity of work-related injuries. Additional research is needed to explore the factors involved in the decision making process to return to work after the injury, how the injury was perceived by that therapist, and if the therapist changed the practice setting. Seven occupational therapists that met research criteria were recruited. Data was collected using semi-structured interviews that were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. Data was reduced and then analyzed. Significant statements were derived from verbatim transcriptions and categorized into larger units of information. These clusters of meaning were then grouped into essential themes. Results of this study indicate that some participants chose to continue treating in the same practice setting, while others found it difficult to continue in the same setting after sustaining an injury. Participants did not leave the profession as a result of their injuries, but some did consider doing so while early in the recovery process. This research provides insight into the needs of occupational therapists that have incurred job related injuries and challenges employers and program educators to better prepare OTs to fulfill job related safety precautions.
Claire Morgan, Kailey Makuta
James H. Kim, Occupational Therapy
Perceived Effects of Ocean Therapy: A Break from Suffering
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Approximately 20% of veterans returning from foreign combat exhibit symptoms of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that interfere with their ability to participate in valued occupations and reintegrate into civilian life. Occupational therapy plays a key role in fostering healing and helping veterans cope with the symptoms of PTSD. Natural settings, activities that take place in water, and aquatic therapy are beneficial to individuals experiencing these symptoms. Therapeutic surfing has been investigated with positive results in terms of the feasibility of program implementation and impact on the mood of veterans. Seven veterans with PTSD who had participated in at least one Ocean Therapy session were included in this study. Our investigation into this occupational therapy intervention used semi-structured interviews and a narrative analysis approach to identify five themes: (1) transitioning from military life to civilian life; (2) pushing boundaries; (3) social support; (4) the healing power of the ocean; (5) positive changes from ocean therapy. These themes clearly illustrate the struggles that veterans experience and the way that ocean therapy helps them cope with these challenges. Our research indicates that ocean therapy has been an effective means of intervention for the participants, and has had a positive impact on their PTSD symptoms and their reintegration into civilian life. During ocean therapy, veterans learn to push their boundaries in a supportive and healing environment, and they are given the tools they need to apply what they have learned to other situations. Future research into how to bring similar benefits to landlocked populations may be warranted. It may also be valuable to research the benefits of ocean therapy for other populations, such as children with disabilities.

Dianna DeZubiria, Nursing
Barriers to Palliative Care in the Emergency Department
Faculty Mentor: Terri Ares, Nursing

Introduction: With advancements in medical care and technology, and an increasing ageing population, end of life (EOL) care and non-curative treatments are issues that physicians are increasingly faced with.
Palliative care (PC) is a service for patients that focuses on managing symptoms, relieving suffering and pain, and improving quality of life. Once primarily thought to serve only those critically ill in need of EOL care, PC has now broadened to treat patients at any stage of serious illness and in a variety of settings. Despite improved patient satisfaction, outcomes, decreased length of stay, and reduced costs with the use of PC, it remains commonly misunderstood and underutilized. This is especially apparent in the Emergency Department (ED) where the focus is on sustaining life and preventing morbidity and death.

Methodology: An integrative review was conducted to investigate the barriers in obtaining palliative care consultations in the ED. A comprehensive search of current literature was completed using the databases MEDLINE, PsycINFO, and CINAHL with publication dates between January 2000- November 2016. Search terms included “palliative care,” “barriers,” “emergency department,” and “palliative care consultation.” Eight articles in total met inclusion criteria.

Results and Discussion: The three common barriers observed in the literature were: lack of knowledge about PC, access or barriers to resources, and attitudes or beliefs towards PC. Physicians consistently demonstrated a poor understanding of the applicability and benefits of palliative care. Obtaining PC consultations also proved to be difficult due to lack time, and poor pathways to PC resources. Additionally, physicians often held beliefs that the ED was an inappropriate place for PC consults, or would not benefit the patient.

Conclusions: Implementing PC pathways, increasing awareness and knowledge through education about PC, and improving the culture of PC in the ED may lead to increased patient satisfaction and better patient outcomes.
The legacy of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein has maintained its place in popular culture for more than a century after its publication and has inspired many film interpretations. Part of the longevity of Mary Shelley’s story lies in her critique of science and technology and the dangers it imposes on society. The fear generated from the novel was a fear fit for its time as the dawn of scientific enlightenment lead to the fear of the destruction of nature and eventually society. More than a century later the same fear continues to hold a place in society’s psyche.

As a modern retelling of Frankenstein for the digital age, Ex Machina is yet to be extensively analyzed by scholars. Ex Machina represents our current societal fears and adds to the legacy of Frankenstein. On the surface, it concerns the fear of artificially intelligent robots inevitably taking over the world. But a deeper analysis of the story comments on how far removed from nature society is that it is difficult to distinguish man from machine.

The novel Frankenstein and the film Ex Machina show us how the fear of the “other” surpassing us and destroying our society is rooted in the fear of death. A psychoanalytic perspective can interpret how the novel and the film display a societal death drive or Thanatos. According to Sigmund Freud, a fear of death makes us act in ways that lead us to self-destruct. This can be seen in the historical context of the novel and film, the isolation from nature in which both creators make their creation, and the ambiguous ending that hints at a possible apocalyptic future.

In the late 19th century, Bram Stoker’s Dracula used the vampire figure as a means to explore the social and political anxieties present in Victorian England. Specifically, the vampire became a model of degeneration and the antithesis of Western progress. While the vampire character continued to evoke signifiers such as invader, savage, and monstrous, Scott’s Snyder’s graphic novel series American Vampire redefines the vampire as a figure of evolution, progress, and individualism. Set in the early 19th century, Snyder uses vampiric characters like Skinner Sweet and Pearl Jones to explore the tenets
of an American identity and ethos. While the American ethos is one centered on individual achievement and capability, Snyder subverts the degenerative stigmas associated with the vampire figure and reinvents the vampire character to explore development and expansion in American society.

2:40:00 PM - 3:00:00 PM
Brenda Bran, English
Beyond the Woman’s Utopia: Articulating Intersectional Advocacy in Sarah Scott’s A Description of Millenium Hall and Grant Morrison’s Wonder Woman: Earth One
Faculty Mentor: Helen Oesterheld, English

Women’s utopian fiction has traditionally allowed authors a space in which to negotiate for female agency. In her novel, Millenium Hall, Sarah Scott presents the titular woman’s utopia, as an idyllic community meant to protect members of British society who have traditionally been ignored and harmed by existing social structures—orphaned genteel women, older working class women, and disabled individuals who were once forced into circus work all find a place within Millenium Hall. While these characters are fortunate to find sanctuary within this community, their need for this utopian community reveals the inadequacies of life within British society. The need to escape a cruel world likewise appears in Grant Morrison’s Wonder Woman: Earth One, an American graphic novel published two hundred and fifty-four years after Scott first published her novel. In Morrison’s novel, the Amazons escape Hercules’ cruelty after years of living as slaves. They flee to Amazonia and live in harmony for three thousand years in total isolation from Man’s World. Both authors present women attempting to escape the tyranny of patriarchal societies, but their emphasis on female leadership is an endeavor to normalize female leadership.

The gendered nature of utopian fiction, although necessary to argue in favor of female agency in the 18th Century, undergoes a redefinition of purpose in Morrison’s novel as a woman’s place in public discourse is no longer the main objective. Instead, Morrison seeks an intersectional advocacy to strengthen utopian idealism and bring it into popular culture and a public forum. Despite the wide historical gap between these two texts, their feminist goals remain relevant today and further the discussion about a woman’s role in public discourse.

3:00:00 PM - 3:20:00 PM
Julia Sanchez Molina, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding
The focus of this study is on how increasing democratization has affected terrorism in Morocco. Since the current king ascended the throne in 1999, there have been many signs that democracy has increased, such as a new family law granting women rights in marriage and inheritance. However, Morocco is still not rated “Totally Free” by the U.S. non-profit Freedom House, because it is a constitutional monarchy and the king is not only the political leader, but also the head of the armed forces, the head of the judiciary, and most importantly, the spiritual leader of the Muslim faith, which acts as a deterrent to radical Islamist terrorists. In spite of increasing liberties, or because of them, databases revealed that Casablanca was the scene of deadly bombings by local terrorists in 2003. This was the wakeup call for the king to curtail freedoms and institute a surveillance system in the mosques and to cooperate with EU neighbors in Spain, France and Belgium to detect terrorist activity. This has left Morocco well placed to detect and foil future terrorist attempts by groups, such as Daech (also known as IS or ISIS) and Al Qaeda in the Maghreb (AQIM) in a post-Arab Spring volatile environment. This study obtained qualitative data from in-depth interviews with terrorist experts and self-administered surveys with Moroccan citizens, which confirmed that Moroccans have accepted the increased surveillance and report feeling “safer.” The research initially predicted that as democratization increased in Morocco, there would be a corresponding decline in terrorism. However, based on the findings, it appears that democratization and terrorism do have a connection, but it is more of a serpentine one rather a straight line.

3:20:00 PM - 3:30:00 PM
Coffee Break
3:30:00 PM - 3:50:00 PM
Livia Bongiovanni, English
A Society in Flux: Abhumanism in “Carmilla,” Dracula, and “Shambleau” and the Fin-De-Siècle Gothic Movement Towards Posthumanism
Faculty Mentor: Jane Lee, English
Since its inception in 1764, gothic fiction has served to navigate cultural transitions. This function of the gothic is especially prevalent during the latter half of the 19th century when new advances in science, travel, and medicine challenged long held assumptions about the distinctions between class, race, gender, and even species. It is during this period that the vampire emerges as a popular literary figure as writers attempted to manage the anxieties associated with a society in flux. Psychoanalytic theory traditionally associates this sudden rise in popularity to late Victorian fears of degeneration, evolution, reverse colonization, and homosexuality. While much has been said about the danger these literary
monsters pose to social, sexual, and gender conventions of the 19th century, we are still left to ponder the following question: what threat does the vampire pose to human identity as a whole?

Working within the psychoanalytic framework of the uncanny and the abject established by Freud and Kristeva, respectively, this paper uses Kelly Hurley’s study of the abhuman subject as a critical lens to examine the vampire across three literary texts: Joseph Sheridan LeFanu’s “Carmilla,” Bram Stoker’s Dracula, and C.L. Moore’s “Shambleau”. Underlying each of these texts is the fear that humanity itself is relative and may be revoked at any given time. Each text leaves the reader with a lingering uncertainty about what it means to be human and forces us to question all the ways in which human identity is measured, be it sex, race, or species. In each case, the vampire is a walking reminder of the fragility of human identity.

3:50:00 PM - 4:10:00 PM

Javier Garcia, Humanities

The Tale of Two Cities: Representation of the city in Peter Shaffer's Amadeus

Faculty Mentor: Lorna Fitzsimmons, Humanities

The purpose of my Humanities project was to indulge, humor and critique the dynamism of human conditions in the city whether depicted on stage, in the text, on canvas or in verse. My thesis project, The Tale of Two Cities: The Representation of the City in Peter Shaffer’s Amadeus, conveys the historical progression of the Western city in British playwright Peter Shaffer’s play Amadeus from 1979. Its framework consists of the play’s two primary characters and two urban concepts by American Historian Carl Schorske, that of virtue and vice. Literature about Shaffer’s play coalesces in five categories, with considerable overlap: formalist, thematic, socio-psychological, historical and metaphysical. The strength of my research and analysis hinges upon the plausibility of his urban theories relating to the dramatic conflict found in Amadeus, with the play’s primary characters being the center of the study, as a transformative relationship between humans and cities. To Schorske, intellectuals perceived cities with cultural and economic virtue in the eighteenth century. However, these perception transforms by the nineteenth century due to the industrial revolution. Using theories from Aristotle, Freud and Marx as lenses from which to view the actions of Salieri and Mozart in the play, my analysis in four chapters shows that their dramatic conflict demonstrates the nature of industry, art, and individual competition. Schorske’s two concepts offer a new interpretation of Shaffer’s work by blending the results of human action and conceptions about the city. This revelation manifests successfully in that Schorske’s concepts define the existence of virtue and vice in the protagonists and represents the larger perception of cities from that period. Future research may approach the role of Femininity in Amadeus and the city of those periods.
Laura Cisneros, Communications: Media Studies

Sexual Assault Portrayals in Various Television Genres

Faculty Mentor: Sharon Sharp, Communications

This study explores rape culture, rape myths and how society views sexual assault as explored in different television genres. The study will show that some television shows perpetuate rape myths while others help bring awareness to the harshness of sexual assault. This thesis incorporates two main research methods: qualitative contemporary television studies, as well as textual analysis. The following television programs, who have a main subplot of rape, will be analyzed for portrayed of sexual assault: Degrassi: The Next Generation (CTV 2001-2015), Switched at Birth (Freeform 2011-present), Mad Men (AMC 2007-2015), Orange is the New Black (Netflix 2013-present), Law and Order: SVU (NBC 1999-present), Family Guy (FOX 1999-present), Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt (Netflix 2015-present), Outlander (Starz 2014-present), The Skinny (YouTube 2016-present), and Shameless (Showtimes 2011-present). This study will contribute to the conversation about the portrayal of sexual assault on television. It will help shed light on the variety of ways in which rape is showcased based on television genres ranging from comedies to dramas. The study also aims to help educate the public about the reality of rape and help debunk commonly held rape myths that are often perpetuated through the media. It will be argued that different television genres showcase rape in a diverse way. The television genre of drama showcases rape plots more frequently which help debunk rape myths due to their grotesque nature. In contrast comedies use rape jokes to normalize rape by often laughing at it, or creating storylines that either victim blame or try to rationalize rape. The examination of various television programs, both those that showcase the norm and those that show the heartlessness of rape, creates a conversation as to how the media can, perhaps, bring about social change in regards to past, current, and future rape culture.