Behavioral and Social Sciences I                  LSU Room 323

9:20-9:40 AM
Lilian Azer, Daniel Delgado, Psychology

*Education Level and Medical Conditions Associated with Executive Functioning in Older Adults*
Faculty Mentor: Karen Wilson, Psychology

Research has found a link between the level of one’s education and executive functioning abilities, with lower educational levels being associated with poorer executive functioning and episodic memory (Lachman, Agrigoroaei, Murphy & Tun, 2010). Low cognitive performance and lower self-rated executive functioning scores have also been associated with various diseases (Blaum, Ofstedal & Liang, 2002). The current study examines the relationship between level of education and self-reported versus objective measures of executive functioning in older adults. Additionally, the relationship between diseases and cognition was examined. Participants included 30 California State University, Dominguez Hills students over the age of 50 (means: age = 69.13, SD = 9.43; years of education = 16.62, SD = 2.399) who were recruited on campus. A cross-sectional survey design was used along with neuropsychological testing to examine the relationship between variables. Surprisingly, results revealed a negative correlation between years of education and self-reported working memory as well as between education level and WAIS-IV Digit Span and Letter-Number Sequencing subtests. Findings may be due to the lack of educational variation the sample contained and the fact that higher educated individuals often overestimate their abilities. A significant relationship was also found between patients diagnosed with diabetes, COPD, thyroid disease and/or cancer and lower self-reported working memory. In addition, a significant correlation was found between low performance on the WAIS-IV Letter-Number Sequencing subtest and patients diagnosed with diabetes and/or thyroid disease. Students who reported being diagnosed with diabetes, hypertension and/or COPD scored lower on the WAIS-IV Digit Span. Individuals who had one or more of the aforementioned diseases performed lower on both self-rated and observed working memory. Results indicate a mind-body connection such that one’s thoughts, feelings, attitudes and beliefs can positively/negatively affect biological functioning. Results also suggest that individuals with medical conditions are at greater risk for cognitive impairment.

10:00-10:20 AM
Maira Salazar, Erika Barrera, Fanessa Chiappinelli, Psychology

*The Relationship Between Self-efficacy and Academic Achievement Among Freshman College Students*
Faculty Mentor: Karen Wilson, Psychology

According to Bandura, self-efficacy is defined as a person’s belief in his or her ability to succeed in a particular situation (1994). It has been well researched that self-efficacy it’s a crucial element for college students. For example, Byrne and colleagues (2014) found that majority of freshmen college students lacked tenacity to engage in beneficial academic activities as well as they were less likely to seek academic tutoring. Precisely, the students lacked the tenacity to find effective study strategies and note taking, and 40 % of the students in the study reported to be unaware of the required standards to succeed academically. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between self-efficacy, as it relates to grade point average (GPA)
among a sample of California State University, Dominguez Hills students in their first semester of their freshman year (N=51). Twenty six percent of the participants identified themselves as male and 74% identified themselves as female (M = 1.74, SD = .44). The ethnic breakdown of the participants was: 16% African American/Black, 64% Latino, 16% Asian/Pacific Islander and 4% other race. It was hypothesized that college freshmen students with high levels of self-efficacy are more likely to have higher grade point average than those freshmen students with lower levels of self-efficacy. A Pearson correlation was run to examine the relationship between self-efficacy and GPA. Preliminary analysis indicated that there was no significant correlation between levels of self-efficacy and GPA (r = -.007, p = .95).

10:30-10:50 AM
Alejandra Ceja, Natalie Vasquez, Kylee Vela, Psychology

Self-Disclosure of Sexual Fantasies in Relationships
Faculty Mentor: Kyran Barr, Psychology

Beyers and Demmons (1999) found that couples in longer relationships reported more extensive sexual self-disclosure with their partners. The present study examines the correlation between relationship length and type of day to the likelihood of a partner to self-disclose their sexual fantasies. It was hypothesized a couple who have been in a relationship longer than twelve months and celebrating an anniversary are more likely to self-disclose their sexual fantasies. It was also hypothesized that couples that have been in relationships less than three months are less likely to self-disclose sexual fantasies on an ordinary day. Participants included 84 undergraduate students (69 females and 13 males) who attended a diverse Western university. The researchers conducted a 2 x 2 between-subjects factorial design. Every participant were administered an experimental packet that included a vignette and questionnaire (e.g., self-disclosure scale [Snell, Belk, Papini, & Clark, 1989]). The hypothesis was not supported, however, there was an interaction between length of relationship and likelihood of self-disclosure of sexual fantasies. The findings of this research can help future studies focus on the interrelation of self-disclosure and term of relationships.

10:50-11:10 AM
Sandra Cervantes, Jasmine Rodriguez, Psychology

Pick Me
Faculty Mentor: John Dulay, Psychology

This study uses James Marcia’s Identity Status to analyze college majors and stress. This research asks: Is there a correlation between Marcia’s Identity Status and the stress students report going though while in college. We hypothesized that there is not a relationship between Marcia’s Identity Status and the amount of stress reported by students on questionnaires. Tested subjects’ identity statuses were determined from the surveys that were given out, while at the same time seeing how stress and major choosing affects Marcia’s Identity Status. Students who are undecided are more stressed on what they want to be because they do not have the motivation or the inspiration, whereas students who have a major feel stress because they are expected to achieve and do what is expected of them. We sampled Cerritos College Students, n=102, ages 17-35. Data was collected on campus during a two day period. With our research we did not find
a correlation between commitment and stress but we did find a there is a significance with the two identities of Foreclosure and Moratorium.

11:10-11:30 AM
Daniel Delgado, Lilian Azer, Omar Gomez, Psychology
The Relationship Between Depression and Subjective and Objective Measures of Working Memory Testing
Faculty Mentor: Karen Wilson, Psychology
Subjective ratings and objective measures of working memory were examined among older adults who reported having depressive symptoms. Older adults may not be aware of their working memory impairments, which may affect clinical self-report ratings of working memory. In addition, many older adults hold beliefs about age-related memory decline that can affect their self-reports (Lineweaver, Berger, & Hertzog 2009). Depression may also impact older adults’ self-perception of working memory. Cook and Marsiske (2006) studied older adults with mild cognitive impairment and found a relationship between subjective memory belief and cognitive performance, while other studies have found that depression negatively influences memory. It was hypothesized that older adults who scored higher on a self-report measure of depression (Beck Depression Inventory-II) would report more working memory difficulties (measured by the Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function-Adult [BRIEF-A], but there would be no relationship between depression symptoms and objective working memory testing (WAIS Digit Span and Letter Number Sequencing). Preliminary results with 30 older adults indicated a positive correlation between depression symptomatology and self-reported difficulties with working memory, and with objective working memory test performance. These results indicate the clinical usefulness of self-report measures of working memory among individuals who experience depressive symptoms.

11:30-11:50 AM
Vanessa Correa, Layla Sewell, Nicole Jones, Social Work
In Retrospect: A Study of Self and Narrative Research
Faculty Mentor: Mekada Graham, Social Work (MSW)
Narrative research has recently emerged in professions including social work, education and nursing. Narrative inquiry engages with a variety of approaches, one of which is inquiry into self, that is, critical reflective practice as a means to help us understand how our past experiences shape our social work selves. The idea of self study comes from reflective practice learning as an important aspect of becoming a professional social worker. Reflective practice uses personal histories and narrative inquiry to capture self awareness and reflection to promote learning and assessment of self for reflection and action. This project also helps us understand how culture affects our ways of thinking which have implications for the way we develop our own personal perspectives on social work practice. This presentation draws on themes from our own narrative contributions to a book entitled “Reflective thinking – Lessons from Student Narratives” authored by Dr. M. Graham, Chair Social Work Department. We explore a blend of critical reflection and our narratives as we examine our personal stories and experiences and an evolving self study of learning stories through our journey in social work education. Even though writing
ourselves into learning stories is not an easy task, especially public writing about everyday living, we become aware of our own learning emerging from experiences in graduate education.
Behavioral and Social Sciences II

9:00-9:20 AM
Lizette Ceja, Jane Jacob, Stephanie Elias, Psychology
*The Effects of Everyday Multitasking: Negative Short and Long Term Effects on Memory, Anxiety, and Information Processing*
Faculty Mentor: Louis Mark Carrier, Psychology

People commonly attempt to perform two or more tasks at once on their Internet and communication technology (ICT) devices. The design of software on computers, smartphones, and tablets allows users and, in fact encourages users, to attempt to multitask, especially young users (Carrier, Cheever, Rosen, Benitez, & Chang, 2009). It has been suggested that frequent everyday multitasking with technology has deleterious effects on cognition and emotion; however, the relationship has not been examined in depth and the existing research results show a mixed picture. This study used anonymous questionnaires administered via SurveyMonkey.com to collect data pertaining to both long- and short-term effects of multitasking with technology from college undergraduates. More specifically, the study estimated the associations between everyday technology multitasking and immediate emotional and cognitive effects and delayed effects over long periods of time. One-half of the participants were given the Everyday Multitasking Measure (EMM) (Carrier et al., 2009) that assesses typical everyday multitasking; the other one-half of the participants were given a modified EMM that queried multitasking in the last five hours. The Everyday Memory Questionnaire (EMQ) was used as a subjective measure of memory failure in everyday life (Royle, Lincoln, 2008); stress levels were measured using the State Trait Anxiety Inventory to measure anxiety levels (Spielberger, Gorsuch, Lushene, Vagg, & Jacobs, 1983) a Web-based executive function questionnaire measured executive function (Buchanan, Heffernan, Parrott, Ling, Rodgers, Scholey, 2010); deep processing and mental workload were measured with experimenter-designed self-report items. The results tested the hypotheses that everyday multitasking has negative short and long term effects upon memory, anxiety, and information processing.

9:20-9:40 AM
Georgianna Garrells, Jason Sender, Psychology
*The Gift of Gratitude: Do Happiness, Gratitude, and Prosocial Behavior All Increase Meaning in Life Among Teens?*
Faculty Mentor: Giacomo Bono, Psychology

Gratitude, prosocial behavior, and happiness are commonly associated with the good life, however an important aspect of this is developing meaning in life because it is a protective factor that affects psychological well-being (Steger, Kashdan, & Oishi, 2008). The purpose of this study is to examine whether gratitude, prosocial behavior, and happiness are longitudinally related to meaning in life among adolescents. Research suggests that gratitude is longitudinally related to increases in meaning (Bono, Froh, Card & Emmons, 2013) and increases prosocial behavior (Bono & Froh, 2014); however, among adolescents their relationship to meaning in life has not been examined. Research with adults indicates a positive relationship between social connection and meaningfulness, which suggests that just altruism itself increases meaning in life.
King et al. (2006) suggest that there is a positive association between happiness and meaning and that if prosocial behavior increases happiness, then it could increase a sense of meaning in life too. This study examined whether gratitude, prosocial behavior, and happiness were associated with increased meaning in life among adolescents over a 4 year period. The hypotheses predicted gratitude will be more strongly related with meaning in life, longitudinally and concurrently at year 4, over prosocial behavior and happiness. Hypotheses were mostly supported for year 1 with gratitude but not happiness, predicting increases in prosocial behavior at year 4. Gratitude at year 1 significantly predicted increases in meaning at year 4, but happiness and prosocial behavior at year 1 did not increase meaning at year 4. The analysis of concurrent associations during year 4 showed that both gratitude and happiness were related to meaning in life, but not prosocial behavior. Therefore while gratitude and happiness provide a sense of meaning in life immediately, only gratitude predicts longitudinal increases in meaning in life.

9:40-10:00 AM
Kiyana Hendrix, Criminal Justice
*Police-Community Relations in Watts, 50 Years After the Rebellion*
Faculty Mentor: Jennifer Sumner, Criminal Justice Administration

This research examines the nature of the relationship between the community of Watts and law enforcement today and how that relationship developed. It also explores how that relationship can be improved. These research questions are particularly important today, as this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Watts Rebellion and it is important to understand how the problems at the center of the rebellion, including those related to police-community relations, have changed (or not) since that time. Qualitative, semi-structured interviews and ethnographic observations were conducted to answer these research questions. Snowball sampling was used to contact and interview community members representing different social classes, races and ethnicities, genders, and ages. In addition, observations of police-community interactions were also conducted at two different public housing projects. Preliminary study findings are presented, taking into account existing research and contemporary examples related to fear of urban communities, negative perceptions of them, and police response. Through a focus on the relationship between the community of Watts and law enforcement today, this research provides a greater understanding of the community and those who live there, in order to identify steps toward improving, rebuilding, and re-imaging the community of Watts and the law enforcement agents who serve that community.

10:00-10:20 AM
Georgianna Garrels, Norma Mulato, Psychology
*Choose Your Strengths Wisely: How Character Strengths are Related to Psychological Well-Being and Gratitude in an Elementary Curriculum Intervention.*
Faculty Mentor: Giacomo Bono, Psychology

Character strengths have been positively linked to successful outcomes among adolescents, like prosocial behavior, competence, and academic success. Use of character strengths also promotes well-being and happiness (Park, 2004). The aim of this study is to examine which strengths are most related to gratitude and well-being in pre-adolescent youth. Researchers have found that
certain strengths -- like zest, hope, gratitude, and love -- are more strongly associated with well-being than strengths like creativity or love of learning (Park et al., 2004; Peterson et al., 2007). Examining all 24 strengths, Kaufman (2015) found that gratitude and love of learning significantly predicted of greater well-being; whereas love, honesty, hope, and humor only approached significance. In schools, character strengths-based interventions have yielded improvements in social skills, achievement, academic engagement, and increased learning (Gilham et al., 2013; Seligman et al., 2009). But gratitude interventions, which also reliably promote well-being, have only recently been examined in schools. Furthermore, research has not examined which strengths moderate the effects of gratitude interventions. Therefore, the current study involved a gratitude curriculum with 4th-6th grade classrooms (N = 65 students), which involved 7 weekly teacher-delivered lessons. Surveys were administered before and after the curriculum. The curriculum began with students identifying their own top character strengths, appreciating the top strengths of peers, and teachers acknowledging students’ top strengths too. This study analyzes which strengths are related to gratitude and well-being naturally (at pre-test) and to changes in gratitude (from pre to post). Specifically, it analyzes which strengths are related to subjective well-being, depression, anxiety, gratitude at baseline, and gratitude change. Results will provide another test -- of which character strengths matter most for well-being in a young and diverse sample of students -- and a test of which strengths describe people who are influenced the most by gratitude interventions.

10:30-10:50 AM
Brenda Ramirez, Leah Sanchez, Luis Villanueva, Anthropology
Culture Through Body: An Ethnographic Exploration of a Classical Cambodian Dance Studio
Faculty Mentor: Susan Needham, Anthropology

This ethnographic project explores the social, cultural, and religious functions of a classical Cambodian dance studio in Long Beach, California with a focus on the transmission of knowledge between instructors and students. In particular, this project analyzes 1) the method of teaching, which involves a combination of molding, modeling, and personal experiences and 2) the roles and responsibilities of students, parents, and instructors in preserving cultural heritage and reintegrating dancers into the program as teachers. This work was completed through several months of observation, and ethnographic interviews to understand dancer’s experiences and meanings and to correct researcher assumptions. Preliminary findings suggest that while American societal expectations influence the activities and structure of the studio, a commitment to preserving and celebrating cultural knowledge is seen transnationally between Cambodia and the United States.

10:50-11:10 AM
Bryce Leisy, Robert Husted, and Armando Villalpando, Anthropology
The Red Road and Recovery
Faculty Mentor: Susan Needham, Anthropology

In the aftermath of colonization, genocide, and the destruction of their way of life and culture, Native Americans are still suffering from marginalization and structural violence in the United States. As a result, many of these disenfranchised people have fallen into drug and alcohol addiction. This has created a cycle of trauma and violence within the native community that
transcends multiple generations. Contemporary rehabilitation centers in the United States fail to address the intergenerational trauma that has been passed down from generation to generation within Native families. There are approximately eight Native Based rehabilitation facilities within the United States that are addressing these issues. American Indian Changing Spirits, located in Long Beach California, is one of these facilities. We conducted ethnographic research at American Indian Changing Spirits, learning how this program incorporates the Sweat Lodge Ceremony as one of their methods used to assist residents with their recovery. Incorporating the Sweat Lodge Ceremony offers spiritual therapy and cultural knowledge that, throughout this process, equips the residents with culturally relevant techniques for personal healing. Participating in the Sweat Ceremony is viewed as purification and this involves and allows self-forgiveness and self acceptance. The integration of the Western twelve step program and Native practices gives credence to both Western and Native practices and rituals to build a greater sense of harmony between both worlds to better support the residences on their road to recovery. Our research focuses on how culturally relevant ceremonies can be incorporated into rehabilitation programs.

11:10-11:30 AM
Ashlyn Chapman, Women's Studies
*Minority Motherhood Within the Context of White Families in Mixed-Race Media*
Faculty Mentor: Carolina San Juan, Ph.D, Women’s Studies and Asian Pacific Studies

I have found a very unsettling trope in mixed-race media. My research looks at the perceptions of motherhood in contemporary media, specifically the perceptions of mothers of color within white families in mixed race media. What I have found is that mothers of color in white families are often absent, killed off, or not even cast. To illustrate this, I have analyzed two movies and one television show: the movie Jersey Girl, the movie Black or White, and the television show Bones. In all three of these examples, the mothers of color are not active or present in their mixed-race children’s lives because the mother is absent in the case of Black or White, killed off in the case of Jersey Girl, or not even cast in the case of Bones. My research has shown that within each of my three media choices, the White parent and White side of the family has complete, or more dominant, parenting over the mixed-race child. The minority mothers of these mixed-race children are portrayed as inadequate parents due to their parenting choices. In Bones, Angela Montenegro’s mother is an absentee Asian mother who is not cast or even spoken about throughout the television series; In Jersey Girl, Gertie Trinké’s Latina mother is killed off early in the movie when giving birth to Gertie; and in Black or White, Eloise Anderson’s Black grandmother is largely absent and secondary in her life compared to her White grandfather. The way these mothers of color are treated in media reinforce racist stereotypes of the unfit and deficient minority mother. These stereotypes further construct the association between civility and whiteness, and therefore reinforce the preference for White mothering.

11:30-11:50 AM
Shawn Williams, Business Analytics
*Examining the Dual Impacts of Social Media by the Millennial Generation in Today’s Workplace*
Faculty Mentor: Xuefei (Nancy) Deng, Information Systems and Operations Management
In the era of digital and social media, social media applications have become an essential part of our society. We can barely go about our everyday lives without encountering some form of social media; many businesses using social media platforms as a way to enhance a better relational experience with their employees and/or customers. This research project looks at growing social media use and its interaction with the workplace. My focus is primarily on the Millennial generation (also known as the Generation Y) with birth years ranging from the early 1980s to the early 2000s; Generation Y depends on Facebook and other social media platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter. People from different walks of life were surveyed about their use of social media sites and applications such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter while at work. Also examined were how the effects of social media posts outside of work could risk one's position at work. My preliminary analysis of a 103 person data sample collected online via an online survey posted on Google Forms shows both the positive and negative impacts of social media use in the workplace. The results from this survey suggest that social media use in the workplace, although beneficial in a large part, has brought a new set of challenges to employers, including the lack of knowledge in regard to company policies and technology dependency among Millennials. In today’s workplace, there is a growing expectation for employees to keep an open eye on their social media communications at work.
The World Health Organization has estimated that since the beginning of the pandemic, HIV has infected 78 million individuals, and 39 million individuals have died of HIV. In 2014, globally there were approximately 36.9 million individuals worldwide living with HIV/AIDS. In 2014, the CDC estimated that 1.1 million individuals in the U.S. were currently living with HIV. In 2010, the iPrEx trial tested the efficiency of PrE-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). PrEP is a drug used for the prevention of HIV/AIDS that is taken before HIV exposure. The result of the iPrEx study was that PrEP can be used effectively to prevent HIV. In 2012, the FDA approved PrEP to be used as a prescription drug for people who do not have HIV/AIDS as a strategy for the prevention of HIV/AIDS. The goal of the study is to disseminate current up-to-date information about PrEP by discussing research published in January 2014 to January 2016. We used sources such as Pub Med and Plos One and searched for keywords such as: PrEP, HIV, risk and adherence. This research will explore themes that examine (1) How PrEP works; current research suggests that PrEP will significantly reduce HIV transmission if used every day and is used with other prevention options such as condoms. (2) Analyze FDA/CDC/WHO recommendations; if taken correctly once a day (for at least 30 days before condomless sex), PrEP can be up to 99% effective in reducing HIV transmission. (3) Identify who is at risk; in the U.S., African/Black and Latino/Hispanic are disproportionately affected by HIV. (4) Identifying barriers such as: adherence, HIV stigma, and side effects. The aims of the study are to bring awareness/advocacy for recent biomedical HIV prevention strategies such as (PrEP) to stop transmissions and reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

This Ethnography of Communication (Hymes, 1962) examines power distribution in an online game world, World of Warcraft (WoW), by analyzing how players use language to create social order. Particularly, this project looks at the social construction of a "guild" (player created team) that completes quests to acquire in-game treasures. This project largely operates as a pilot study by exploring a single guild to observe how social authority is communicated in a virtual environment dominated by text and headsets. It is hypothesized that players who use more game-specific language in either medium will assert more social authority, and that more frequent players will use more game specific language. While the results support these hypotheses, conclusions suggest that there is a stronger correlation between frequency of audio (headset) communication and higher social status, rather than the use of game-specific language. Ultimately, this project benefits research on virtual spaces, such as (WoW), by adding new perspectives while contributing to the body of literature on online communication and linguistic anthropology.
The qualities of peer associations have been reported to have a stronger risk and protective effects on adolescent mental health. This study investigated the potential associations of specific friendship qualities correlated with depressive feelings among adolescents. We hypothesized that indications of poor friendships would correlate with greater depressive feelings. We hypothesized that these correlations would be stronger in younger adolescents. Methods: The sample consisted of 452 European high school adolescents (49% female), ages 15-19 years (mean age = 17.1 (S.D. = 1.2)), living in the northwest of Italy and northeast of Holland. The participants were representative of the population of adolescents attending high school in these regions. Correlation analyses were used between the following variables: depressive feelings, leisure time spent with friends, friend support, and peer control. Analyses were conducted separately by older (18-20 years) and younger (15-17 years) age groups. Findings among younger adolescents indicated depressive feelings to be associated to peer control (r = .36, p< .01), support (r = -.45, p< .01), and leisure time spent with friends (r = -.35, p< .01). Results were similar among older adolescents however correlations proved to be weaker in magnitude. This study presents findings which could be used to inform school and family based interventions aimed at increasing social integration in hopes of achieving better health outcomes.

Neuropsychological studies have investigated the relationship between physiological processes of executive functioning and technology use to reveal that increased technology use has not only been linked to impaired performance on executive functioning tasks but also marked differences within the brain (Brand et al., 2014; Han et al., 2010; Ko et al., 2005; Yuan et al., 2013). Results have found negative associations for individuals who are heavy technology users including neurological deficits in the prefrontal cortex (PFC) which is responsible for impulse control, decision making, attention, and working memory. This suggests that increased use and dependence upon technology might be related to changes in neural circuits, which may contribute to impaired cognitive performance. This study investigated brain activation of light and heavy technology users—recruited from the top and bottom quartiles of the Media and Technology Usage and Attitudes Scale (Rosen et al., 2013) while they engaged in executive functioning tasks including Automated Operation Span Task, Stroop Task, Scarborough Non-Affective Go/No-Go Task, Wisconsin Card Sorting Task, and Tower of Hanoi. Functional near-infrared (fNIR) spectroscopy was monitored to measure blood oxygenation levels in 16 areas within the PFC. Blood oxygenation (hemoglobin) levels signify activity in the given region of the PFC while participants are challenged to successfully and accurately complete each task. Markers were noted to compare baseline hemoglobin levels during a resting state and those while performing each task. Data were collected from a sample of (n=36) light and (n=22) heavy
technology users and will be compared using a multivariate analysis of co-variance. This study is the first of its kind and expects to generate invaluable findings by using cognitive task performance and brain activation data to examine differences in executive functioning. Results will be used to compare neurological underpinnings of executive functioning within the PFC between the two groups.

10:50-11:10 AM
Lee Stotts, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding
Healthcare to Holocaust in Germany, 1880-1945
Mentor: Margaret Manning, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution, and Peacebuilding

This research looks at how something as seemingly beneficial as socialized medicine in the wrong hands led to countless tragic deaths and suffering of millions in Germany. Germans bear a collective guilt for holocaust atrocities done under the guise of scientific research, which today haunts young Germans who feel shame for what occurred over 65 years ago. This research looks at shaming, hurt, and guilt and tries to identify ways to incorporate methods of today’s restorative justice (RJ) theories and practices to address key issues, and specifically how neighborhood justice programs could contribute positively to resolving localized conflict. Examining of other research and hearing first-hand storytelling from holocaust families, this research highlights that additional support is required for the communities of young Germans and Jews. This research touches on several topics that include chosen trauma and those who benefit from chosen trauma, socialized medicine, shaming, resentment, and restorative justice methods. In developing a restorative justice program I initially believed that the different approaches of RJ would be enough. However, I discovered that the Jewish group did not want resolution, in fact, most Israelis choose not to forgive Germany for the atrocities and prefer to cling to their chosen trauma. As a result, I added a component of storytelling for both sides as a way to help each understand the trauma that has occurred. Today, Germany has been the most welcoming nation for refugees fleeing civil war in Syria, in part because the opportunity presented itself to make amends for past sins (a key RJ practice), and also to swell the ranks of younger, able-bodied workers in an aging population. On the other hand, Israel’s door to Syrian refugees is slammed firmly shut.

11:10-11:30 AM
Ashley White, History
The Secrets of Skid Row
Mentor: James Jeffers, History

This research examines many social and political changes as well as vast overhauls of public spaces Los Angeles County has experienced over the last several decades. The research addresses how the growing problem of homelessness in Los Angeles came about as a result of these changes. It pays special attention to the different perspectives presented by city council documents, community citizens, law enforcement and a reformed homeless man now working to help Skid Row inhabitants. Each perspective provides different information which opens new doors of insight regarding the growing problem of homelessness in downtown Los Angeles. These perspectives prove that these problems have been interpreted and experienced differently depending on what an individual’s role is within Los Angeles. My research brings to life the Los
Angeles City Central Business District Redevelopment Plan and one on one interviews that reveal that this problem could have been avoided, but the government is not playing a proactive duty in seeing that these people get proper help. Although there is not one simple solution to solving this problem, my research gives a voice to the homeless and calls for help in hopes that one day positive changes will be made in the downtown region of Los Angeles.

11:30-11:50 AM
Elsa Vazquez, Aide Herrera, Sociology
Support Based Communication on Sexual Health Topics Between Young Black Gay Men and their Close Friends
Mentor: Matt Mutchler, Sociology

Young Black gay men are at high risk of HIV infection. Gay men face a lot of different problems because of their stigma regarding their sexuality within society and within their friends. The problem with HIV stigma is that it can harm individuals and prevent helpful communication about sexual health behaviors in which support is needed. This problem is important to address because it demonstrates the fear and reality the individuals face when seeking support for sexual health. In order to explore this issue, we interviewed twenty-four dyads in Birmingham, Alabama and analyzed some of the themes found that would address the problem. This will help us better understand the communication, feelings, and thoughts among the participants and their best friends in our study. In Dr. Mutchler’s research course, a grounded theory approach was used to analyze transcripts with Dedoose software for qualitative data analysis. SPSS software was also used to analysis the quantitative data. All the target participants were Black, gay or bi-sexual males; the average age was 22. Most of the participants had earned at least a high school diploma. In this study (84.6%) of the friends interviewed were male, (12.8%) female, and (2.6%) transgendered male to female. Results indicated support systems are limited due to loose family ties, gossip, and judgment, which limits open communication about personal information. Participants understand that anything they share can eventually be turned on them. This is important because they do not only have to deal with the stigma of being Black and gay, being on PrEP, or having a sexually transmitted disease, they also have to worry about caring for themselves because they may not have anyone to trust. Further research will focus on the effects of having a limited support system. We will discuss implications for programs and further research.
This research is focused on analyzing the chemical composition of obsidian projectile points, (principally, arrow heads) found at various archaeological sites in northern Baja California. These projectile points are a part of an artifact collection from Baja California made by archaeologist Frederic Hicks in the 1950s, which is currently on loan from UCLA. (This research is a continuation of the paper, “PXRF Analysis of Obsidian Debitage from an Archaeological Site in Northern Baja California” by C. Brito, B. Gay, and I. Weir presented at the Southern California Conference on Undergraduate Research on November 21, 2015). The chemical composition of these projectile points was determined by using a portable x-ray fluorescence (pXRF) device, more specifically a Bruker Tracer III-SD. The chemical compositions of the projectile points are compared to the chemical compositions of known obsidian sources in Baja California and surrounding areas. Using the pXRF, artifacts and obsidian sources were chemically characterized based on the elements rubidium, strontium, yttrium, zirconium, and niobium. The main objective of this research is to determine whether hunting and gathering groups used single or multiple obsidian sources to manufacture their projectile points. The first outcome can be explained by the hunter and gatherer groups directly obtaining the obsidian during their annual subsistence cycle, while the second outcome can indicate that the obsidian was obtained through trade. This project investigates alternative patterns of prehistoric procurement.

The well-being of higher-education students has seldom been discussed in the literature. The strategies and mechanisms of how to promote happiness and thrive in an academic setting are numerous and would result inevitably in greater productivity, academic retention, and higher grades. Thriving, as defined in this research, is an individual’s ability to flourish, demonstrating high levels of functioning, and emulates Seligman’s theory of well-being, PERMA, which is comprised of Positive emotion, Engagement, Positive Relationships, Meaning, and Accomplishment, and targets three construct levels encompassing the positive experience, positive personality, and positive communities and institutions (Forgeard, Jayawickreme, Kern, & Seligman, 2011; Huppert & So, 2013; Seligman & Csikzentmihalyi, 2010; Seligman, 2011). These positive psychological constructs are often strongly correlated with one another; however, they are usually studied independently (Friedman & Kern, 2014). A thriving student is not without struggle, especially given the high levels of stress present in the academic environment; thriving students posses ability to overcome the overwhelming adversity that is faced on a daily basis despite all odds. A multidimensional thriving measure may be able to identify groups and
individuals with specific strengths and weaknesses. This study will be a multidimensional concept that incorporates many components of life including but not limited to: physical health, mental health, social relationships, intellectual development, emotional vitality, and spirituality (Myers & Sweeney, 2008). Thriving describes a psychological state in which individuals simultaneously experience vitality and learning in a given situation (Spreitzer, Sutcliffe, Dutton, Sonenshein, & Grant, 2005). The construct validation of thriving could potentially be a valuable contribution to positive psychology because there is a need for a scientific understanding and possible effective interventions to enable the potential for thriving in individuals, families, and communities (Seligman & Csikzentmihalyi, 2000).

2:10-2:30 PM
Norma Mulato, Georgianna Garrels, Jason Sender, Psychology
Growing Gratitude: Personal, Parental and Social Determinants of Gratitude Development in Pre-Adolescents
Faculty Mentor: Giacomo Bono, Psychology

Gratitude is considered to be an important virtue to cultivate in youth. Grateful youth are found to be psychologically healthier, more emotionally stable, and better adjusted socially than less grateful youth (Froh & Bono, 2014). Researchers have proposed theoretical explanations that identify possible determinants of gratitude (McAdams & Bauer, 2004), but most of the research has focused on outcomes associated with gratitude among adolescents. Research examining developmental predictors of gratitude is rare and the aim of this study is to examine personal, social and parental determinants of gratitude in youth. This study examines the associations of emotion regulation (personal factor), attachment security (parental factor), and friendship quality (social factor) with gratitude among children ages 8-12. Each determinant may be related to gratitude development for different reasons. Emotional regulation involves the ability to change the quality or intensity of emotional experiences to cope with the environment; it should help with the maintenance of positive affective experiences (Denham, 1998; Gross, 2001), like gratitude. Attachment security is strongly linked to improved psychological health and individuals with secure attachment styles are more likely to develop positive emotional qualities, self-views and virtues such as gratitude (Love & Murdock, 2004; Bartholomew & Horowitz, 1991; Shaver & Mikulincer, 2003). A key function of gratitude involves relationship formation and maintenance (Algoe, Haidt, & Gable, 2008), which suggests that gratitude may be both a consequence and factor of quality social relationships. Data were collected from two elementary schools in California (from 6 classrooms in grades 4-6; N = approximately 180 male and female students) as part of a pretest evaluating a seven-week gratitude curriculum currently being delivered at these schools. Conclusions will be drawn and implication will be discussed for supporting gratitude development at home and in school.

2:30-2:50 PM
Adolfo Guevara, English
Fighting an Invisible Battle
Faculty Mentor: John Hsiao, English

Many are unaware of rape culture in America. It is a taboo subject because of the shame surrounding the crime. In reality, this is an important subject because it affects more women and
men that we realize. Rape culture, defined by *Women Against Violence Against Women*, is “a complex set of beliefs that encourage male sexual aggression and supports violence against women.” These beliefs come from religion, ethical traditions, and social media. Most religions such Christianity create a guideline of morals to follow in our everyday lives. Religion teaches men to value a woman's virginity as something sacred. When it comes to traditions Latinos are known for a dream of the husband having a good job to provide for both himself and his wife while she becomes a stay-at-home mother. As children are being taught how to act as a traditional masculine males and feminine females from parents, males are taught not to cry, be strong, and be wealthy; on the other hand, females are taught to take care of a child, to depend on a man, and to be a housewife. Everything that we are taught is that men are superior while, as inferior beings, women can be treated as lesser; however what men want leads to rape culture. Another reason rape culture is reinforced is through the influence of social media portraying ideal norms and morals. Thus this research is focused on how rape culture came to be and how can we eliminate rape culture with solutions, interventions and education. Some of the solutions involve in better education for females to get a better job, teach male children interventions to respect females, and finally to elect more women in Congress.

2:50-3:10 PM
Ian Klinger, Kelin Li, Sociology, Mikala Caton, AIDS Project Los Angeles
*Predictors of Condom Use Among Young Black Men Who Have Sex with Men (YBMSM) and Their Close Friends*
Mentor: Matt G. Mutchler, Sociology

In Los Angeles County, the HIV incidence rate is three times higher for Young Black Men who have Sex with Men (YBMSM) than for white and Latino Young Men who have Sex with Men (YMSM). Research shows that perceptions of peer norms favoring safer sex behaviors such as condom use are related to lower sexual risk among YBMSM. In response, Dr. Mutchler’s team at CSUDH worked with AIDS Project Los Angeles and Reach LA and collected quantitative data from YBMSM and their close friends in order to understand how friends communicate about sexual health and influence safe sex behaviors, including condom usage. The sub-sample of YBMSM and their male friends included in our analyses was 77 participants. The race/ethnicity of the participant sample was (92.3%) African American/Black, (9.0%) Latino, (6.4%) white/Caucasian, (5.1%) Asian, (1.3%) Native American, and (5.1%) other. Using SPSS, we ran univariate and bivariate tests on questions about peer sexual health communication, safer sex communication, sex with primary partners, and safer sex intentions against condom usage. We dichotomized these variables to aid in our analyses. The variables that were statistically or marginally significant in the bivariate tests were analyzed in a multivariate regression. Our dependent variable was condom use: “In the last 30 days, how often did you use a condom during anal sex.” Being in a monogamous relationship predicted condom use in the multivariate model (P<.05). Depending on the analyses used, discussing HIV testing with a friend and condom use intentions marginally predicted condom use in the multivariate model (P<.10). These data will help us understand how to improve condom usage and HIV prevention in at-risk populations by addressing relationship agreements, sexual communication, and condom use intentions among YBMSM and their friends.
Los Angeles is famous and infamous as the birthplace of graffiti and the capital of murals. This research project takes you on a visual tour of the city to explore the use of these two graphic forms. According to the Los Angeles Police Department, graffiti is the way gangs mark their territory, glorify their own gang and intimidate other gangs. However, the graffiti also serves to intimidate the people in the community: “when a neighborhood is marked with graffiti indicating territorial dominance, the entire area and its inhabitants become targets for violence.” In other words, if someone happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, he/she could become a victim of gang rivalry. The City of Los Angeles provides special programs to fight graffiti. One such program is responsible for the removal of graffiti, while another program, called the Office of Community Beautification (OCB), helps the community to stay beautiful. The programs encourage volunteers to keep the city clean and free of graffiti. On the other hand, murals tend to foster peace and unity in the community, which are two of the main goals of peacebuilding. For example, you will see a mural painted in the Watts Health Center by students and alumni of CSUDH, which celebrates the diverse community with 95 images of individuals and iconic scenes in American history, from Pre-Columbian Native Americans to the present day struggle for social justice in health care and immigrant rights. Not only do these murals bring peace to communities, but the murals also bring people together, such as muralists the Hood Sisters whose mission is “to get the kids from the area out of the streets tagging and out of getting in trouble.”

Previous studies have examined contraceptive knowledge and beliefs among immigrant women. In examining the relationship between immigrants and family planning, significant barriers have been identified. Several barriers in accessing contraceptives include lack of family support, limited contraceptive knowledge, and pressure from in-laws to have children. Our study aims to further understand these practices within the Indian population residing in the Los Angeles area. Most studies believe there is a lack of knowledge about family planning; however, some argue that contraceptive knowledge is present but not used because of cultural or religious beliefs. Because the Indian culture places high importance on marriage and has certain expectations for family goals (for women), women are not expected to seek family planning services. However, a significant difference will be seen among those primarily socialized in India versus those who might have been exposed to the U.S culture. The current project expands on this by conducting interviews to examine the relationship between family planning, religion, cultural prohibitions and acculturation to the U.S. among Indian immigrant women who have lived in the L.A area for at least one year. As suggested by previous studies, effective interventions for this population must include cultural competency in medical/health care settings in order to better assist and support Indian women in their reproductive health. This pilot study interviewed five Indian
imigrant women and asked them about their family planning behaviors. It focused on the relationship between assimilation and birth control usage. Women reported that family planning was not important to them and that this was not a part of decision making with their spouse. Class status was viewed as important to family planning, where upper class or middle class women are perceived to engage in the use of birth control compared to working class women.

4:20-4:40 PM
Maria Villa, Keayera McDaniels, Criminal Justice Administration
False Memory Diet: The Ethics of Planting False Memories to Improve Health
Faculty Mentor: Shari Berkowitz, Criminal Justice Administration (Public Administration)

Research has shown that it is quite easy to make people remember events that never actually happened to them. These false memories have been found to have consequences for people’s later behaviors and attitudes. In several studies, researchers discovered that participants who came to falsely remember that they had gotten sick after eating certain foods were less interested in eating those foods at a subsequent party. The media has speculated this ‘false memory diet’ could be used to improve obese people’s eating habits. Yet, how ethical would it be to practice this false memory diet outside of the laboratory? To answer this question, we examined people’s ethical views on the use of planting false memories to improve healthy behaviors. In two separate studies, we asked participants from the US and UK to imagine that they were obese and had sought the help of a therapist. This therapist, unbeknownst to them, then planted false childhood memories that they had gotten sick after eating too many unhealthy foods, or that they had loved eating certain healthy foods. Participants then rated how acceptable, moral, and ethical the false memory therapy (FMT) would be. In study 2, participants also described the conditions that would make FMT more or less ethical. Overall, we found that participants rated FMT as somewhat acceptable, moral, and ethical. Participants’ ratings, however, ranged drastically from sheer terror over the use of FMT to enthusiastic delight. In this presentation, we will discuss our results briefly, and highlight the important and interesting ethical implications of planting false memories outside of the laboratory.

4:40-5:00 PM
Jonathan Pedroza, Kaitlin O'Brien, Lizzette Ceja, Alex Lim, Psychology
Examination of Executive Functioning Behaviors: A Comparison Between Light and Heavy Technology Users
Faculty Mentors: Larry Rosen, L. Mark Carrier, Psychology

Increasing accessibility of technology has led to younger generations to be dependent upon its use with resultant negative performance outcomes. Studies have found an association between heavy technology use and issues in working memory, reasoning, task flexibility, problem solving, planning, decision making, and inhibition. This study examines differences in executive functioning between college students who are light and heavy technology users. Participants were recruited using their scores from the Media and Technology Usage and Attitudes Scale (MTUAS) in undergraduate courses. MTUAS scores in the bottom quartile were identified as “light” technology users and those in the top quartile were identified as “heavy” technology users. Participants performed five behavioral tasks, including the Automated Operation Span
Task (AOSPAN), Stroop Task, Scarborough Non-Affective Go/No-Go Task, Wisconsin Card Sorting Task (WCST), and Tower of Hanoi (TOH), with each task measuring different executive functions. AOSPAN assessed working memory by having participants recall a series of letters while answering simple math problems. To test for selective attention and cognitive flexibility the Stroop Task required participants to respond to the color of the word or the word itself. The Go/No-Go task investigated impulsivity by instructing participants to respond only when a particular stimulus appeared on the screen. The WCST measured cognitive control, set shifting, and working memory by asking individuals to match cards using rules such as matching based on shapes, colors, and number of figures. Finally, the TOH task measured inhibition, working memory, and procedural learning by instructing participants to stack disks to match a given set in the least amount of moves as possible. Data were collected from a sample of (n=36) light and (n=22) heavy technology users and will be compared using a multivariate analysis of covariance. Initial examination of the WCST data shows differences between the two groups.

5:00-5:20 PM
Marlene Cortes, Jason Sender, Sunehra Ali, Psychology
The Cultivation of Grateful Thinking
Faculty Mentor: Giacomo Bono, Psychology

Research has shown that experiencing gratitude is linked to overall well-being and life satisfaction (Froh et al., 2014). This is in part due to the role that gratitude plays in social integration (the use of one's strengths to help others and society), the development of healthy relationships, and in school achievement. In a longitudinal study by Froh, Bono, and Emmons (2010) gratitude, social integration, and the motivation to use personal strengths to help others were examined in middle school children. They found that gratitude predicted increases in social integration 6 months later, partly because of increases in prosocial behavior and life satisfaction at 3 months. Furthermore, adolescents (ages 14-19 years old) who were considered more grateful reported higher life satisfaction, higher academic achievement, higher involvement in activities, and engaged in more social integration (Froh et al., 2011). Interestingly, those same adolescents also reported experiencing less envy, depression, and materialism. Thus, the literature indicates that grateful thinking broadly promotes positive youth development. However, only one out of the three interventions found in the literature focused on directly supporting youths’ experience of interpersonal gratitude (Froh et al., 2014). The current pilot study builds on this research and focuses on training youth in the social-cognitive appraisals underlying interpersonal gratitude: appreciating the personal value of gifts/help, the cost to benefactors, and the altruistic intention of benefactors. Specifically, approximately 150 high school students in English classes were taught to thoroughly process interpersonal benefits by applying three benefit appraisals to their lives personally, through an autobiographical essay about a significant experience with a benefactor, and through an essay analyzing the short story, “The Gift of the Magi”. Surveys were administered before and after the lesson (1 week apart). Results indicated that grateful thinking can in fact be trained, and effects were found on empathy and well-being.
Behavioral and Social Sciences V

1:30-1:50

**Marcos Jimenez, Psychology**

*The Impact of Computer Technology Use on Time Perception*

Faculty Mentor: Mark Carrier, Psychology

Computer technology is ubiquitous and is seen in many forms such as cell phones, laptops, and tablets. Computer usage is ever increasing with almost every age group utilizing some form of technology. Previous research has demonstrated a relationship between the frequency of technology use and the distortion of time perception with regards to computer-related tasks. Research indicates that individuals who have more experience with computer technology have better expectations of the time duration of certain computer oriented tasks when compared with less experienced. Previous research has also found an individual’s interest in certain tasks can lead to decreased perceptions of time. Furthermore, perceived time shortening while engaging in computer-related tasks is thought to be heightened among compulsive and/or problematic Internet users. The purpose of this study was to employ an experimental design to identify the specific factors that influence an individual’s perception of time while performing technology-related tasks. In this study, undergraduate students (N = 612) viewed both technology-related and non-technology-related video clips and made estimations about the duration of each. Measures of participants’ enjoyment levels while viewing the video clips, tendencies towards problematic Internet use, and typical daily media and technology usage were also assessed. This study hypothesized that participants who report more frequent technology use will make more accurate predictions about the length of the technology-related videos. Furthermore, frequent technology users were expected to make shorter duration estimates of technology-related videos. In addition, it was predicted that individuals identified as internet “addicts” would also report reduced time estimates when compared with non-addicts. Data analysis is currently in progress. The findings from this study are anticipated to have a wide range of applications among various disciplines.

1:50-2:10

**Sussanah Ngwuta, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution, and Peacebuilding**

*The Impact of Stereotypes on the Efficacy of Security across the Globe*

Faculty Mentor: Brian Jarrett, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution, and Peacebuilding

Proactive measures are usually taken to circumvent the occurrence of violent acts of warfare. Thus the typical response immediately after an unequivocal security threat has been to intensify security protocols. The need for security consciousness is greater than ever before. This project seeks to examine the impact of stereotypes on the efficacy of security across the globe. Public and private security will be explored at length in different parts of the world. A plethora of international hostilities (terrorist attacks) and notable domestic attacks will be analyzed at length. Literature has yet to directly and/or indirectly link stereotypes to security efficacy. Regardless of the location (i.e. country) in question, relying mostly on exaggerated and distorted information to provide security can result in costly consequences. This project seeks to discover whether private and public security are inhibited by over reliance on stereotypes. In addition, this paper aims to supplement conventional security practices in existence.
2:30-2:50

**Brandon Gay, Anthropology**

*Exploring Interspatial Relationships of Baja California: A Least-Cost Analysis of Obsidian Procurement and Transport*

Faculty Mentor: Jerry Moore, Anthropology

This project focuses on the relative cost of transportation between archaeological site BC-73 and the San Felipe obsidian source, both located in Baja California, by comparing three pathways created through ArcGIS’s “least cost analysis”. The three pathways are limited geographically to the Pacific Coast, Gulf of California, and Interior regions of Baja California. This project is based on prior research (e.g. C. Brito, B. Gay, and I. Weir [2015] “PXRF Analysis of Obsidian Debitage from a Site in Northern Baja California,” a paper presented at the Society for Undergraduate Research Conference November 21, 2015), which compared elemental compositions of obsidian debitage from BC-73 to other known obsidian sources in the region, and determined that the debitage from archaeological site BC-73 had similar elemental composition to the San Felipe obsidian source. This similarity led to the conclusion that the obsidian was gathered at San Felipe then transported and used in lithic tool production at site BC-73. However, the geography between the sites is of particular interest; site BC-73 and the San Felipe obsidian source are separated by 120 km of mountainous terrain. Given that the terrain is difficult to traverse, this project aims to understand how these sites are connected through least cost analysis, which combines spatial analysis software ArcGIS and elevation data from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) to determine the easiest pathway through the terrain. The ultimate objective is to develop the most efficient pathways that could connect the debitage to its source of obsidian. The modeled pathways will be compared to known historic expeditions of Baja California to determine relative transportation costs of alternative routes in the region. Preliminary results suggest that the pathway along the Gulf Coast is the most efficient route to transport obsidian between San Felipe Source and site BC-73.

2:50-3:10 PM

**Kevin Munoz, Shelby Oppel, Ray Jaquez, and Daniel A-Haja, Psychology, Ron Bermudez Perea, and Andrea Esparza, Anthropology**

*Law and Disorder: The Effects of Forensic Crime Television on the Public’s Perceptions of Forensic Evidence*

Faculty Mentor: Heather Butler, Psychology

There is a variety of factors that go into the process of obtaining a guilty verdict. While jurors are instructed to focus on the evidence and objectively interpret the information presented at trial, there may be other factors or preconceptions about the evidence that affect their decision. One factor that may impact jurors’ preconceptions is the type and amount of crime television that they watch. Some argue that forensic investigative television shows may inflate jurors’ necessity for forensic evidence, or jurors may fail to convict when forensic evidence is not present. Further, jurors may assume guilt when forensic evidence is present, even if the quality of that evidence is questionable. This effect is known as the CSI Effect, but evidence supporting the existence of the CSI Effect is mixed. The purpose of the present study is to test whether or not the CSI effect exists, and to explore the impact that television shows have on perceptions of forensic evidence. Community adults (n = 40, data collection is ongoing) completed a questionnaire that
measured their viewing habits, knowledge of forensic science (DNA, fingerprints, etc.), and perceptions of forensic evidence on television. Regardless of viewing habits, participants believed forensic evidence was more accurate than other types of evidence and their estimates of how often forensic evidence is collected at crime scenes were grossly inflated. Consistent with the CSI Effect, those who watched forensic crime television were less willing to convict someone if DNA was not presented. Forensic crime television viewers were also more likely to believe certain myths about forensics than non-viewers. Forensic crime television viewers were more likely to believe that hair microscopy is accurate than those who do not. This is of particular importance because the FBI recently admitted to “overstating” the results in 20 years of hair microscopy analyses.

3:40-4:00

**Lenana Flippin, Sociology**

*From Blackness to Hip-Hop: Africanness, Indigeneity, and Universality*

Faculty Mentor: Jeb Middlebrook, Sociology

Much has been suggested about hip-hop throughout its short history, and throughout this time, much has been misunderstood about it. Nevertheless, whether you are a B boy from the 70s, or a rapper in the late 90s, you resonate with its aesthetics and liberating qualities. This research explores the origins of hip-hop as a living history of African Indigeneity through a process of consolidation and accumulation of culture, knowledge and identity. From the Griots of West Africa to the Emcees of New York city we see direct linkages between histories of peoples and their practices. The atmosphere of slavery, the civil rights movement, and the black power movement created subcultures and genres of liberal artistic expression, which established a way for black people to mobilize social, political, and economic resources. These same conditions and attitudes produced some of the greatest artist and ideas in American history. For example, Dubois’s “double consciousness,” the artistic expression and wisdom of Maya Angelou, the electrifying voice of Marian Anderson, the “godfather of soul” James Brown, and Gil Scott Heron Who has been called “The first rapper, or emcee.” Some of the other sub-genres of blackness are Spirituals, jazz, freedom songs, blues, opera, funk, reggae, soul, rock, punk, and later on to rap and R&B. All of these art forms accompany the aesthetics that tell the story of black people and the black music industry that would later become the foundation for the manifestation of hip-hop. From hip-hop’s parallels in B boying cyphers to other circle practices, particularly in the African Diaspora, it is undeniable that hip-hop is a living history of African indigeneity. This research identifies this history, its relationship to the black experience, and examines the essence, understanding, and practice of hip-hop as potential sites of social advancement.

4:00-4:20

**Jason Cuevas, Darryl Ford, Michael Calderon, Nochole Freiboth, and Giacomo Bono, Psychology**

*Trait Gratitude Psych-Educational Intervention*

Faculty Mentor: John Dulay, Psychology

Trait gratitude is a component of personality most studied and researched in adults. However, recent research has uncovered statistical support for the benefits of teaching skills relating to
gratitude and positive emotions to children as a baseline trait as they progress through life. The data used were from a Gratitude Intervention Program administered at two elementary schools in Connecticut, one representative of a higher socioeconomic standing and one of a lower socioeconomic standing. Statistically significant increases in well-being were found for both schools, but specific effects differed between schools. Utilizing data collected before the program intervention, the following analysis utilized a slightly different analysis approach in order to determine whether there would be an observable difference of measured reports of positive emotions, negative emotions, and trait gratitude in fifth grade children from higher socioeconomic backgrounds and lower socioeconomic backgrounds. The findings indicate the two groups do not statistically differ when surveyed about recent feelings of positive emotions, negative emotions, and trait gratitude.

5:00-5:20
Patricia Dominguez
*Correctional and Substance Abuse Social Work*
Faculty Mentor: John Hsiao, English

As the research paper discusses details of each field, people begin to question if social workers do in fact make a difference in society and individuals. According to “Correctional drug abuse treatment in the United States: An overview,” “The US prison population has grown about 55 percent since 1981, largely fueled by the major influx of drug-using offenders.” The purpose of this paper is to determine whether correctional and substance abuse social workers make a difference in a person's life whether it’s helping them enter rehab centers, reach sobriety or in life after prison. The paper demonstrates that correctional and substance abuse social workers can prevent recidivism. While correctional social workers prepare individuals to deal with society's expectations and post prison life, substance abuse social workers attempt to end addiction by contributing to rehab centers. The paper also explains the differences between correctional and substance abuse social work and the similarities and the benefits they contribute to one another. Along those lines is also mentioned the outcome both specializations have and the benefits they bring to their patients. If correctional social workers raise their positive outcomes and substance abuse social workers manage to end addiction, then they prove that not only do they make a difference but that patients can indeed change their ways of life. This paper will demonstrate that social workers in both fields do make a difference when helping individuals turn their life around, presenting a second chance to better themselves.
Women have increasingly become victims of date rape; more so than has been the case in recent history. Date rape can occur in any environment and has no ethnic or social boundaries. Equally problematic is how others perceive the victim of rape. It is often the case that the women, although violated, are seen as encouraging the act by virtue of unintentional factors. This study was designed to examine these factors, including the type of apparel the victim was wearing and the types of behaviors she was exhibiting. In this research participants were asked to read a vignette that involved a date rape in which a woman wore a very provocative or conservative outfit and behaved in either a flirtatious, moderately flirtatious, or non-flirtatious matter. It was hypothesized that women will judge another woman more harshly when she is provocatively dressed and behaves in a flirty manner than a woman who is conservatively dressed and does not flirt at all. Results showed that the more the woman dressed provocatively and behaved in a moderately flirty to flirty matter she was perceived as being more responsible for the date rape. Women’s perceptions of other women did lead to a more judgmental demeanor than the woman who was dressed conservatively.

A guilty verdict in a trial is reached due to a combination of different factors. The members of a United States jury must give a verdict based on their interpretation of evidence collected at a crime scene. However, preconceptions about the forensic evidence can lead to fallacious decisions from the jury. The scenarios depicted on forensic shows construe the viewer’s perceptions of how real-life forensic evidence is used. In particular, binge watching has created a new culture of television show viewers that allows them to absorb trending shows such as “NCIS”, “CSI”, and “Bones” in large quantities within a relatively small amount of time. Researchers argue jurors may be influenced by the misconceptions conveyed on these shows. This is known as the “CSI effect”. For instance, juries may acquit a case if they do not believe enough forensic evidence is present. Additionally, juries may reach a guilty verdict when forensic evidence is present, even though it may be questionable. There has been a lack of literature that involves the forensic anthropology knowledge presented on television. The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact that forensic shows have on the perceptions of forensic evidence and forensic anthropology. Community adults (n=40, data collection ongoing) answered a questionnaire that measured knowledge of forensic anthropology, perceptions of forensic evidence, and their viewing habits. Preliminary results indicate that participants who watch forensic shows compared to non-viewers erroneously believe that wrist bones can determine race and that fingerprints are part of forensic anthropology. However, forensic show
watchers also correctly identified that the femur can be used for race determination in forensic cases. These television shows can portray both correct and incorrect information; it is important to understand the impact these forensic crime shows have on viewers’ perceptions in order to improve trial proceedings.

2:10-2:30

**Yeymy Garcia**  
*The Causes and Effects of Homelessness*  
Faculty Mentor: John Hsiao, English

This research explores the causes and effects of the ongoing epidemic of homelessness. Homelessness often affects different groups like men, women, children, teenagers, and veterans due to internal and interpersonal issues. Even though homelessness affects various different groups, the dangers they are exposed to are the same. Homelessness may be an issue, but the leading factors and effects are much more severe; however, the reasons as to why these groups become homeless are the same: unemployment, drugs, dangerous relationships, physiological problems or lack of support by family and friends. The biggest danger about homelessness is what the homeless are exposed to: malnutrition, inadequate hygiene, violence, sexual exploitation, drug abuse, mental health issues, and risk of death. Homelessness is an issue due to what the homeless are exposed when they are out in the streets. Luckily, there are short-term and long-term solutions. Homelessness affects different demographics, but every group is exposed to the same dangers; therefore, it is important to explore the possible solutions to this ongoing epidemic.

2:30-2:50

**Thomas Foley, Psychology**  
*The Relationship between Composite Attention-Executive-Functioning-Working-Memory Cognition and Cardiac Output, Mean Arterial Pressure and Total Peripheral Resistance*  
Faculty Mentor: Karen Wilson, Psychology

Cardiovascular health is vital to neurological health. The heart pumps blood throughout the body and afferently circulates vital nutrients to the brain, while efferently removing excess CSF and other unwanted chemicals. The effect that cardiovascular health has on brain health is known as cerebral perfusion. A constant supply of blood to the brain allows normal development and sustained health. With time and experience, the number and complexity of synaptic connections and neural plasticity promotes increasing cognitive sophistication (Cha et al., 2003). Ultimately, poor cardiovascular health affects cognition by increasing detrimental white matter lesions (WML) in the cerebral cortex. The heart’s indirect effect on cognition classifies it as a relevant cognitive organ. The purpose of this study is not to challenge existing neurological measures, but to explore Blood Pressure (BP) as an non-invasive test for determining the need for future neurological assessment. BP is an efficient measure that has the ability to be interpreted neurologically. Peripheral systolic blood pressure (PSBP), the pressure during the contraction of the heart, and peripheral diastolic blood pressure (PDBP), the pressure during relaxation of the heart, can be manipulated to accurately represent a healthy supply of blood to the brain. The composite BP variable will consist of brachial blood pressure data and will attempt to highlight data associated with cognition. The proposed study will examine various Blood Pressure (BP)
derived variables in relation to cognitive performance. Factors examined will include: Heart Rate (HR), Peripheral Systolic Blood Pressure [contraction] (PSBP), Peripheral Diastolic Blood Pressure [relaxation] (PDBP), Mean Arterial Pressure (MAP), Pulse Pressure (PP), Cardiac Output (CO), Total Peripheral Resistance (TPR), Stroke Volume (SV), Digit Span Forward (DSF), Digit Span Backward (DSB), Number Letter Sequencing (NLS), and the Color Word Interference Test (CWIT). Data resulting from this study may lead to the identification of risk profiles for cognitive deficits in all ages.

2:50-3:10

Alaina Govender, Angelica Rivera, and Adrian Delgado, Psychology

The Association between Coping Response Strategies, Gender, Socioeconomic Status and Academic Performance among College Freshman Students

Faculty Mentor: Karen Wilson, Psychology

The transition to college is a stressful experience for freshmen students. The ability to cope with challenges and demands is a significant factor in freshman academic achievement. Gender differences in coping suggest that females rely more on seeking guidance and positive reappraisal, but also are more likely to use cognitive avoidance and emotional discharge than men. Additionally, research suggests that individuals with a lower socioeconomic status (SES) are more likely to employ emotion-focused coping (avoidant) than problem-focused coping (approach) strategies. The current study examines the association between coping responses, gender, SES and, academic achievement (as measured by grade point average) among California State University, Dominguez Hills freshman students in their first semester (N=65). The study consisted of 50 women (77%) and 15 men (23%), between the ages of 18 and 20. Coping response strategies were assessed with the Coping Responses Inventory-Adult (CRI).

Preliminary analyses indicated that there was no significant correlation between coping response strategies and students’ GPAs for semester one, and coping response strategies did not make a significant contribution to the prediction of GPA. There was no significant difference in overall coping response scores for male and female students. Similarly, there was no significant difference in coping responses for students with low versus high SES. There was, however, a significant difference in the CRI seeking guidance and support subscale for males (M = 45.07, SD = 7.84) and females (M = 50, SD = 7.93); t (63) = - 2.119, p=.038 and the CRI emotional discharge subscale for males (M = 49.60, SD = 8.09) and females (M = 57.69, SD = 10.34); t (61) = - 2.771, p=.007). Findings indicate that female college students sought guidance and support more than their male counterparts and used more emotional discharge coping strategies than male college students.

3:20-3:40

Ian Weir, Anthropology

A Comparison of SPSS Cluster Analyses on the Chemical Composition of Obsidian

Faculty Mentor: Jerry Moore, Anthropology

My research project is focused on finding the most accurate type of clustering in SPSS when analyzing the chemical composition of obsidian tool waste, or debitage. As our previous research has shown ("C. Brito, B. Gay and I. Weir [2015] PXRF Analysis of Obsidian Debitage from an Archaeological Site in Northern Baja California), using a tool such as a portable x-ray
fluorescence device on obsidian allows you to find the chemical composition of the debitage, and compare it to the known sources of obsidian. The chemical analysis creates a large amount of data, which can be difficult to understand on its own. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) contains various clustering programs used to analyze data sets, resulting in graphs showing the different clusters in the data which allows you to identify patterns in the data. In past research Brito et. al compared the elemental composition of obsidian debitage from a northern Baja California archaeological site, BC-73, to previously published data from known obsidian sources. However, this research requires the application of different cluster analyses to the data and each method of cluster analysis in SPSS entails specific assumptions and procedures. SPSS is a robust program, and has many different methods of clustering the data it is given, so it can be hard to determine the most accurate way. My research takes a set of obsidian data that has already been clustered, and tries to replicate that grouping using the different clustering methods in SPSS. By testing the different options for clustering, I can determine the most accurate method, which will be useful for future research.

3:40-4:00
Allana Griffin, Evelyn Hildebrand, Ian Weir, and Vanessa Jimenez, Anthropology
The Use of Ground Penetrating Radar at Rancho Dominguez
Faculty Mentor: Jerry Moore, Anthropology

This study focused on whether Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) was a viable method of determining sites of interest within the historical location of the Battle of Rancho Dominguez, and if it was possible to verify this was a historically accurate account, and if the features found were associated with military encampments or actions. Our excavations concerned the lower terrace grounds of the Rancho Dominguez museum during the time period of the Mexican American War when this battle supposedly took place, according to folk history. Our group measured a thirty by thirty meter area, scanning one meter apart using the GPR. We used the images to determine ‘hot spots’- high levels of accuracy of varying results within the area. From this we chose a point within it with the greatest diversity of context to excavate a one meter by one meter unit and to descend fifty centimeters into the ground. Our excavation ended at sixty centimeters in depth. Our final results were inconclusive to our research questions. Although our research failed to conclusively identify archaeological features associated with the Battle at Rancho Dominguez, our project contributed to ongoing research at the site.

4:00-4:20
Elsa Vazquez and Aide Herrera, Sociology
Sex-Based Communication
Faculty Mentor: Matt G. Mutchler, Sociology

Young Black gay men are at high risk of HIV infection. Gay men face a lot of different problems because of the stigma regarding their sexuality within society and within their own circles. The problem with HIV stigma is that it can harm individuals and prevent helpful communication about sexual health behaviors when support is needed. This problem is important to address because it demonstrates the fear and reality the individuals face when seeking support for sexual health and in order to explore this issue, we interviewed twenty-four dyads in Birmingham, Alabama and analyzed some of the themes found that would address the problem. These
interviews will help understand the communication, feelings, and thoughts among the participants and their best friends in our study. In Dr. Mutchler’s research course, the grounded theory approach was used to analyze transcripts with Dedoose software for qualitative data analysis. SPSS software was also used to analyze the quantitative data. All the target participants were Black, gay or bi-sexual males; the average age was 22. Most of the participants had earned at least a high school diploma. In this study (84.6%) of the friends interviewed were male, (12.8%) female, and (2.6%) transgendered male to female. Results indicated support systems are not present due to loose family ties, gossip, and judgment, which limits open communication about personal information. Participants understand that anything they share can eventually be turned on them. This is important because they do not only have to deal with the stigma of being gay, being on PrEP, or having a sexually transmitted disease, they also have to worry about caring for themselves because they may not have anyone to trust. Further research will focus on the effects on friends having no support system. We will discuss implications for programs and further research.

4:20-4:40
**Ronald Bermudez Perea, Andrea Esparza, and Amy Ovando, Anthropology**
*Wat Khemara Buddhikaram: Forming a Strong Social Network and Reconstructing Khmer Culture*

Faculty Mentor: Susan Needham, Anthropology

Long Beach, California is known for its downtown dining and landmark, “The Queen Mary,” but inadvertently it is also known as the Cambodian Capital of the United States. This resulted from the Khmer Rouge genocide in 1975 that forced many Cambodians to seek refuge in other countries such as the United States. This paper reports on an ethnographic study conducted at Wat Khemara Buddhikaram, a Cambodian Buddhist temple in Long Beach. The result of the analysis exposes Wat Khemara Buddhikaram as not just a center for worship where people interact solely for ceremonial purposes, but also a network for social support and an environment that fosters the reconstruction of Khmer culture. The participants in this study have made attempts to replicate the lifestyle they once knew by attending Buddhist temples and maintaining ties with other members of their community. The reconstruction of Khmer culture as seen in Wat Khemara Buddhikaram occurs through knowledge sharing and is also subject to adaptations as a result of the new environment. The predominant themes in this research were the importance of position-based knowledge and of replicating or continuing to express culture the way it was done in the homeland of Cambodia. Conducted over 16 weeks, this research shows through field notes, map-making, interaction-analyses videos, and interviews, how the temple is a location where members reconstruct and maintain cultural knowledge through social interaction.

4:40-5:00
**Rosalie Hernandez, Psychology**
*Perception of Bullying and Punishment Based on Gender and Sexual Orientation*

Faculty Mentor: Silvia Santos, Psychology

In this research study, perceptions of bullying, gender, sexual orientation, and punishment among adolescent homosexual and heterosexual males and females were analyzed. A total of forty-six student participants between the ages of 16 to 40 years of age were randomly selected and
recruited from California State University Dominguez Hills University Library. Four different vignettes with four different sexual orientations for each condition and a self-report Likert-Scale Questionnaire corresponding to each vignette were randomly administered to each participant. The first two vignettes involved a homosexual victim: a male and a female. The third and fourth conditions involved a heterosexual victim: a female and a male. We hypothesized that: (1) homosexuals will be victimized in comparison to their heterosexual counterparts despite their gender and sexual affiliation, (2) males will be victimized more than their female counterparts, (3) homosexual men will have higher incidences of bullying than heterosexual men, and (4) heterosexual females will have lower incidences of becoming victims of bullying than their homosexual counterparts. Our findings regarding the perception of bullying concluded that the perception of bullying is greater when the victim is either a male or female homosexual. For the punishment measure, we found that regardless of gender or sexual orientation, both males and females will be equally punished. These findings contradicted our initial hypotheses and demonstrated a double-standard among homosexual and heterosexual males and females.
5:30-5:50  
**Nancy Carrada Zuñiga, Mariam Chkadua, Vanessa L. Malcarne, Natasha Riley, and Georgia Robins Sadler, Psychology**  
*Mediators of the Relationship between Acculturation and Health-Related Quality of Life in Spanish- and English-Speaking Latinas*  
Faculty Mentor: Erin L. Merz, Psychology

Self reported Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) describes a person’s general health and well-being. Previous research has shown that less acculturated Latinos report lower HRQOL; however, this relationship is not well understood. This study examines objective indicators of socioeconomic status (i.e., income, education), perceived discrimination, stress, and subjective social status as potential mediating variables of the relationship between acculturation and HRQOL. Two hundred eighty-one women from the greater San Diego area answered surveys in their language of preference (Spanish n = 141; English n = 140) as part of a larger study. The majority of participants self-identified as Mexican or Mexican American, however other countries in Central and South America were also represented. The age of participants ranged from 21 to 81, and diverse levels of income and education were reported. The statistical significance of all indirect effects was tested using bootstrapping procedures. Preliminary results from the single mediator models suggested that there were indirect effects for income, education, and subjective social status relative to others living in the United States. In the final model, which considered all mediators simultaneously, the combined indirect effects were significant (b = -.030, 95% CI [-.048, -.015]). Specifically, education (b = -.022, 95% CI [-.038, -.009]) and subjective social status within the United States (b = -.006, 95% CI [-.014, -.002]) were independent mediators of the acculturation-HRQOL relationship, but the effect for income was not significant. These results suggest that education and perceived social status are contributing to the pathway between acculturation and HRQOL. Together the findings enhance the theoretical understanding of HRQOL in Latinas, and may inform intervention strategies through potentially modifiable factors such as educational attainment.

5:50-6:10  
**Marlene Cortes, Psychology**  
*The Bilingual Brain: Mediating Factors of Verbal Fluency Performance*  
Faculty Mentor: Tara Victor, Psychology

Clinicians conduct neuropsychological evaluations to gauge the integrity of the nervous system (Lam et al., 2013). However, factors other than brain injury or disease can influence performance, such as language (Bialystok, 2008) and culture (Boone et al., 2007). This has implications for use among ethnic/racial minority groups. For example, bilinguals tend to outperform monolinguals on tasks of executive (or frontal systems) functioning (EF); this has been attributed to the bilinguals’ ability to deal with two co-existing languages that are active and competing (Crinion et al., 2006). This shifting between languages is thought to strengthen their cognitive flexibility. Conversely, studies show that bilinguals perform worse than monolinguals on language tasks (Bialystok, et al., 2009). This has been attributed to their lower levels of vocabulary and the interference from the second language that must be resolved.
(Bialystok, 2008). To our knowledge, no study to date has formally tested these meditational hypotheses. A widely used neuropsychological test that assesses both language and EF is verbal fluency. Phonemic fluency requires skills of EF such as monitoring of words already mentioned, and avoiding words that are considered perseverations or intrusions. This task also provides insight into switching abilities, another aspect of frontal systems functioning. Semantic fluency, on the other hand, is governed by neural networks more closely associated with language (i.e., lexico-semantic networks; Raboutet et al., 2010). Thus, we purpose to test the hypotheses that EF and vocabulary are mediating factors in the relationship between bilingualism and verbal fluency performance. Participants are neurologically and psychologically healthy monolinguals (n = 73) and bilinguals (n= 90). Group differences will be examined with respect to demographics and verbal fluency performance. The meditational hypotheses will be tested via linear regression. Results will be discussed in light of extant literature and directions for future research.

6:10-6:30
**Chantal Ochoa, History**
*The Life and Legend of Jose Luis Sanchez Del Rio*
Faculty Mentor: Doris Namala, History

On March 28, 1913, in the town of Sahuayo, Michoacán Jose Luis Sanchez Del Rio was born to a family of six. When the Cristero War broke out in 1926 Jose’s eldest brother Miguel decided that he along with some of his friends would gather their arms and join the war in order to defend their religion. Seeing the bravery of his brother, Jose also joined the war, regardless of his young age. During a battle Jose gave up his horse when the horse of the commander was killed, which resulted in Jose’s capture. Government officials gave Jose many opportunities to renounce his faith and join their side of the conflict, but he continued to refuse. When the day came for Jose’s execution, officials flayed the soles of his feet and made him walk through the town until they arrived to the cemetery where he was shot in the head. The Cristero War (1926-1929) is an important episode in Mexico’s history which took place in many different states within Mexico. The war developed under the presidency of Plutarco Ellias Calles, who enforced anticlerical laws that created tensions between the government and the church. Calles disbanded religious processions, started deporting foreign priests and nuns, and closed church schools, monasteries, and convents. Religious leaders and their followers took it upon themselves to work together to fight for the right to their religious freedom. Jose and other martyrs from this war have become symbols of faith and represent Mexico’s strong relationship with the Catholic Church. To this day the life and legend of Jose Luis Sanchez Del Rio continues to influence the town of Sahuayo by maintaining the faith of people and helping others get rich.

6:30-6:50
**Haleigh Smith, Marlene Cortes, Vanessa Malcarne, Natasha Riley, and Georgia Robins Sadler, Psychology**
*Differences in Routine Checkup Compliance within a Community-Based Sample*
Faculty Mentor: Erin Merz, Psychology

Research suggests that cancer fatalism (the belief that “death is inevitable when cancer is present”) and one’s family history of cancer are linked with preventive behaviors within the
cancer domain. These factors may also influence non-cancer health behaviors. For example, annual checkups are important in prevention and early detection of many health conditions. Still, many do not get regular checkups. This study investigated potential differences among individuals who do and do not get regular medical checkups. Cancer fatalism and family history of cancer were evaluated for a possible relationship with differences in annual checkup compliance. This study’s aims were to describe checkup compliance in a community-based sample, and to determine if there is a relationship between cancer fatalism, family history of cancer, and annual checkup compliance. Participants were 422 African-American and Latina women. Among participants, 51.4% had a medical checkup within the past year, 30.3% within 2-5 years, and 12.3% had not seen a physician for an exam in 5+ years or never. Multinomial logistic regression was used with insurance status as a covariate. Results suggest that a family history of cancer was not related to routine checkup compliance. However, cancer fatalism was a significant predictor, even after accounting for insurance status. Women who endorsed lower fatalism were more likely to have visited the doctor in the past year (p = .008), or within the past 2-5 years (p = .006), compared to women who had not visited the doctor in 5+ years or never. There was no significant difference in fatalism scores between women who visited the doctor in the past year and women who visited the doctor within 2-5 years (p = .805). Results suggest that cancer fatalism is associated with general health-seeking behavior. Healthcare professionals may consider fatalism as a possible barrier towards routine checkup compliance.

7:00-7:20

Cynthia Perez, Child Development
Perceptual Differences between Caucasian and Latino Children
Faculty Mentor: Megumi Kuwabara, Child Development

Previous work on visual processing has shown cultural differences among Westerners and East Asians (Nisbett & Miyamoto, 2005). These studies have found that interdependent cultures, those that place an emphasis on harmonious relationships, such as Japan, tend to perceive things holistically (Markus & Kitayama, 1991). Holistic perception refers to paying attention to relations among objects and the context surrounding the objects (Masuda & Nisbett, 2001). Independent cultures, those that place an emphasis on uniqueness, such as the U.S., tend to perceive things analytically, which places focus on salient objects without regard to context (Masuda & Nisbett, 2001). However, previous studies investigating cultural differences in visual processing have compared only Caucasian Americans (as representatives of the U.S., Western population) to East Asians (e.g. Japan, China, Korea). Therefore, the present study seeks to examine whether visual processing that has been studied in Caucasian populations is identical to other ethnicities in the U.S. Specifically, this study, examines the possible similarities and differences between Caucasian preschoolers and Latino/a preschoolers living in Southern California. In order to examine these potential differences, previously used methods (visual search for selective processing and relational match to standard task for relational processing) that investigated these visual processing differences across cultures were used in this study.

7:20-7:40

Miguel Morales
Depression in Law
Faculty Mentor: John Hsiao, English
Depression is one of the most common illnesses lawyers face that leads them to suicide. In 2012, Rosa Flores and Rose Marie Arce wrote an article titled “Why Are Lawyers Killing Themselves” in which they discuss how the hectic and stressful work environment that lawyers are exposed to can trigger depression. The article discusses Finis Price III, a successful lawyer based in Kentucky, who ended his life in 2012 at the early age of 37 as a result of depression that was produced by his work environment. Law firms produce many factors that may trigger depression affecting lawyers like Price, including: stressful cases that demand long hours of physical and emotional work, low salaries, and unethical decisions. Moreover, the United States Bar Association of all fifty states is concerned with the mental and physical health of lawyers. But the depression lawyers face does not develop from starting to work as an associate in a fancy law firm; instead, prior to starting law school 8 to 9 percent of students suffering from this mental condition. According to the article on DaveNee.org titled “Lawyers & Depression,” not only are lawyers the occupational group who suffer of depression the most, but they are also ranked fifth among occupations that commit suicide more frequently. These results create fear for lawyers around the United States and bring about the questions about what creates depression in the legal profession which later on leads to lawyers committing suicide. Today, depression is a common cause in lawyers, affecting millions based on their environment and creating fear in the legal field.

7:40-8:00
Ivonne Ordaz-Sanchez, Dayan Pantaleon, and Marlene Ponce, Psychology
The Public View on Homosexual PDA
Faculty Mentor: John Dulay, Psychology

This study investigates the perception of public displays of affection between lesbian and gay couples. We administered 4 different types of vignettes to 40 college student participants; 10 vignettes described a high display of affection among gay males, 10 vignettes described a low display of affection among gay males, 10 vignettes described a high display of affection among lesbians, and 10 vignettes described a low display of affection among lesbians. A 2 (sexuality) x 2 (high v low affection) ANOVA was conducted and indicated that there is no significant main effect for sexuality F (1, 36)=12, p>.05 between gay (M=3.6,SD=.99) and lesbian (M=3.95, SD=.99) on the level of appropriateness. In addition, there was no significant main effect for level of affection F(1,36)=2.0, p>.05 between low affection (M=4.0, SD=.97) and high affection (M=3.5,SD=.99) on the level of appropriateness. Finally, there was no significant interaction F(1,36)=.228, p>.05 between sexuality and level of affection of appropriateness.

8:00-8:20
Atziri Gutierrez
Giving Recognition to Social Workers for their Role in Society
Faculty Mentor: John W. Hsiao, English

Child protective officers and corrections officers have been overlooked over the years, but their role in society continues to have a positive role on a person’s life and society as a whole; they use various skills in order to open opportunities for people with social-emotional issues. This study details the way social workers are able to open up a person’s mindset and help them think
about building a better life in order to be able to function in society. Research conducted by Meyers in, “Role Of The Social Worker In Old Versus New Culture In Nursing Homes” (2006) explains how people are able to help their clients clear their minds of negativity and focus on the opportunities they have to live a happy life. People let their thoughts overpower them, which causes them to become closed minded individuals, but social workers serve as a barrier between a person’s thoughts and reality. In “Skills Laboratories And The New Social Work Degree: One Small Step Towards Best Practice? Service Users' And Careers' Perspectives” Bernard R. Moss and Mike Dunkerly (2007) detail the skills social workers need to be able to help their clients overcome obstacles. Child protective officers and corrections officers use different skills when they are impacting a person’s life, but both types of social workers need listening skills and communication skills in order to truly help their clients. Based on the research, social workers have been overlooked, but depending on their environment they continue to use different skills in order to positively impact a person’s life. Social workers are not valued as much as they should be in society, even though they help society function and open opportunities for people; the impact of social workers varies based on their environment and the individuals they are trying to help.

8:20-8:40
**Esmeralda Corcoles**
*Transgender Inequality*
Faculty Mentor: John W. Hsiao, English

The purpose of this paper is to explore the process involved when certain groups, such as transgender people, have to decide about altering their body through surgery. More specifically, I will be looking at the psychological requirements and impact of this decision making process. The issue in psychology is whether or not to dismiss the idea of having to take a psychological test on transgender people, but not on people who wish to have cosmetic surgery. The purpose of the standard test given prior to gender reassignment surgery is to measure one’s beliefs, traits as well as attractions. In order for a psychiatrist to further understand the patient's views and moral beliefs, in order to proceed with gender reassignment surgery. However, some transgender people proceed with the operation and months later feel unsatisfied with that decision; the test now begins to look ineffective. Therefore, the test needs to be redesigned so that all persons involved can make a fully-informed decision.
Engaging college students in the classroom is difficult and becomes even more problematic when distractors such as smartphones, tablets and laptops are available to students during lectures. The current study tests a model that proposes that a combination of poor executive functioning plus anxiety predicts general technology usage, which, in turn, predicts course performance. Technology usage was assessed both through a published measure—the Media Technology Usage and Attitudes Scale (MTUAS)—as well as an app installed on students’ smartphones that assessed the number of times the phone was unlocked each day and the total minutes the phone remained unlocked during that day. Students who could not or would not install the app kept a daily diary with the same information. Smartphone usage data were collected for 10 weeks during the 15-week semester. An earlier pilot study with 176 students using the app or keeping a diary for a week validated that the diary method and the app produced similar results with students opening their phone approximately 60 times a day for 180 total minutes. Executive functioning was measured using the Webexec measurement tool as well as the Barratt Impulsivity Scale-11. Generalized anxiety was measured using the General Anxiety Disorder 7-item scale (GAD-7). In addition, a subscale of the MTUAS assessed anxiety about missing out on technology use often referred to as FOMO or fear of missing out. To rule out alternative explanations, the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) was used to measure depression and a short form of the Big 5 Personality Inventory was used to assess personality traits both of which are used as moderator variables in the model predicting course performance. The total achieved points in a course that requires examinations and writing assignments will measure course performance. Data collection from 300 students is in progress and will be completed in mid-December. The predictive model will be tested with path analysis including demographic data as covariates, depression and personality traits as moderator variables and three predictive layers: executive functioning and anxiety predicting technology usage which, in turn, predict course performance.
Researchers question whether signs of isolation or depression derive from social media networks. The use of social media offers an alternative to face-to-face communication due to computer-mediated communication (CMC). Literature from Erving Goffman explains that communication depends on body language and recent work by Fene Grobe Deters and Matthias R. Mehl are preliminary works for this research suggesting that online communication may influence high or low levels of isolation (2012). This study will explore Facebook usage among college students at California State University, Dominguez Hills. There will be a sample of fifty students for an online survey. The survey will consist of demographic questions, Media Usage and Attitudes Scale, and Daniel Russell’s UCLA Loneliness scale. An example of a question on the survey would be “Do you have a lot in common with people on Facebook”? The rating choices will appear in a Likert scale form with options 1-4 (1= never, 2=rarely, 3= sometimes, 4= always). After the survey, a subsample will participate in a semi-structured interview for further in-depth data collection on my main theme (isolation and depression). My primary analysis will seek to examine relationships between the Facebook usage and isolation and depression among CSUDH students, both quantitatively and qualitatively. The analysis of the study data will also be used to compare Facebook usage by demographics and possible differences in depression and isolation by demographics. The goal of the study is to discover isolation or depression as a result of computer mediated communication due to less face to face communication.

9:40-10:00
Candace Teran, Child Development
Stroop-Test with Fruits and Color Associations: The Effect of Sleep on Interference
Faculty Mentor: Megumi Kuwabara, Child Development

Humans have amazing brains; we are able to breathe, blink, and maintain regular heart beats without even thinking about it. It’s amazing to think that even with such a sophisticated brain, we respond slower when we are presented with contradicting information (Stroop, 1935). This slower response in the presence of conflicting information is called interference (Stroop, 1935). Previous studies have found that the lack of sleep can influence the ability to overcome the presence of interference (Stroop, 1935). The purpose of this study is to examine the effects of sleep on interference in healthy community samples from Southern California. For this study, we tested 73 participants that were separated into two groups based on the number of hours of sleep that participants had a night before the testing, based on their self-report on the questionnaire. One group was labeled as more hours of sleep and the other group was labeled as fewer hours of sleep. During the testing, participants were asked to name the original color of fruits shown to them on the PowerPoint slides. One condition was non-conflict condition, where fruits presented were in the original color, such as a strawberry is red. The other condition was conflict condition, where fruits presented were in the contradicting color; for this condition the strawberry can be yellow. All participants completed both conditions. The order of presentations was counterbalanced to eliminate the possible order effects. Reaction times to complete each
condition were recorded for each participant. The results show that there is no interaction between hours of sleep and conditions, suggesting that the ability to overcome interference does not differ based on the hours of sleep participants got a night before the testing.

10:00-10:20
**Karen Diaz, Health Science, and Viridiana Pacheco, Child Development**

*Pre-Natal Screening: D.S.*
Faculty Mentor: John Menary, Natural Sciences

Much research indicates a child with Down syndrome has family effects relative to the probability a DS child will display the cognitive and behavioral patterns of strengths and weaknesses in information processing, social interaction, expressive language, receptive skills, motor skills, and motivation. Technological advances in prenatal screening are opening up a new era in which couples have an unprecedented glimpse of the forming child. Accompanying the new prenatal information is an often-wrenching choice: proceed with the pregnancy or terminate it. However, the birth of a child with Down syndrome remains an unexpected event for most families. Even when informed of how their child’s diagnosis will affect their family many new expecting parents experience a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the choice to proceed or terminate. Building on existing research into the social stigma surrounding Downs Syndrome screenings, this paper examines why expecting parents if accessible to affordable pre-natal screening and potentially negative social knowledge purportedly profess uncertainty following the birth of a child with DS.

10:30-10:50
**Valencia Bernard, Janise Williams, and Alexus Broom, Psychology**

*The Effects of Being Hired*
Faculty Mentor: Kyran Barr, Psychology

Physical appearance can typically skew first impressions in either a negative or positive way, whether it be based on skin color, race, or body modifications. Tattooing is a very common form of self-expression in many countries around the world, especially in Western Countries (Degelman & Price 2002). The increasing popularity of tattoos among the younger generation has led to an issue with negative stigmas regarding visible tattoos and their implications regarding job attainment. A sample of 80 participants was randomly selected to read a short vignette prior to answering a series of measures. Reading the vignette and answering the measures would assess how being of a certain race or having visible tattoos may or may not affect the likelihood of attaining a job. We hypothesized that the Asian American candidate without visible tattoos would be chosen over the African American candidate without visible tattoos. We also hypothesized that the presence of visible tattoos would have a greater negative effect on the African American candidate with visible tattoos than that of the Asian American candidate based on common stereotypes. We found that race did not have a significant effect on
the potential of being hired. Results did indicate discrimination based on tattoos, resulting in difficulty acquiring employment for African Americans. This study implies that those with and possibly considering getting tattoos should be aware of the effect those tattoos may have regarding the attainment of employment. This research is important because as body modifications such as tattoos have become more common in society, they are often coupled with the stereotypes of African American and Asian Americans in the work world.

10:50-11:10

Jonathan Pedroza and Marcos Jimenez, Psychology
*Examination of Language Brokers’ Neural Activity in the Prefrontal Cortex*

Faculty Mentors: Alex Lim and Mark Carrier, Psychology

Research on bilingualism has shown that spatial pattern of activation appears to be similar across languages, suggesting that bilinguals have access to a second language without an internal translation through the native language (Chee, Hon, Lee, & Soon, 2001). However, there is still more to be known on how bilinguals process and access information between two languages. Language brokers are children translate and interpret for their families at an early age and without proper training (Morales & Hanson, 2005). The current study aims to examine neural correlates by measuring hemodynamic changes within the prefrontal cortex among Latino language brokers. The functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIR) is a neuroimaging device that was used to measure oxygenation levels among participants while they translated between a family member and a physician. Participants were recruited through convenience sampling and were given a criteria checklist to determine whether they were eligible to participate based on previous bilingual experience. Participants were required to listen to a pre-recording of a simulated doctor visit. During each trial block the participant was instructed to translate messages from either Spanish to English (e.g., family member to doctor) or from English to Spanish (e.g., doctor to family member). There were a total of 37 translation blocks, 20 trial blocks (English to Spanish) and 17 trial blocks (Spanish to English). Each translation task was categorized into three different difficulty levels (easy, medium, hard) based on the dialogue and length of the messages. Data analysis is currently underway to examine whether previous experience in language brokering predicts levels of hemodynamic changes (i.e., oxygenated and deoxygenated hemoglobin) within the prefrontal cortex. Secondary examinations focused on which executive functions are recruited during language processing, specifically while translating, and whether there are differences in hemodynamic changes between English to Spanish and Spanish to English.

11:10-11:30

Cayetano Mulato, Diana Corral, and Ted Vinzon, Sociology
*Exploring How Young Black Men who Have Sex with Men Communicate about HIV/STI with Friends*

Faculty Mentor: Matt G. Mutchler, Sociology
Little is known about how young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) communicate about HIV/STI testing with their close friends. According to the CDC, Blacks in the United States are disproportionately more likely to become infected with HIV. Blacks make up 12% of the U.S. population but make up 44% of all new HIV infections. YBGM/MSM are at higher risk for HIV infection in the United States because it is estimated that nearly 60% of YGBM/MSM in the U.S. who are HIV negative at age 18 may become HIV positive by age 40. The aims of this study are to explore how masculinity/femininity and romantic relationships affect HIV/STI testing using multi-methods. We will examine the themes by using grounded theory methodology for qualitative analyses collected in the study. Our proposed study will explore how YGBM/MSM communicate about 1) masculinity/femininity and 2) romantic relationships and the possible influence these two factors have on HIV/STI testing. In 2015, we conducted a multi-method study in Los Angeles, California and Birmingham, Alabama. 48 dyad pairs participated, exploring our topic about HIV/STI testing, masculinity/femininity and romantic relationships.

The participants were 24 dyad pairs, interviewed together, who were (a) between the ages of 19 to 24, (b) living in Los Angeles or Birmingham for at least two years, (d) in a friendship with someone between the ages of 19-29 with whom they discussed sexual health topics, (e) out for at least a year. The findings will report both positive and negative factors on how sexual communication among friends influences masculinity/femininity, romantic relationships and HIV/STI testing. The study will fill a critical gap assessing how masculinity/femininity and romantic relationships may increase/decrease HIV/STI testing. These findings may prove useful for new HIV-prevention research.

11:30-11:50

Erik Boyd and Esmeralda Cabrera, Sociology

HIV and Stigma

Faculty Mentor: Matt G. Mutchler, Sociology

HIV stigma is an important research topic because it affects how individuals living with HIV or at risk of HIV infection are treated in society. In this multi-method study, the primary focus is addressing disproportionately high HIV rates amongst young Black MSM (i.e. men who have sex with men). This research examines sexual communication and its role in the spread of peer norms about sexual health topics such as HIV stigma. The research team recruited 48 friendship dyads (24 from Los Angeles and 24 from Birmingham) for in-depth dyad interviews. The research team investigated how young Black MSM communicate with friends about sex, sexual health, relationships, HIV, HIV risk, and HIV testing. The focus of this presentation will be on how the dyads discussed HIV stigma. We used a grounded theory approach to analyze transcripts with Dedoose software for qualitative data analysis. Additionally, we also used SPSS software to analysis the complementary quantitative data. All the target participants were Black gay or bisexual males; their average age was 22. Most of the participants had earned at least a high school diploma. In this study (84.6%) of their friends interviewed with them were male,
(12.8%) were female, and (2.6%) were transgendered male to female. This presentation will explore how HIV stigma affects individuals who live with HIV, while considering depression, anxiety, and suicide. Furthermore, we will be focusing on the stigma amongst those who are HIV negative who might be interested in dating someone who is HIV positive. This topic should be investigated further to shed light not just on the stigmatization from outside but the stigmatization that comes from within the LGBTQ community. We will discuss implications for programs that focus on reducing HIV stigma.
Somatosensory (touch-sensing) neurons are responsible for detection of mechanical, thermal, and chemical stimuli, which is crucial for all animals as they sense and respond to the environment. Recent studies have suggested there is a close interaction between somatosensory neurons and skin cells that may not only be important in early development, but also for neuronal function. In zebrafish larvae, the peripheral axons of somatosensory neurons first arborize between the two epidermal skin layers: the periderm and basal cells. Electron microscopy revealed that later the free ends of the somatosensory axons become engulfed by the basal cells between 54 and 78 hours post fertilization (hpf). We are taking a genomic approach to investigate the relationship between somatosensory neurons and skin cells in zebrafish. In order to identify the genes involved in this skin-neuron interaction, gene expression profiles of the two skin layers at different developmental stages (20hpf, 52hpf, and 72hpf) were generated using next generation sequencing. Currently, we are examining both the gene ontology and common biological pathways in the various sets of gene expression profiles using web-based gene analysis tools, which allow us to compare and contrast the gene expression based on specific tissue type (basal or periderm) at a specific developmental stage (52 hpf and 72 hpf). We will further investigate the genes of interest using various molecular and genetic tools. Ultimately, we hope to not only identify the genes and molecular pathways that are important for the development of touch sensing neurons, but also to provide insight into axon degeneration/regeneration and fundamental skin cell biology that is likely relevant to various diseases.

With ongoing changes in climate due to human activity, marine ecosystems will experience shifts in biodiversity due to rising sea surface temperatures. Temperature is one of the main drivers that influence species interaction, growth, and reproduction. Herbivore metabolic rates are easily influenced by changes in temperature causing drastic consequences on marine communities. Two hypotheses were tested: (i) rising temperatures will increase the foraging activity of *Aplysia californica* and decrease *Plocamium pacificum* biomass, and (ii) temperature will affect foraging activity differently depending on the body size of *A. californica*. We
predicted bigger sized *A. californica* will have a stronger impact on plant biomass compared to small sized individual. Temperature treatments included ambient, 24°C and 26°C, and for each temperature we had a control (*P. pacificum* only) and a treatment of with herbivores (small, medium and, large *Aplysia*) and *P. pacificum*. Quantifying the changes in biomass of both algae and herbivore allowed us to test both hypotheses. This experiment allowed us to test O’Connor’s model predicting higher interaction strengths between herbivores and plants with increasing temperatures having a negative effect on plant biomass. Our results showed that increased temperatures did not have a significant effect on foraging rates of *A. californica* regardless of size. However, temperature and foraging activity of *A. californica* did have significant effect on *P. pacificum* biomass. Plant biomass decreased with rising temperature but further decreased with the presence of herbivores. Understanding the relationship between herbivores and plants in a warmer planet will prepare us for future outcomes and allow constructive planning to occur to help conserve our marine communities.

2:10-2:30

**Sara Hu, Biology**

*Mechanisms of Parasitism by the Thermophilic Ant, Melophorus Anderseni*

Faculty Mentor: Terry McGlynn, Biology

Underlying the evolution and maintenance of animal societies is the ability to distinguish group members from strangers. This ability enables behavioral discrimination: Group members can direct cost beneficial behavior towards related individuals and exclude or defend against unrelated individuals. Consequently, there exists selective pressure for social animals to possess well-developed recognition ability. Ants have a finely tuned recognition system, which is critical to their efficient social organization and is the mechanistic basis for the strategies that allow them to defend their social fortresses. Nest defense is essential for sustaining the stability and survival of colonies. Some parasites have evolved strategies to penetrate these highly protected social fortresses. One such host-parasite system is the focus of this study. *Melophorus anderseni* parasitically raid brood from *Iridomyrmex*. The hosts are some of the world’s most dominant and aggressive ants. How does *M. anderseni* manage to be parasitic on such dominant and aggressive species? Three plausible mechanisms that facilitate nest raiding were examined: running speed, thermal tolerance, and chemical mimicry. Results showed that *M. anderseni* use a combination of the three mechanisms. For all activities measured mean (± SE) speed of *M. anderseni* was significantly faster than *Iridomyrmex reburrus*. Mean (± SE) of foraging speed was significantly faster (p=0.0005) in *M. anderseni* 9.72 ± 0.35 cm/s compared to foraging *I. reburrus* workers 7.05 ± 0.46 cm/s. Activity of both species were measured against soil temperature. *M. anderseni* activity was positively associated with soil temperature and negatively related to *Iridomyrmex* activity. This implies that soil temperature limits *Iridomyrmex* activity, indicating that thermal tolerance does aid in the parasitic behavior of *M. anderseni*. Chemical analyses of cuticular hydrocarbons (CHCs) showed that qualitatively, the two species have almost identical profiles;
when considering the relative abundances of compounds within the profiles, both species were also similar.

2:30-2:50
Lindsay Almaleh, Biology
*Physiological Responses of Larvae of the Mediterranean Mussel during El Niño Conditions*
Faculty Mentor: Jacqueline Padilla-Gamino, Biology

In California, El Niño events are characterized by ocean conditions with unusually high temperatures and a drastic decline in primary productivity. These conditions can impact the survival and physiology of marine organisms with important implications to the aquaculture industry. Our work will combine remote sensing data and laboratory experiments to evaluate the effects of the 2015-2016 El Niño conditions on the development and ecophysiology of early life stages of the Mediterranean mussel *Mytilus galloprovincialis*. Real-time sea surface temperatures (SST) and phytoplankton densities (estimated through chlorophyll-a [chl-a] levels) will be obtained using remote sensing data from NASA satellites Lansat-8, TIR and Aqua, MODIS. This data will be used to inform our experiments and manipulate temperature and food concentrations within an ecological context. Parent mussels for this experiment will be obtained from California (Catalina Sea Ranch) and Oregon (Taylor Shellfish Farm) in order to determine if parental effects influence larvae resilience and acclimation capabilities during El Niño conditions. Lipids and proteins will also be measured to assess sub-lethal stress. This research will be performed in collaboration with Catalina Sea Ranch Farm, the first offshore shellfish farm within United States federal waters and a shellfish farm designed to support the National Shellfish Initiative.

2:50-3:10
Mirzha Mendez, Biology
*A Characterization of Diurnal Activity Budgets for Uca crenulata during a Non-reproductive Season*
Faculty Mentor: Jacqueline Padilla-Gamino, Biology

This investigation was conducted to determine the role of sex, microhabitat, and length of exposed time in the behavior of the fiddler crab *Uca crenulata*. Diurnal activity budgets for *U. crenulata* were investigated in order to characterize time allocation of activities during a non-reproductive season. We studied the activity of *U. crenulata* in two habitats: one was an open sandflat, and the other was a sandflat with vegetation. The study was conducted during diurnal low tides because during most diurnal low tides *U. crenulata* expose themselves from their burrows to perform additional activities. The following behaviors were observed and recorded: foraging, maintenance, time in burrow, time inactive and social activity. I did not find significant differences in the behavior of *U. crenulata* between sex or microhabitat. However, there was a difference seen between those crabs that were immediately exposed as opposed to those who were exposed for a prolonged period of time. Fiddler crabs that were exposed for a longer period
of time significantly increased their time spent in burrow. Furthermore, I found that only males and individuals found in vegetation significantly increase time spent in burrow after prolonged exposure while females and individuals found in sandflat do not significantly change their behavior during the entire time of exposure.

3:20-3:40
**Eric Medina, Biology**
*Maternal Obesity and High Fat Diet Cause Fatty Liver in the Offspring*
Faculty Mentor: Leonardo Martinez, Chemistry

Many major health risks known today have been undoubtedly linked to obesity. In order to fully understand how to treat it, we must first understand how obesity arises. Previous research has demonstrated that the offspring of mothers with maternal obesity and/or high fat diets (OB) are obese with elevated plasma triacylglycerol. Importantly, the liver, which is one of the major organs of lipid metabolism, showed increased triacylglycerol synthesis with increased lipid deposition. The structure of liver has lobules composed of particular zones of hepatocytes that either break-down or synthesize triacylglycerol. In view of this, I hypothesized that OB offspring have larger lobule size with greater amount of hepatocytes and concentration of triacylglycerol (oil droplets). The goal of my project is to compare the lobule size between the offspring of mothers with maternal obesity/high-fat diet and control offspring. To determine whether changes in the liver structure occur very early in life and are permanent, I will study the offspring at 3 weeks and 13 months of age. In our mice model, female mice were fed either a control or high fat diet to create maternal obesity prior to mating, and diets continued throughout pregnancy and lactation. Newborns were delivered spontaneously and nursed by their respective mothers. At age 3 weeks, all offspring were weaned to normal fat diet. Liver samples were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde for preservation of tissue. Fixed tissue samples are then dehydrated in preparation for embedment in paraffin block. Tissue are sectioned and chemically illuminated with H&E staining (paraffin-sections) for viewing of liver lobules or O-R-O (frozen-sections) for lipids. With the aid of a compact microscopic, images are captured and the comparison between lobules pertaining to each group is made using Image-J software. Dependent upon the results, the plan is also to determine gene expression of specific lipid regulatory factors.

3:40-4:00
**Thalia Jimenez, Biology**
*Role of Nuclear ABL Tyrosine Kinase in Cisplatin-Induced Apoptosis*
Faculty Mentor: Leonardo Martinez, Chemistry

Cisplatin is a DNA-damaging drug that is used to treat many cancers, but it also causes acute kidney injury. In response to DNA damage, a complex network of pathways is activated to coordinate DNA repair with cell proliferation and cell death. Double stranded breaks generated by cisplatin activate nuclear ABL tyrosine kinase, which phosphorylates a host of nuclear
proteins to regulate the responses. Renal proximal tubule epithelial cells (RPTC) are sensitive to cisplatin and undergo DNA damage-induced apoptosis. It is well established that p53 activates the expression of PUMA to stimulate apoptosis. The goal of this project is to test the hypothesis that ABL stimulates translation of the pro-death PUMA protein to cause apoptosis. Recombinant PUMA plasmids will be transfected into cells with wild-type (WT) or nuclear import-defective (NID) Abl. Cells will be treated with cisplatin and PUMA RNA will be measured by quantitative real-time PCR, and PUMA protein will be measured by Western blotting. We expect that cisplatin will activate ABL in the WT, but not the NID cells. Furthermore, we expect that cisplatin will stimulate PUMA protein in the WT, but not the NID cells. This study is the first to investigate the translational regulation of PUMA protein expression. Basic mechanisms elucidated from this study will provide clues on how to inhibit PUMA protein expression in RPTC to preserve these cells. Knowledge gained from this study will provide clues on how to stimulate PUMA protein expression in cancer cells as a therapeutic strategy to kill cancer cells.
Children are federally mandated to attend school by the age of five. Each child is assigned a home school within a specified school district. The specified school is based on physical address, although some districts offer open enrollment, which still limits the child to schools within their district. “Analysis finds that nationally, funding inequities are devastatingly large. The highest poverty districts in our country receive about $1,200 less per student than the lowest poverty districts. The differences are even larger — roughly $2,000 per student — between districts…” (Ushomirsky, Williams, 2015). The purpose of this research is to identify strategies to close the achievement gap within the unified school districts. Students are federally mandated to attend school but, the designated curriculum taught varies depending on the school district in which the student lives. Each unified school district has a specified budget with which curriculum, books and supplies are purchased. One of the primary sources of revenue for school districts is funds raised by the city’s property taxes. This puts economically challenged school districts at a tremendous disadvantage. Students’ educational experience from age five to their collegiate experience or lack thereof is significantly dependent upon the revenue of the school district in which the child lives. “While local dollars are derived mainly from property taxes, which can vary widely from district to district, state dollars are the funds that state legislatures can and should use to counteract these disparities” (Ushomirsky, Williams, 2015). This research will hypothesize that, in addition to hiring qualified teachers and staff, including mental health professionals to address psychosocial problems of school aged children, if the statistically disadvantaged cities were given the same curriculum, books and supplies as the more prosperous cities, it would help to close the achievement gap within school districts.

Food2Me is a web based multi-service platform that allows users to find, organize, shop and pick up their food items from groceries in the most timely and cost-efficient manner. Food2Me combines conventional methods of creating a grocery list or using a meal planning application with real time data to factor in pricing. The platform searches for the best available prices between stores based on the user’s location and preferences. Users will be able to plan their
meals, order online and use the “pick-up ready” service in available stores, to shop from anywhere, and most importantly, to save time and money.

Consumers shop at grocery stores approximately 1.6 times per week according to a survey conducted in 2014. Food2Me allows consumers to purchase groceries more efficiently by fully utilizing groceries, minimizing shopping time, and purchasing groceries cost effectively. According to a survey done by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, over seventy percent of individuals who purchase and prepare meals at home are women. As age trends upward, women are more likely to make the decisions in meal planning and preparation.

Although our service can be used by many different people for just as many different reasons, our target market is married women from the ages of 18-50 living outside of rural areas. Many people have a technological device and broadband service in which they can easily access the internet to use our service. There is not another application in the market that helps customers to learn the most convenient and cheapest way to buy groceries. With successful online purchases and store pickups, consumers can have a greater experience that could potentially lead to more online shopping and an increase in online retailers and markets.

10:00-10:20

**Natalie Liberman, Business Administration**  
*Workplace Aggression: The Ripple Effect on Group Productivity*

Faculty Mentor: Thomas Norman, Business Administration

Workplace aggression has increasingly become an organizational concern that can be extremely damaging for the overall climate of the workplace. Literature on workplace aggression has demonstrated that it not only has an effect on the targeted victim, but also on other organizational members who directly witness this interaction or indirectly learn about it. When exposed to this type of negative behavior, observing group members can become emotionally drained (Totterdella, Harchcovisb, Nivenc, and Reich, 2012) and may also experience greater psychological and physical stress (D’Cruz & Noronha, 2011). The purpose of this paper is to measure how workplace aggression has a negative ripple effect on observing and non-observing group member productivity, both directly and indirectly. Drawing significantly on social learning, crossover and affective events theories, this study provides a conceptual overview of the effect of workplace aggression on witnesses and non-observers, and addresses key gaps in the literature by proposing that work productivity will diminish in both these groups. Because both observing and non-observing group members share the same work environment, non-observing group members experience these consequences in a lesser degree due to a word-of-mouth ripple effect from third party interactions, or through observing actions and behaviors of the witnesses. It is proposed that the proximity to the aggression affects the level of diminishing productivity suggesting that witnesses tend be more affected by the behavior than non-observers.
We live in a world where social media has increasingly become a powerful tool to launch political campaigns and enhance awareness. One of the latest efforts is known as #FightFor15, which is being orchestrated by those demanding a $15 minimum wage across the nation. For this paper, I plan to examine this movement and determine whether or not a $15 minimum wage is feasible in the state of California. Beyond its feasibility, I want to evaluate how a hypothetical 50% increase in California’s minimum wage (which is $10 in 2016) will impact the people it is intended to help, as well as business owners. The Negotiation, Conflict Resolution, and Peace-Building principle of individual work and collaboration is crucial to this dialogue. In essence, this principle uses convergent and divergent thinking to develop innovative solutions that maintain elements from every conflicting viewpoint. The policy solutions I introduced to my interviewees for my research are three different policies in place around the U.S. and across the globe. The three proposals are (1) a tiered minimum wage based on age, which will allow employers the option to hire younger workers at a lower pay threshold; (2) a minimum wage indexed to the consumer price index, which annually increases the minimum wage to inflation; and (3) a tiered wage system based on a company’s revenue, with a business making a certain amount of revenue paying a higher wage and vice versa. Ultimately, what I find is that we are unable to simply blanket one single wage across the state of California without accounting for how much a business makes in revenue or how inexperienced a worker is. The ballot initiative to raise our minimum wage to $15 by 2021 lacks any tiered structure, but does include an annual increase tied to inflation.

The entrance of counterfeit pharmaceuticals into the legitimate medical supply chain is a rising issue affecting public health and the American economy, yet there is no academic literature on the economic impacts of this problem. Counterfeit drugs seizures rank third in the total number of counterfeit commodities seized at US borders by Customs and Border Protection (CBP), valuing at $73 million USD (CBP, 2014). Demand for counterfeit drugs is driven up by the increasing cost of healthcare. Counterfeit drugs often enter the pharmaceutical market through the “secondary wholesale” or “grey markets” which is where pharmaceutical wholesalers repackage drugs purchased from direct manufacturers and distributors (Dégardin, 2014). Counterfeit drugs on the “grey market” mimic packaging standards set by the Food and Drug
Administration such as translating information on packages to English, hence making detection more difficult despite sophisticated tracking methods such as the radio frequency identification (RFID) publicized in the CBP annual fiscal year commodities seizure reports (CBP, 2014). Online pharmacies, often based outside the US, also contribute to this problem (Dégardin, 2014). Breaches in pharmaceutical drug safety may limit the effectiveness of medical treatments, posing a greater risk to those afflicted with a medical condition. These breaches also have a significant impact on the economics of the medical supply chain, its key sectoral trading partners and consumers, and the broader economy. This paper analyzes the impact of counterfeit pharmaceuticals on the economy in order to assess the vulnerability of the US pharmaceutical medical supply chain. This paper uses a combination of detailed literature review and statistical evidence to estimate the size of the counterfeit markets, the application of partial equilibrium economic theory to understand the impact of illicit goods on legitimate industries, and economic analysis of Input-Output and Social Accounting Matrix datasets (U.S. BEA, 2015).

11:10-11:30

**Darlene Kelly, Business Administration**

*One Stop Recruiting*

Faculty Mentor: Michael Grimshaw, Business Administration

One Stop Recruitment is a new recruitment agent consulting business based in a busy city center. Darlene Kelly established the business and has nine years’ experience of managing three successful agencies. The business will offer the following core services: permanent recruitment and placement of business professionals; contract and temporary recruitment and placement; senior personnel one stop services. The core target market is middle to senior level managers.

The local area has two large business parks housing 78 small to medium sized businesses. There are also three national headquarter buildings within four miles and the local economy is growing faster than the US average. Market research suggests over 375 vacancies are advertised and recruited on an annual basis.

There are two other agencies in the area specializing in contract and temporary staff. One Stop Recruiting will fill the gap in the market for permanent professionals, administration staff and senior management. We believe that within three years, our expertise will enable us to penetrate 35% of the market. One risk, however, is that most third-party recruiting is done on contingency. This means that not only do you have to find the right person, find a willing client and see them through the interview and negotiations processes, but if it falls apart at any point, you get nothing. The opportunity is to have strong community ties and therefore be able to spot hiring trends faster.
The Constitution of the United States provides us the opportunity to recreate the entire structure of our government as current society sees fit. In this paper, I examine the U.S. Senate and determine whether or not the formula of two Senators per state is misappropriating electoral power and contributing to massive gridlock in Washington, D.C. I evaluate the potential ramifications this may have upon our political system and explore proposed solutions. For my research, I submitted an extensive questionnaire to ten participants, five of whom were Professors. My findings did not exactly relate the structure of the U.S. Senate to gridlock, but focused on other phenomena, such as the Electoral College, Presidential primaries, and gerrymandering. This illustrates how there are multiple factors increasing gridlock in Washington, D.C. and it cannot be confined to one element, such as the design of the U.S. Senate. I support this claim with an example of legislation being stalled in the House of Representatives, but receiving overwhelming support in the U.S. Senate. In addition, I provide an in-depth analysis about the creation of the U.S. Senate and the purpose of the institution. I conclude that the U.S. Senate must be refashioned, first by reforming its antiquated rule of the filibuster. I show how this tool has been abused by the minority party and impairs the legislative process of the Senate chamber.
Business, Economics, and Public Administration II

1:30-1:50
Kesha Hall, Hilary Valenova Dayag, Cale Espinel, and Sandra Taylor, Business Administration

Analyzing Reforms of the California Victim Compensation Program to Better Assist Victims of Human Trafficking Using a Criteria-Alternative Matrix
Faculty Mentor: Fynnwin Prager, Public Administration

Human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry in the world, following the illegal drug trade (Spindler, 2010). The California Victims Compensation Program (CalVCP) is a support program that provides financial and support services for recovery after victimization, and is funded by fines collected from convicted perpetrators of human trafficking and other crimes involving victimization. This analysis compares four alternatives to current victim-support efforts provided by CalVCP, which are (1) surveying victims, (2) development of a CalVCP mobile application, (3) crowdfunding/civic awareness campaign, and (4) directly increase fines owed to CalVCP by convicted perpetrators of human trafficking. These alternatives were then compared with respect to the following criteria: (1) cost-effectiveness, (2) equitability, (3) efficiency/political feasibility, and (4) ethical concerns. Data methods used were an extensive literature review and interviews with CalVCP employees. Because surveying victims provides a delay addressing responsive victim support, the development of a mobile application requires relatively large funding, and a crowdfunding and civic awareness campaign is unpredictable and difficult to maintain long-term, our findings conclude that the most beneficial alternative proposed is to increase fines associated with the conviction of supporting human trafficking. Time and money spent towards policy change could be extensive, however the results are expected to yield better consequences and stability in funding for programs supporting victims of human trafficking by allowing them more financial freedom.

1:50-2:10
Adam Castillo, Business Administration

Faculty Mentor: Myron Sheu, Business Administration

The perceived disparity between supply and demand for skilled IT workers has disproportionately discouraged women and underrepresented minority students to secure a promising career in fields affiliated with IT. While the gap in computing education among various segments of students across all universities is obvious, we may not know what to do to help reduce the gap unless we can identify the root causes of it. In this research project, a 22-question survey was designed to help us collect statistical data with regard to college students’
attitude and readiness for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and careers. Since measures cannot be judged without comparison and contrast, the survey was conducted among two hundred students from three universities in China, two hundred from two colleges in Southern California, and one hundred from a university in Connecticut. The three groups of students were chosen because their extremely different demographic backgrounds may allow us to observe interesting common and unique patterns among them. The analysis of the survey data shows some tentative but significant implications that may be instrumental as educators and institutional administrators pursue innovative teaching methods and curricula that would better prepare our future students for STEM education in general and computing education in particular.

2:10-2:30

Susan Vanderburgh, Public Administration
_The Role of the City Managers and Their Impact on Society_
Faculty Mentor: Rui Sun, Public Administration

In a council-manager form of government, the city manager is responsible for implementing the policies and priorities set by the City Council and effectively delivering public services to the citizens of the city. This paper examines the role of city managers and their impact on society. Theories on power and leadership are reviewed and serve as the foundation of the paper. Data are collected from interviews of the city managers of two California cities and International City/County Management Association (ICMA) surveys. We find that city managers play a crucial role in managing organizational change, developing and promoting organizational values, and maximizing organizational performance. The study not only contributes to our understanding of the role of city managers, but also has important implications for current city managers and those who aspire to become city managers.

2:30-2:50

Reina Watkins and Monica Huerta, Public Administration
_Economics and Education: A Comparative Case Study on Equitable Funding within the CSU System_
Faculty Mentor: Hugo Asencio, Public Administration

Since major recommendations of the California Master Plan for Higher Education of 1960 were implemented into law, state funding for California public institutions of higher education has transitioned from robust budgets mirroring student enrollment numbers to systematic cuts leaving institutions to find means to make up budget deficits on their own. In the past decade, enrollment capacities have reached an all-time high within the California State University (CSU) system. However, only some CSU campuses have received substantial financial support from the state government to offset the costs of increased student enrollment. Although some research exists on the public funding disparity among the three university systems in California—the
CSU, University of California, and Community Colleges systems, respectively—the academic literature available on the funding disparity—and the factors that contribute to it—within the CSU system is limited. To address this gap in the literature, this study employs a comparative case study approach to find out why state funding allocations in two CSU campuses are different despite similarities in student enrollment. This study seeks to contribute to the academic literature on public funding allocations in higher education systems. It also seeks to contribute to the policy debate on public funding allocation disparities in CSU campuses despite similar patterns of student enrollment over the years.

2:50-3:10

**Kevin Palacios, Jocelyn Gonzalez, Althea Thomas, and Sal Mendoza, Business Administration**

*Do the Right Thing at Penn State*

Faculty Mentor: Gary Polk, Business Administration

Pennsylvania State University was previously known for its powerhouse football team and program, but not much of its program exists today. The university’s President, Graham Spanier, Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Gary Schultz, Athletic Director Timothy Curly and Head Coach Joe Paterno were known as the big four. They made a decision that would result in Penn State’s football program’s collapse: protecting Jerry Sandusky. The presentation on this topic will dive into the minds of the big four, and how we as a society can learn from these mistakes. We shall discuss the events of this dark time at Penn State, career ending revelations and court cases, and how this could have and should have been prevented.

3:20-3:40

**Jacklyn Kim, Communications**

*Tragedy or Threat? News Framing in the 2015 European Migrant Crisis*

Faculty Mentor: Ryan Eagle, Communications

Since the beginning of 2015, over 2,600 refugees fleeing from North Africa and the Middle East have drowned crossing the Mediterranean Sea in an attempt to escape the escalating violence and political turmoil at home. But the world watched in horror the day body of 3-year-old “Syrian Boy,” Aylan Kurdi, was found lifeless and washed up on the shore of Turkey. His death sparked an international call for immediate action, followed by a series of statements and asylum admittance quotas from German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the UNHCR. This research focuses on comparing and contrasting how two specific media outlets covered key events during the 2015 European Migrant Crisis: Al Jazeera English and Fox News. Through inputting article content into a word cloud generator, paired with a close textual and discourse analysis of its results, notable differences in ideologies are examined. This research also draws upon the works of scholars who have studied the impacts of word association and media framing, helping to better understand how and why competing news publications frame coverage. While Al Jazeera
English reports on the “Refugee Crisis” as tragic yet manageable, Fox News asserts a complicated and imminent threat to the safety of native citizens. Both views are important to question and research as rhetoric in the digital media is increasingly pervasive due to the growing demand for a faster-exchange of news information.

3:40-4:00

Darlene Kelly, Business Administration

Molestation Dismissed

Faculty Mentor: Michael Grimshaw, Business Administration

Our purpose is to stop child molestation among boys and girls. We plan to raise awareness (educate), signify the importance and knowledge of when they’re in danger, implement a plan of attack, have workshops with scenarios (doing the plan), and showcase our results and efforts. Parental factors leading to molestation include substance abuse, criminal behavior, family conflict or violence, a history of child abuse and/or neglect, physical, cognitive or emotional disability, poor parent-child interaction, the presence of non-biological parents in the home, a low level of parental education, and the use of corporal punishment.

Our target audience is any one that has direct contact with children, such as: peers, parents and family, teachers, and school administrators. We want to let children know what important individuals they are and that their voices can be heard. We also want them to know how to detect signs of abuse or possible molestation. However, the responsibility to prevent child victimization should not fall only on the child. Especially for younger children, it is vital that parents learn how best to protect their children and intervene if molestation or other abuse occurs. Children often lack the knowledge and skills necessary to deal with these situations effectively. Most often when children do report instances of victimization, they confide in a parent, yet many parents also feel ill-equipped in skills and language to prevent and intervene in child victimization, particularly sexual abuse. As a result, the best practices in prevention programming include parent involvement and training. To include parental participation, this project provides parents with weekly assignments that the children complete together with their parents. In addition, parents are invited to attend and participate in the workshop if they can.

4:40-5:00

Gerardo De Luna, Business Administration

Affordable Workout Clothing

Faculty Mentor: Michael Grimshaw, Business Administration

There has been an enormous amount of interest in becoming a healthy, conscious individual that works out. There has also been an interest in the clothing used for working out. Many people choose to workout in regular cotton shirts that aren't offering the comfort needed to get a good workout. This business focuses on bringing the two main materials that provide a dry-fit
workout. No individual should have to work out in a cotton shirt anymore when alternatives will be available with a price similar to a cotton shirt. The clothing will be fashionable too.
Micro-sourcing, an online labor marketplace where organizations post small pieces of work and workers participate and are financially compensated, is a relatively new trend. While there is substantial evidence of its benefits, understanding of the nature of this crowd work and its workforce is still very limited. This research will examine the demographic factors that are associated with the crowd workers. It will pursue answers to questions such as: Are those individuals who are currently unemployed more likely to become crowd workers? Are women more likely to become crowd workers than men? How many hours are workers working? Are they working part time only? Or full time? What is the educational level of the workers? Do degrees mean higher income for the crowd? Is the crowd young or old? The answers to these questions were obtained through a data sample of 150 crowd workers in the micro-task crowdsourcing platform Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk). The survey collected information that included gender, age, amount of time spent on Amazon’s Mechanical Turk on a weekly basis, employment status, educational level, and household income. Quantitative, statistical analysis including descriptive statistics, ANOVA were included in the analysis methods. This initial data analysis shows that 1/3 of crowd workers on MTurk have Bachelor’s or Graduate degrees, 28% of crowd workers are unemployed, and on average spend 24.7 hours on weekly basis on MTurk. We offer recommendations regarding what these findings mean to organizations and individuals who post the micro jobs and what actions they should take.

This research deals with the life, business success and failures, and managerial style of Herb Kelleher, the Co-Founder and CEO of Southwest Airlines. The Bio-Poem written about his life and based on biographical and autobiographical materials will transport the listener back in time and will reveal why Kelleher has made such an impact in the airline industry.
Millennials have flooded offices with disruptive innovations and are now demanding that business leaders communicate using the same tools that they use to engage consumers. Also a shift for government agencies, these demands represent a paradigm shift for employee engagement. Does use of social media within the workplace enhance or impede workplace productivity? This research will seek to understand the productivity impacts of social media use in the workplace. I collected survey data from approximately 50 government employees by using SurveyMonkey. The various statistical categories range from level within the organization, age, gender, work performance, social media preference, to daily cell phone usage. The study was evenly distributed among men and women while each age group polled represented approximately 33% of all respondents. The survey data did not yield any statistical anomalies but yielded significant insight into the modern workforce as it relates to social media. The majority of individuals admitted to being avid users of Facebook and Instagram, as opposed to Twitter and Snapchat. The variety of social media users varied in age. There were a number of respondents fifty or older who are avid social media users, which broke biases and/or stereotypes as they relate to the age of social media users. Individuals who communicate with their social connections during work hours comprised forty percent of all respondents. But an overwhelming majority of those individuals who engage in social media during work hours had a performance rating that was either very good or outstanding; assuming an effective evaluation system, this shows that their ability to be productive was not impacted by their use of social media. Overall there is clear evidence that social media can co-exist with a highly productive work environment and further evidence that employee engagement may improve with the organization’s endorsement of some social media tools.

6:30-6:50

**Lorie Ann Mendoza and Ethel Villalpando, Information Systems and Operations Management**

*Social Media Use and Productivity Paradox at the Workplace*

Faculty Mentor: Nancy Deng, Information Systems and Operations Management

The use and dependence on smartphones is changing the dynamics of the workplace. Some business executives believe that social media use at work creates an open environment where employees are encouraged to share, innovate, and collaborate virtually. However, other business executives believe that allowing employees to use social media at work is a waste of employee’s time, making employees less productive at work. This debate echoes the one about the productivity paradox of information technology, which suggests employees who are social media ‘power-users’ were not only more productive than the average employee, but they were more satisfied with their work environment, often remaining in key positions longer. The objectives of this research are twofold: (1) to investigate whether companies allow their employees to use/have their smartphones at their workstation and (2) to investigate whether social media use at the workplace (via desktop computer, smartphone, or similar device) improves or hinders workplace productivity. To collect data, we designed and posted a survey on the Survey Gizmo
website. Our survey was designed to be anonymous and confidential. Data will not be shared, but will be used for a statistical analysis of whether social media usage at work decrease, increases, or does not change workplace productivity. We define the key concept “social media use” as: using social networking website(s) for personal or professional gain (or loss – time waster) during business hours. We used quantitative, statistical analysis including descriptive statistics, ANOVA, and regression to analyze 26 data records. Our data analysis shows that social media usage in the workplace decreases productivity. Most respondents believe it is a waste of time, but will still do it because of boredom and lack of interest at work. Our findings suggest that employers should consider restricting the use of an employee’s smartphone at their workstations and employees should pay attention to their usage and dependence on their smartphones at the workplace.

7:00-7:20

**Natasha Wynter, Business Administration**

*Bio-Poem: Earl G. Graves, Sr.*

Faculty Mentor: Gary Polk, Business Administration

The main objective of the Bio Poem was to research an effective leader and present facts of their managerial style, entrepreneurial characteristics, and interpersonal skills. For this reason, I chose Earl G. Graves, Sr., the founder of Black Enterprise Magazine. In constructing the Bio Poem, I intended to present details that divulged interesting aspects of his background and who he is as an entrepreneur, as well as a philanthropist. I gave accounts also of his accomplishments as well as his failures. In constructing this poem, I learned that Earl G. Graves is a man who encourages all African-Americans to become entrepreneurs. His best managerial skills are his interpersonal skills because he is a man who encourages his staff to be hungry and eager to learn the skills necessary to do the job effectively. He founded a magazine that provides more than 3.7 million readers monthly information on African-American business markets, careers, entrepreneurship, and financial management. He taught himself that without money, blacks have no leverage or power. Earl G. Graves, Sr. has taught me that giving back is your greatest accomplishment and that paving the way for others to be as successful as yourself is the best reward.

7:20-7:40

**John Tamura, Jose Patiag, Grace Caprile, and Starr Greenfield, Public Administration**

*Permanent Housing for the Homeless and Mentally Ill (HMI) Population in Los Angeles*

Faculty Mentor: Fynnwin Prager, Public Administration

Homelessness is not a new issue to the City of Los Angeles, but the recent declaration of a “state of emergency” confirms an increase in the number of homeless residents. In 2015, a homeless survey count was conducted: 26,000 citizens were declared homeless and nearly 50% of that population was identified as Homeless and Mentally Ill (HMI). These citizens lack housing, social and health supports. This study focused on the County of Los Angeles Department of
Mental Health (DMH) because it has received state funding for permanent housing from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), or better known as Proposition 63 (Prop. 63.).
MHSA/Prop. 63 was signed into law in January, 2005 and allowed the State of California to raise revenue to administer social and health services to HMI at the County level and provide housing supports. MHSA funding is tied into a ballot initiative that taxes the wealthiest Californians one (1) percent of their income over one million dollars. The actual tax revenue generated is unclear; in 2004 there was $254 million and in 2006 there was $683 million available for HMI. This report identifies several focus areas: DMH should strongly consider a “Housing First” approach, where HMI clients would receive housing first, with the intermediate goal of having customized social support services and rehabilitation. Long-term, the HMI client would have a place to live, have skills to function independently, and return to the local community. This approach has been tried by Veterans Affairs and other smaller cities such as St. Louis, MO and has had positive long term outcomes and lower costs of service delivery, as compared to jails or hospitals. Sam Tsembris argues that “people experiencing homelessness, and with mental health addiction issues are better able to move forward” if permanent housing is available (Homeless Hub, 2015).

7:40-8:00
Phoenicia Benjamin, Business Administration
Bio-Poem
Faculty Mentor: Gary Polk, Business Administration

I chose to research Howard Schultz, a man who came from a working poor class family and built the massively successful coffee retailer Starbucks. Schultz grew to become a democratic manager, one who encouraged his employees to share their ideas. His best managerial skill was his interpersonal ability. He failed as a leader when he stepped down as a CEO because having another person run his company quickly led to a disaster. Starbucks’ success began to take a turn downhill because instead of focusing on the customer, Schultz focused more on growth. Starbucks therefore started losing touch with the core of the business. After Starbucks’ downturn Schultz started to take a step back and realize what was really important. He closed down many stores to retrain baristas on how to pour espresso the right way and directed managers to focus on providing customers with a great experience. After closing down 600 stores and laying off many people permanently, Starbucks success started to grow once again. Schultz internalized his failures, and used those lessons learned to become better, stronger, and ultimately even more successful.

8:00-8:20
Brittney Ford, Communications
Sustainability Found in Likes and Favorites across Social Media Campaign Posts
Faculty Mentor: Brant Burkey, Communications
Social media has increasingly become an avenue of communication for industries to advocate particular brand traits through social media promotions and or campaigns. Moreover, sustainability has become a more broadly used term in the business model language structure. These particular brand campaigns readily use this term in order for the audience to identify products and solutions that are geared toward being more suitable for the environment. This study will translate how sustainability is being interpreted by the masses. The underpinning ideology, terminology, and language structure of sustainability will undergo a generative criticism to see how they are being used to persuade and inform. The current hegemonic brands who tout sustainability that are under investigation include USGBC, Earthship, and Cal Earth. The transcription of certain social media artifacts being liked or favored will serve as data to discursively explain prevalent practices within the construct of this social reality. The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is shaping the way structures and communities are designed by issuing LEED certifications that validate the level of sustainability other structures. The Earthship Biotecture Corporation provides individuals with the necessary tools to live in different forms of sustainable architecture. Cal Earth is “committed to providing solutions to the human need for shelter through research, development, and education in earth architecture”; their communities primarily use adobe clay to form dwellings. Being able to clearly identify the phenomena that occurs on social media when liking and favoring content as it relates to sustainability will allow the communications community to better identify sustainability with a uniform understanding. Encoding and decoding will be a method used to further explain how sustainability is being interpreted in the participant’s social media presence. Will the sublayer of communicative interaction through likes and favorites expose a different dimension of a social media profile? I anticipate finding a collective understanding of what sustainability is and how it is interpreted by society to serve a greater purpose during social media promotion.
Guatemala and El Salvador share a common experience: they both went through a violent period of civil war in the 20th century. The war lasted from 1960 to 1996 in Guatemala and from 1979 to 1992 in El Salvador. The violence during this time forced many Guatemalans and Salvadorans to flee to neighboring Central American countries, Mexico, and the United States. After the wars ended, increasing criminal violence and severe, ongoing socio-economic problems continued to force many in Guatemala and El Salvador to migrate to other countries, including the United States, which is the leading destination of Central American emigrants. While some scholars have empirically tested the relationship between crime and violence and migration in Guatemala and El Salvador during the war years, with the exception of Wood, Gibson and Ribeiro (2010), no recent study has tested these relationships after the war. Moreover, no study has systematically investigated the relationship between other factors affecting human well-being—e.g., poverty and hunger—and migration in these countries. In an effort to address this gap in the literature, this study uses data from the 2012 AmericasBarometer survey to answer the following research question: what is the relationship between different threats to human security (i.e., crime, violence, poverty, and hunger) and propensity to migrate from Guatemala and El Salvador? Answering this question is important for two main reasons. First, from an academic perspective, there is a need for empirical evidence on the relationship between different threats to human well-being and propensity to migrate in these countries. Second, from a policy perspective, acquiring such evidence can help inform current debates and efforts aimed at promoting economic development and security in these countries and thus prevent further migration.

For over two centuries, America has provided medical care and other support to people who have served in the armed forces (Kitzer, K.W., 1999). As the largest integrated healthcare system in the United States, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) has faced many restructuring attempts by the legislature to decrease the scheduling wait times for appointments throughout the organization. However, these restructuring attempts have not been successful over the last thirty
years. This project seeks to examine the relationships of executive leaders and staff by evaluating the relationship between organizational structure and culture in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). More specifically, to understand how VHA operates, the aspects of organizational structure and organizational culture at VHA will be analyzed to answer the research questions: 1) How does hierarchy and organizational structure affect the culture in the VHA; and 2) How does organizational culture affect an employee’s ability to communicate with leaders of the organization? This case study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge by analyzing the internal organizational culture in a public organization. This study is grounded in the organizational structure theory, which examines organizational design, as well as the organizational culture theory. This case study will be based on official government reports, congressional hearings, and news reports. The results of this study will seek to provide tools to inform executives in public organizations about the relationship between organizational structure and culture and unintentional effects on an employee’s performance.

9:40-10:00

**Ciria Valenzuela, Business Administration**

*Bio-Poem, James Cash Penney*

Faculty Mentor: Gary Polk, Business Administration

This project is a 13-line poem that describes the life of James Cash Penney, the owner of J.C. Penney. The Bio Poem consists of a collection of details about James Cash Penney’s life, personality traits and aspirations. I intend to present vivid details which reveal interesting aspects that describe his origin, managerial style, and his commitment to his customers. I also describe his character, his accomplishments, and his failures. While writing this Bio Poem I learned that James Cash Penney was an outstanding businessman who really cared about the integrity of a business. He was known as the American businessman who founded retail chain stores. In 15 years he was able to become chairman of his own company and had 175 stores open by the time that he retired. Now, J.C. Penney operates 1,060 department stores in 49 U.S. states. The story of James Cash Penney teaches that if you have commitment and integrity in a business, you too can become a successful business owner.

10:00-10:20

**Thomas Gonzalez**

*Entrepreneur and Marketing*

Faculty Mentor: John Hsiao, English

According to the article, “The Effect of Organizational Ethical Cultures on Marketing Managers’ Role Stress and Behavior Intentions,” role ambiguity and role conflict are the cause of role stress that both entrepreneurs and marketing managers experience. Furthermore, The Journal of American Academy of Business states, “role stress arises when an individual confronts conflict or ambiguity with respect to his or her job expectations.” The purpose of this study is to
examine the effects of role ambiguity and role conflict in the entrepreneur and marketing manager role along with how it can lead to role stress. Role stress can arise when projects and deadlines are not completed, this can also produce a negative relationship between staff since the entire department is involved. Furthermore, The Journal of Personal Selling & Sales Management states, “Role stress arises from ethical issues more than any other source.” These ethical issues can include job related, customer related, or family related issues. Entrepreneur S.E. Jackson states a “negative relationship between a well-managed culture can produce role conflict and role ambiguity.” Role conflict is described as the mismatch of the expectations associated with one person’s role, while role ambiguity is explained as the employee being uncertain about another employee’s expectation of his role.

10:30-10:50

**Cynthia Shaltz and Myongjee (Michelle) Yoo, Business Administration**  
*The Impact of Strategic Alliances on Reward Programs and Brand Loyalty*  
Faculty Mentor: Orie Berezan, Business Administration

The purpose of this study is to examine the effect of strategic alliances on customer loyalty in the hospitality industry. It will contribute significantly to the existing literature on customer loyalty as well as provide valuable implications for industry. Results of the study are expected to indicate a positive relationship between strategic alliances and customer loyalty towards both the reward program representing the brand, and the brand itself. Furthermore, the study will evaluate the anticipated relationship between program loyalty and brand loyalty. Data collection is in process and the preliminary results from the study will be presented.

10:50-11:10

**Brodie Childers, Management and Marketing**  
*Malcolm Forbes, Bio-Poem*  
Faculty Mentor: Gary Polk, Business Administration

This research assignment is about capsulizing and understanding the real life managerial traits of a successful and iconic business leader. I have read an autobiography based on Malcolm Forbes to enhance my understanding of the positive and negative effects of leadership and intuition that has made the Forbes company so successful. Once my research was complete, I was able to be creative and present my assignment to my classmates in the form of a bio-poem. This bio-poem was performed as a speech in first-person point of view as Forbes. In management theory class, we have learned the difference between theory X and theory Y management styles. This research project gave an in depth understanding on how a theory Y management style can induce success and even failures in the business environment. The bio-poem expresses Forbes’s biggest mistakes, what he was recognized for, and even how his life has made an impact in the business world today. This research has brought an insight on how a business action can directly impact not only the organization but also the individual’s personal life.
11:10-11:30
La Tonja Melton, Business Administration
Social Media in the Workplace
Faculty Mentor: Xuefei (Nancy) Deng, Information Systems and Operations Management

Social media is a beneficial component to increased productivity for employees in the workplace. In a growing and evolving world, social media has become a major player in the success of many companies. Social media has proven to be a success in many business expansions such as marketing, reputation and product awareness, and connecting with customers. It has allowed many companies to compete on various levels including information sharing. Preliminary findings show that more people view social media as a waste of time and believe it should be monitored if allowed in the workplace. Although some studies show that more people are using social media, they do not depict a clear picture of how much work is actually being performed. Now that more companies are introducing social media as a form of networking and advertising, additional studies should be conducted.

11:30-11:50
Althea Thomas, Business Administration and Public Policy
S.A.B. Systems
Faculty Mentor: Michael Grimshaw, Business Administration

S.A.B. is small start-up company that is created with STEM, Art and Business majoring students in mind. The system; Amadeus, will be built around a student’s education, with the leading establishments of their respectful industries. This presentation will dive into the inner workings of the company and its future.
Agile Unified Process utilizes an agile approach which concentrates on both the bigger life-cycle and the emphases inside of every progression to convey incremental discharges after some time. The AUP can be described as an effortlessly justifiable type of the RUP. It characterizes a straightforward method for enhancing applications of business. A firm's evolutions to programming advancement can be recognized at late phases of movement. The point of any firm is to develop a design discernible in many firms. It is ideal for the management to mull over the major markers of an active service delivery. These eventually help to enhance their structures through utilizing the best operational strategies. Enhancements should be possible on human aptitudes, strategies utilized, and mechanization. Agile programming distribution creates systems that will guarantee an appropriate economy of the assets. This is accomplished by focusing on a lower estimation of danger and getting ideal usage of the advantages. This ascribes to a higher possibility of an effective business because of lessened negative effects on the methods. This paper will address the contribution the Agile UP has had in business, project management, related research, and the research gap that exists in the topic of discussion, methodology applied in the research and a summary of the future work of Agile UP.

This paper presents research on the use of multi-agent systems (MAS) in architectural design. It introduces a design approach at the intersection of architecture, engineering, and heuristic computation. The motivation of the work is manifold including exploring the generative aspect of bottom up design techniques coupled with optimization and performance criteria. The work combines research into agent based design as well as collection of user preferences with analytical and optimization techniques in order to provide designers with larger sets of informed design solutions. The paper presents the development and initial evaluation of a novel methodology to work with emergence and form finding approaches for designing building components. The objective of the work is to develop an integrated design framework that provides informed design solutions, which incorporate design requirements, environmental
factors and user behavior early in the design process. The research presents the robustness of the framework by applying it for the generation and optimization of façade panel configurations on an office building type.

2:30-2:50
**Stefanye Walkes, Engineering**  
*Underwater Inspection and Surveillance*  
Faculty Mentor: Antonia Boadi, Physics

Human lives need not be endangered to inspect underwater facilities. By using drones to perform surveillance tasks remotely, people’s health may no longer be placed at risk. Using an OpenROV Mini Observation Class ROV unit, we test its ability to withstand underwater conditions that may be perilous to human life. We will determine how well it investigates areas considered hazardous, such as places with currents and/or riptides, unlit spaces, and the like.

2:50-3:10
**Abdulmajeed Alyoubi, Computer Science**  
*Lean Architecture*  
Faculty Mentor: Jack Han, Computer Science

Programming and software design advancement work are increasingly outsourced globally. With regards to this, a variety of companies look for worldwide programming advancement as an opportunity to exploit the worldwide business sector and assets. However, worldwide programming improvement practices are confronting various difficulties connected with the dangers and troubles of cross-national collaboration, cross-cultural management, time, space and cultural barriers. In line with this, this study will build up another model for lean thinking that takes into consideration the whole product life cycle. That model will give an information-based, client-driven design and development environment to support esteem creation for the clients in terms of innovation and customization. The paradigm we utilize supports the partitioning stand on the end-client mental model and autonomy of teams in the long haul. Finally, the purpose of the paradigm was deliberately intended to meet these objectives; also, for the most part, it will drive the overwhelming apportioning. Applying the principles of Poppendieks and Middleton who point out that a great part of the testing (and improved) exertion can be lessened by selecting a simple to-check prerequisite and structural planning, this study will be led. There is still more that we can do on the grounds that even a little measure of programming building design can anticipate a large portion of the issues that tasks face. Effective programming ventures aren't just about great code, and once in a while you have to step away from the code for a couple of minutes to see the bigger picture.
3:20-3:40

**Dominique Dalanni and Jose Martinez, Computer Science**

*Hazard and Operability Analysis of Underwater Robots in Nuclear Energy Plants*

Faculty Mentor: Antonia Boadi, Physics

This project explores risks associated with using robots to perform maintenance and inspection tasks in underwater structures in nuclear energy facilities. Hazard and Operability Analysis (HAZOP) will be used to identify potential problems prior to system deployment. HAZOP has been implemented as a team-based research activity, with each student researcher functioning as a Subject Matter Expert relative to one or more functional areas. Collectively the team collaborates to identify system hazards and applies probabilistic risk analysis to eliminate or mitigate the risk associated with each hazard.

3:40-4:00

**Anusha Karur, Computer Science**

*Correlated Multiple Message Synchronization in Delay-Tolerant Network with City Section Mobility*

Faculty Mentor: Bin Tang, Computer Science

Delay tolerant networks (DTN) are sparse mobile wireless networks wherein the probability of an end-to-end communication path from a source node to a destination node is often low. The classic applications of DTN are mobile ad hoc networks in battlefields or disaster recovery operations, wildlife traffic sensor networks, pocket switched networks and vehicular ad hoc networks. This project studies content synchronization problems in DTNs wherein when the content of one node is updated, other nodes with common content should be synchronized to the newest version. Existing research focuses on content synchronization of a single file from one device to another device. In particular, it proposes two synchronization algorithms: Direct Contact Synchronization (DCS) and Relay Assisted Synchronization (RAS) algorithms. In contrast to the existing research, in this project we focus on synchronization of correlated multiple message synchronization by introducing a new algorithm called Effective Relay Assisted Synchronization Algorithm (ERAS). Then, we show how we can utilize the proposed algorithm by considering a DTN where mobility of the nodes is restricted in a city street network and information exchange relies on device-to-device communications, when the node’s message is updated, how the other nodes with correlated messages can be synchronized to the latest versions, and how time and energy are improved via extreme network simulation. Our project includes two parts: First, the introduction of correlated multiple message mobility pattern simulations. Second, via extensive simulations, we compare different content synchronization algorithms and give some insights.
4:20-4:40

**Manar Alqarni, Computer Science**  
*Agile Testing*  
Faculty Mentor: Mohsen Beheshti, Computer Science

The testing stage of any software development often receives limited recognition from developers and IT managers. Yet testing is the only technique that can determine whether or not an application will function properly at deployment. Without a sufficient testing strategy, companies may blindly face significant risks that go well beyond simply having poor functioning software. This paper will discuss how agile testing works, automated Testing-Regression, agile test plan, agile test cases, and finally the advantages and disadvantages of agile testing.

4:40-5:00

**Carlos Ontiveros, Computer Science**  
*A Maximum Weighted Flow Algorithm Based on the Push-Relabel Method*  
Faculty Mentor: Bin Tang, Computer Science

Network flows study how to move entities or objects from one point in a network to another. Network flows span over several broad disciplines, including operations research, computer science, and engineering. In particular, the classic maximum flow problem finds the maximum amount of flow that can be sent from a source node to a sink node in a flow network, considering that edges in the flow network have capacities that restrain the amount of flows on each edge. The push-relabel algorithm is one of the most efficient algorithms for the maximum flow problem. During the execution of the algorithm, it maintains a "preflow" and gradually converts it into a maximum flow by moving flow locally between neighboring vertices using push operations under the guidance of an admissible network maintained by relabel operations. Current research proposed an efficient implementation of the push-relabel algorithm for the maximum flow. However, classic maximum flow fails to consider that different flow could have different weights or values. For example, in sensor networks, data collected by different sensors could have different values for the scientists to analyze the physical world. In this project, we study the maximum weighted flow problem, which is to maximize the total weight of flow in the network considering different flows have different weights. Maximum weighted flow is a generalization of the classic maximum flow problem, wherein each unit of flow has the same weight. We design an efficient optimal algorithm for maximum weighted flow problem. We implement our algorithm by modifying the implementation by Cherkassky and Goldberg and including the concept of the flow weights into the design and implementation. We generate different graph families using three graph generators available from DIMACS. Via extensive simulation, we show that it outperforms the push-relabel maximum flow algorithm in terms of the total preserved priorities.
This project describes the development process and the features of a local messaging mobile application named “Playground”. The application will use a number of languages to implement the front-end user interface as well as the back end logic necessary to run the application. This application encapsulates a variety of concepts covered in object oriented design, web interface design, and database design. In this project I have created a functioning application that tracks the location of the user and broadcasts that location to all those who are nearby using this application. Through the use of the global positioning system, users will be able to communicate with other users in close proximity, allowing for a more connected community. This will allow users to message others who they see but not necessarily interact with in crowded areas; this application opens the door for a new kind of networking referred to as Local Virtual Interaction. Through this application two concepts are combined, one that has been around for millennia and the other that was adopted about a century ago. People will be able to more confidently communicate with others in their vicinity using the anonymity that the internet has provided. This application, as part of its design process, encourages a new form of interaction and aims to change the way communities of strangers behave with one another.

In the current CSC451 Computer Networks, I have learned the classic Dijkstra’s shortest path algorithm, which finds a shortest path between two nodes in a network. This shortest path problem is a classic problem in computer science. However, this problem does not find all the shortest paths between two nodes, and finding all shortest paths between two nodes is not well studied. This project encompasses algorithm design, implementation, and testing. The project consists of three steps: First, I will fully understand the Dijkstra’s shortest path algorithm, and implement it using programing languages such as C/C++/Java. This implementation takes a command input, asking for a graph, source node, destination node, then outputs the shortest path and its cost. Second, I will extend the Dijkstra's algorithm to find all of the possible shortest paths between two different nodes. There are two sub steps: First we will work on an un-weighted graph (that is, the edges of graph do not have weight). We can possibly use Breadth-First-Search to find all the shortest paths between two nodes. Then we will work on a weighted
graph, wherein different edges have different costs. We will explore the algorithmic solution of this new problem, implement, and test it. In all the steps, we will also analyze the efficiency of the algorithms. Finally, we will incorporate this implementation into Dr. Tang’s current project of data preservation in sensor networks.

6:10-6:30

Joseph Aramburo, Computer Science

Effective Use of Design Patterns in Enterprise Software

Faculty Mentor: Jianchao Han, Computer Science

The emergence of widespread development has influenced software development organizations to adopt into a system to handle the concerns of enterprises. These concerns handle issues with developing from out of office staff, organizing multiple developers on a specific task, and handling multiple programming paradigms. It is not enough to adopt into these practices as developers are still required to develop applications. This research addresses the concerns omitted by enterprise development practices.

6:30-6:50

Misha Dowd, Computer Science

10 Success Traits of Agile Teams a Project Manager Should Consider Before Forming an Agile Development Team

Faculty Mentor: Jack Han, Computer Science

Agile teams are traditionally self-managing; however, as agile gains in popularity, more and more management orientated businesses are beginning to transition their teams into using agile. This correlates to inexperienced managers managing agile projects with limited experience. With agile being as loosely defined as it is, project managers need a way to recognize whether their teams are ready to transition to agile. As there are many factors that can be attributed to success in an agile setting from experience level of developers to the budget a project has. This paper will explore the some of the key success traits that agile teams have it hopes to inform transitioning managers and their organizations on what to look for when creating effective agile teams. Through analytical research ten common traits have appeared across successful agile teams: follow agile best practices (during the transitioning process), good task allocation, desire to continuously improve, good communication, good mixture of personalities, good mixture of experience, positive or constructive response to change, well organization, effective communication with customer/client/user, and establishing roles. This paper will explore each trait and determine why this trait is crucial to success.


**Joshua Padilla, Computer Science**  
*Web Development using the MEAN STACK and Deploying to Amazon Web Services*  
Faculty Mentor: Mohsen Beheshti, Computer Science

The goal of this project is threefold. The first goal is to learn what is required to develop an application for a client. The second goal is to learn how to use the MEAN Stack as a trending technology for web development. The third goal is to implement a web application.

The first goal to learn “what is required to develop an application for a client” is the next logical step in my education. The knowledge that I gained earning my Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science was largely theoretical. I learned how to structure code and evaluate which algorithms to use. Putting that knowledge to use in a practical enterprise application is something that I still needed to learn. In short, I will identify some popular trending technologies that are used together to create a web application end product. The second goal to “learn how to use some trending technologies that are used in today’s web development” is an extension of the first goal. I will answer the questions: What is the MEAN Stack? How does it compare to the common technologies such as the LAMP Stack? What are the benefits of the MEAN Stack? The third goal to “implement a web application”, is the practical application of everything I learned from the first two goals. I will write a web application using the MEAN Stack. The application will have use Node.js with express for the webserver and backend programming, mongoDB with node’s mongoose driver for the database, and Angular.js for the front-end framework. The application will be deployed on an Amazon Web Service Linux instance. The application will implement user authentication, public access, authenticated access, admin access, and an inventory database.

7:20-7:40

**Joseph Aramburo, Computer Science**  
*Integrating Scrum into Plan-Driven Development*  
Faculty Mentor: Jianchao Han, Computer Science

The speed at which software is developed has led to an agile methodology. Scrum, an agile methodology, allows for a small team of developers to create software at an alarming rate. By providing a cross-functional team and early development, Scrum has been a favorable agile methodology which many software companies have adopted. This presentation explains the importance of keeping a plan driven approach but modifying its phases to allow Scrum to integrate. This is done by a process of reusability analysis, specification decomposition, and scrumming the managers. By accelerating a plan driven approach, the scrum methodology becomes simpler and eliminates some of the overhead of scrumming for larger organizations.

7:40-8:00

**Saud Tawi, Computer Science**  
*Agile Planning*  
Faculty Mentor: Jack Han, Computer Science
In the present day and age, prudent management of a project has become crucial. Undertaking a successful project requires meticulous planning. Failing to come up with a viable clear roadmap could cause a given project to fail to materialize. The dynamics of a project may necessitate change of requirements. Prudent management of a project is thus fundamental to take care of the unexpected changes. Agile is an ideal framework that outlines a comprehensive plan that can be used by project managers to manage different projects that require continuous improvement, high interactivity and flexible input. More so, Agile helps project managers ultimately achieve the desired results of a project. Understanding agile planning is crucial in utilizing the methodologies within the framework. This paper seeks to explore agile planning by looking at the processes involved, components of agile, approaches, techniques, characteristics, pros and cons, distributed agile planning and a comparison with traditional plan-driven planning.

8:00-8:20

Ahmed Alsuwat, Computer Science

Estimation by Agile

Faculty Mentor: Jack Han, Computer Science

Software development project management is an important area in software engineering. Much research has been done regarding issues in software development project management, such as methodology used, costing, challenges, type of project and more. However, the most crucial issues in software development project management involve costing, which falls under the estimating process. The software effort estimation process in any software project is a primary and critical component. The success or failure of projects depends heavily on the accuracy of effort and schedule estimations, among other things. Traditional effort estimation approaches are used to estimate effort for agile software projects, but they mostly result in inaccurate estimates. This paper seeks to discover the background reason for agile software project management and focuses on the development of software for project estimating using Agile. The Agile software estimating project is important for budgeting. It also analyzes the differences between traditional project estimating and Agile project estimating. Some proposed models are defined. Finally, success factors in Agile cost estimation are defined in last section. In conclusion, research about the cost estimation process has been conducted for many years with huge numbers. This research has looked at some contributions of using estimation by Agile, and some difference between traditional methods and Agile method in the estimation process. Moreover, the research focused on the success factors of agile cost estimation process in a software development project. Therefore, by considering these factors, perhaps Agile cost estimation process can produce more accurate result and can reduce effort, time and cost. There were some proposed model estimations discussed early in this paper. In the future work, I will try to test these success factors and create a survey to evaluate the factors in reality.
Most MacBook and MacBook Pro notebook computers manufactured since 2006 are equipped with a device called the Sudden Motion Sensor, or SMS. The purpose of this sensor is to help protect the MacBook’s Hard Disk Drive (HDD) in the event that the MacBook is accidentally dropped or experiences heavy shaking and vibration. Since Solid State Drives (SSD) do not spin unlike the traditional HDD, MacBook models that feature a SSD do not come with the Sudden Motion Sensor equipped. Aside from protecting the MacBook, the Sudden Motion Sensor has been used for various purposes, especially as a seismograph. An application called SeisMac uses the sensor to transform the user’s MacBook into a seismograph by displaying real-time, three-axis acceleration graphs. SeisMac uses an open-source library that is written using both the C and Objective-C programming languages. SeisMac has inspired the development of a new application called MacSeisApp, which not only displays a basic seismograph, but also aims to notify other users in nearby cities using Apple’s Push Notifications (APN) via a dedicated server. Written in both the C and Objective-C programming languages using the XCode Integrated Developer Environment (IDE), MacSeisApp utilizes the same open-source library used in SeisMac in order to detect the vibrations via the Sudden Motion Sensor and translate it into points to be plotted as a seismograph. If there is shaking detected, it will draw some spikes, and once a spike is detected, MacSeisApp will communicate with the dedicated server based at CSU Dominguez Hills and report the location and time. The server at CSUDH then communicates with Apple’s server, which then processes this data and then sends an alert via Push Notification to other MacBooks nearby. Additionally, a sound will play with the notification that has the tone of the emergency siren and a voice message.

The purpose of this project is to develop a fully functioning 2D platform game application and to do so using professional development tools and techniques. The program allows for a single player to load into a Main Menu and from there load into a game level. The level consists of platforms the player can traverse, obstacles and hazards for the player to overcome, and enemies that can harm the player and prevent him or her from completing the level. To complete the level a player must successfully reach the end without perishing at which point a score is displayed showing the player's performance during the particular play through. The player can access a Pause Menu any time during normal game play that presents the player with the choice of either resuming normal play, returning to the Main Menu, or quitting the application altogether. The
main tool being utilized is the Unity cross-platform game engine. The Unity Engine is the post popular game development framework in use today and is comprised of a physics engine, a graphics engine, the MonoDevelop IDE, an audio mixer, animator, and more. With the Unity Engine the 2D platform application was made successfully. It incorporates C# programming code to control certain object behaviors and dictate the flow of game play. The code is where most of the game logic interaction takes place between the various game assets created in Unity, including player input and enemy movements. As well, there are elements that were created using Adobe Photoshop as Unity lacks a proper image-editing software.
Creative Arts I                LSU 328

9:00-9:20

Marlon Abram and Jeremy Robles, Digital Media Arts

Drinking and Driving PSA

Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts

The objective of this television public service announcement is to increase awareness of who is actually at risk when one takes the wheel after drinking an alcoholic beverage. Co-producers, Marlon Abram and Jeremy Robles, 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, and directing the actors) and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, sound design with ADR, foley and ambience, and recording original music) with the goal of showing the risks of drinking and driving.

9:20-9:40

Jade Harvey, English

Creative Expository Critique of Self

Faculty Mentor: Jane Lee, English

It is my purpose, in this critical inquiry, to look at the implications involved in a creative work of my own design, through the lens of psychosocial relations. I intend to give light to the mindset behind an original work, thus far known as “Accidental Demon.” “Accidental Demon” is a piece of fantasy fiction; it is a short story wherein the tragedy of a miscolored unicorn, Brogh, stands as an analogy. It is in the character of Brogh that the audience is exposed to the juxtaposition of society’s tendency to reject what it is unable to comprehend, with an equally present facet of humanities individualistic tendencies; strength and sacrifice. It stands therefore, that my research will be is centered around three main ideas, which will be explained and expounded upon after the reading. They include the following: The understanding of the inner self such as it reflects the social psychology in the creation of this fantastical social analogy, the historical narrative inherent in the voice of the work, and, lastly, the bridge between historical narrative and its effects on social psychology on the individual. This is undoubtedly a creative performance; however, it is a creative performance meant to invite individuals to take a closer, more inherently critical look at the work in question.
10:00-10:20
Lucas Capili and Faye Go, Digital Media Arts
Texting While Driving
Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts

The objective of this television public service announcement is to increase awareness of the danger of texting while driving. Co-producers, Lucas Capili and Faye Go, 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, and directing the actors) and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, sound design with ADR, foley and ambience, and recording original music) with the goal of warning drivers about the dangers of texting while driving.

10:30-10:50
Letha Wells, English
From Mind 2 Mic: Showcasing Expressive Art Therapy
Faculty Mentor: Jane Lee, English

The National Institute of Mental Health stated that, “In 2013, an estimated 2.6 million adolescents aged 12 to 17 in the U.S. had at least one major depressive episode in the past year.” To combat this growing trend many are referred to therapy. Traditional forms of talk-therapy are often intimidating to adolescents. Art therapy is an alternative therapy that utilizes various aspects of the arts (i.e. poetry, spoken word, written narratives) as a means to communicate true feelings. From Mind 2 Mic is an original project that will bring awareness to a trend that is adversely affecting today’s youth. From Mind 2 Mic is an initiative that will showcase these expressive art forms utilizing social media as the engine to propel awareness. Social media platforms including Blogger, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, and Twitter will be used to showcase the art. From Mind 2 Mic will work to accomplish three things. These include 1) Shining a positive light on coping with adolescent depression through art, 2) Working as an early combatant for adolescent depression, and 3) Creating awareness for others who don’t understand what it’s like to be a depressed adolescent. As an English major I’m aware that my voice is amplified through my writing. My future plans with From Mind 2 Mic include utilizing the skills I’ve garnered through my English education and sharing them with others. In support of this initiative I will share personal tips and various techniques that I have acquired through my English education here at CSUDH for writing fictional and poetic pieces. By doing this I will be showing society that by expressing yourself you help not only yourself but others around you. We create awareness with every statement that we utter.
10:50-11:10
Shane Glady, Quintin Mattear and Francisco Torres, Digital Media Arts

Pit Bulls: The Misunderstood Breed
Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts

The objective of this television documentary is to explore the myths and the stigma surrounding the pit bull breed. Co-producers, Shane Glady, Quintin Mattear, and Francisco Torres, took this project through the entire production cycle: research on the topic, pre-production (script writing, interviewing experts, auditioning narrators, location scouting, storyboarding, and creating shot lists) to production (crew assignments, lighting, art direction, camera, and directing the interviews) and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, soundtrack mixing, and recording original music) with the goal of showing that pit bulls can be a safe and loving pet for families.

11:10-11:30
Sebastian Rodriguez, Jeff McFaddin, Faye Go, and Jeremy Robles, Digital Media Arts

Bringing the People Together
Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts

The objective of this music video is to spread the word of bringing people together through random acts of kindness. Co-producers, Sebastian Rodriguez, Jeff McFaddin, Faye Go, and Jeremy Robles, took the reggae song by Jahmark and The Soulishakers through the entire production cycle: pre-production (script writing, auditioning actors, location scouting, storyboarding, and creating shot lists) to production (crew assignments, lighting, art direction, camera, and directing the actors and musicians) and finally to post production (video editing and graphics production) with the goal of showing how an upbeat Reggae song with a positive message can bring people together for the good of society.

11:30-11:50
Patrick Taylor, Ana Melissa Sanchez, and Soulaey Mauricio, Digital Media Arts

Skacore
Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts

The objective of this television documentary is to explore the current phenomenon of SkaCore music among young people in the L.A. music scene. Co-producers, Patrick Taylor, Ana Sanchez, and Soulaey Mauricio, took this project through the entire production cycle: research on the topic, pre-production (script writing, interviewing experts, auditioning narrators, location scouting, storyboarding, and creating shot lists) to production (crew assignments, lighting, art direction, camera, and directing the interviews) and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, soundtrack mixing, and recording original music) with the goal of showing the impact of SkaCore music on young people today.
Lucas Capili, Shelly Guzman, Quintin Mattear and Paola Perez, Digital Media Arts

Doesn’t Get Much Better
Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts

Co-producers, Lucas Capili, Shelly Guzman, Quintin Mattear, and Paola Perez, took the upbeat pop song “Doesn’t Get Much Better” by solo artist Dash through the entire production cycle: pre-production (script writing, auditioning actors, location scouting, storyboarding, and creating shot lists) to production (crew assignments, lighting, art direction, camera, and directing the actors and artist) and finally to post production (video editing and graphics production) with the goal of making this song into an exciting music video with compelling visuals, slick editing, and high production value for the up-and-coming artist, Dash.

Lawrence Ramirez, Art and Design

Where She Belongs: Socio-Spatial Constructions of Identity in the Art of Shirin Neshat
Faculty Mentor: Kirstin Ellsworth, Art and Design

Within the video and photographic artworks of Shirin Neshat, the use of location and space creates signifiers of identity. Segregated by gender or cultural status, people have their “proper” place. Yet, when Neshat has a subject transgress her place, such as occurs in her video Turbulent (1998) when a woman sings a wordless vocalization in an empty recital hall, which is a violation of Iranian Islamic law, it brings into question the whole concept of stratified space. Though Islamic tradition ascribes to men the public sphere and to women the private sphere, Neshat has her subjects subvert this strict dichotomy, resulting in a questioning of identity relative to social context. Neshat creates a dialectic of place in which the Self emerges from conflict and context to find a unique voice. Furthermore, by interpreting Neshat's works through the paradigm of the thirteenth century Sufi mystic, Muhammad ibn 'Arabi, of a tension between the world as it exists, referred to as the Divine Will, and the world as it should be, which is called the Divine Wish, a similar existential balance is found. Therefore, Neshat combines a contemporary symbolic interactionist perspective with a medieval Sufi perspective, both of which conclude that an authentic identity is one which defies unjust restraint and allows for people to give voice to their own life experiences and desires to find their chosen place.
6:10-6:30
Devell Deshazer and Sebastian Rodriguez, Digital Media Arts

Danseur
Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts

The objective of this television documentary is to explore the reasons that prevent men from participating in ballet. Co-producers, Devell Deshazer and Sebastian Rodriguez, took this project through the entire production cycle: research on the topic, pre-production (script writing, interviewing experts, auditioning narrators, location scouting, storyboarding, and creating shot lists) to production (crew assignments, lighting, art direction, camera, and directing the interviews) and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, soundtrack mixing, and recording original music) with the goal of showing how men can overcome the stigma of participating in ballet.

6:30-6:50
Brittany Ruiz, Art and Design

Mass Hysteria: A Study in Victorian Art and Its Connection with Female Hysteria
Faculty Mentor: Kirstin Ellsworth, Art and Design

The diagnosis of the condition known as Hysteria contributed tremendously to art produced in the late nineteenth century and visual depictions of women in particular. Ideas about women during this time period influenced the way women were portrayed in literature and media as well. The character Ophelia of William Shakespeare’s Hamlet was a common subject in Victorian art and culture. Ophelia is the epitome of what was then constructed as the Hysterical woman, thought to be driven insane from unrequited love. Hysteria, as detailed by Freud at the turn of the century and expanded upon in the Victorian era by Post-Freudians, was viewed as the result of sexual fantasy and frustration and was often relieved by inducing Hysterical Paroxysm. I argue that the connection between Ophelia and Hysteria is the victimization of women by a patriarchal society. The patriarchal dimensions are evident in late nineteenth century artistic treatments of the Hysterical female including but not limited to portraits of Ophelia. During the Fall 2015 Semester at CSUDH I was granted a position with the Student Research Fellows and was therefore given the opportunity to further my research into the connections among Hysteria, artistic depictions of Ophelia and other “Hysterical” women along with the social settings that promoted the attribution of Hysteria to women in the late nineteenth century. I would like to explore a related argument that although the terminology has changed, the ideas behind Hysteria and the portrayal the late nineteenth century related type of the femme fragile have not completely disappeared. As an Art Historian I believe the context behind the constructions of the Hysterical female through depictions of Ophelia and others in the late nineteenth century must be further explored to understand their importance in the history of art and the study of gender in society.
Robert Huerta, Art

On Exclusion and Decontextualization in Post-Modern Institutional Display: Conceptualizing a New Display Methodology

Faculty Mentor: Kirstin Ellsworth, Art and Design

De-contextualization occurs when artifacts and art objects are put on display, but the exhibit design fails to engage with the viewer with the culture under observation. De-Contextualization is rooted in the methodological history of Institutional Display, loaded with hegemonic structures and exclusion, where mythology is presented as history, and appropriation is labeled interpretation. As an exercise in institutional critique the main research questions are: How does the current methodology of the curatorial program/approach at these sites de-contextualize the art on display? Can a program be written and exhibition strategy designed that enables an authentic connection between the art and the audience, and therefore between the Artist, or culture under observation, and the individuals or community who engage the work in the context of an exhibition space. Rather than educating a viewing audience and providing a space for conversation and collaboration, post-modern institutional display is, generally speaking, bound by structures and methodologies loaded with elitist prejudice that exclude cultural representatives and artists from making executive decisions on the display of their artifacts and/or art objects. In light of the findings, an effort to develop a New Methodology should therefore be founded upon the principles of collaboration and authentic representation. Further, the New Methodology conceptualizes display as being a mechanism for engaging subjects to that being displayed in a manner that is educational, and facilitates conversation and collaboration between artists, curators, cultural representatives, and viewing audiences. The project itself will need a threefold culmination, including: a publication that investigates de-contextualization at the institutional level, an exhibition design that applies the New Methodology, and field work dedicated to gathering source material for both the design and publication.

Yoatzin Robles, Art and Design

The Evolution of Aesthetics in Painting

Faculty Mentor: Devon Tsuno, Art and Design

Change in a painter’s practice is often dictated by diverse influences or inspirations in the painter and the decade or the century they live in. But who defines the change and should it be considered development? To further explore the question of this research, I would like to find out what causes a painter to change the subject matter of their work, or the way they use the formal elements of design; line, composition, balance, value, form, color and texture. Based on the research that I have conducted I have come to a variety of conclusions. An occurrence of change in the aesthetics of a painter’s work may be a result of the loss of ‘interest’ in the content of study, leading to a phase where an artist experiments with different themes, and formal
elements of design. Secondly, the painter may modify their choices because painting is a learned visual language and the learning is the substance of why many artists make work. In order to conduct this research, I have carefully studied my paintings’ evolution of aesthetics. I previously researched abstract painter Piet Mondrian, who gradually began to simplify his representational landscapes of nature by abstracting the colors and shapes into geometric forms. Mondrian’s process of simplification continued until he no longer painted images of nature observation, but instead created a new abstract visual language through the process of design and formalism. My research methodology is different from previous research in my course work, because instead of researching another painter’s artwork, I am researching my own paintings and exploring why the change of aesthetics in my work has occurred. My goal through this research is to understand what causes a painter to change the subject matter of their work, and how they use the formal elements of design in their paintings.

7:40-8:00
Sebastian Rodriguez and Shelly Guzman, Digital Media Arts
Organ Donation
Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts

The objective of this television public service announcement is to increase awareness of how one person’s death can save a life through organ donation. Co-producers, Sebastian Rodriguez and Shelly Guzman, 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, and directing the actors) and finally to post production (video editing, graphics production, sound design with ADR, foley and ambience, and recording original music) with the goal of showing how organ donation can save a life.

8:00-8:20
Christina Henderson and Paola Espinoza, Art and Design
Pawtners: Assistance Dogs for Independence
Faculty Mentor: Bonnie Tanaka, Art and Design

Pawtners is a senior design fundraising campaign created by Christina Henderson and Paola Espinoza to raise social awareness for the important work the nonprofit organization Canine Companions for Independence does in our community. We will discuss how design concepts can be used to raise funds in support of highly-trained assistance dogs, completely free of charge, for people with disabilities. We were able to come into contact with a Canine Companions development associate who invited us to visit their training facility in Oceanside, CA to gain a deeper understanding of the impact their work has on the disabled community. To raise funds in support of Canine Companions’ great efforts, we used the online fundraising site, Gofundme.com, and a planned event held on our campus’ Southwest Walkway. We also created
posters featuring actual assistance dogs in training and, information about what assistance dogs are and why they matter. We posted these posters around campus in an effort to educate CSUDH students about the important role assistance dogs play in a disabled person’s ability to live a more independent life. We created deliverables as incentives for donations in support of our campaign. Each deliverable was made in two parts to embody the idea of partnerships, such as those between assistance dogs and their human counterparts. One of our deliverables was a charm set which included one bone-shaped charm, representative of the assistance dog, and one heart-shaped charm, representative of its human counterpart. The idea behind the charms was for a person to place one charm on their dog’s collar, or to give it to a friend or significant other, and to keep the other charm for themselves as a constant reminder of the bond between them. Our design campaigns’ process, including the research, vision, branding, and implementation, will be the main focus of our presentation.

8:20-8:40
Stephanie Evans and Jeffrey McFaddin, Digital Media Arts
The Gift of Hearing PSA
Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts

As a former Digital Media Arts major, my co-producer and I created an original PSA (public service announcement) commercial for the “Gift of Hearing Foundation”. There were two objectives to the commercial: To bring awareness to the deaf community and recipients of cochlear implants, and to showcase the technical skills we’ve acquired thus far in the program. We used a modest budget to cast, write, film and edit the segment ourselves. Jeffrey and I collaborated with audio students for the sound design and audio quality, we were also fortunate to receive on-set assistance from peers. We created the graphics as well as the logo from scratch solely on our own. During the brainstorming process, I researched several unique foundations outside of the normal realm of PSA’s such as drunk driving, smoking and safe sex awareness. The idea of technological advancements in the medical field such as cochlear implant surgery caught my attention so I began my intense research so I could respectfully and accurately portray it in my production. Needless to say, the final outcome is a combination of dedication, teamwork, intense research, and technical skills.
Can a software program be written for both academic and professional use that is based on the 12th century design concepts of the Japanese Kamon? Could this produce an educational tool, teaching both mathematical and geometric ancient design concepts while creating exquisite contemporary graphics? This research will ascertain the viability of Kamon design software. Using the foundations and variables of 12th century Japanese Kamon (family crest) design, the program would allow users to create unlimited unique contemporary images for applications in logo design, textiles, ceramics, jewelry and fashion design, and international corporate branding.

We are tasked to be the bearers of humanity’s records: through the stories we tell about ourselves, to each other. It is how we preserve who we are, but more importantly, it is how we teach one another about who we ascertain to be. If not for ourselves, then for the generations of people that will inhabit the planet once we have vacated it. Only through honest expression of our innermost vulnerabilities can we truly see who we are. This is why I am an artist. My experience doing Sophie Treadwell’s “Machinal” at CSUDH this semester brought a metaphorical mirror to my face. It forced me to connect with aspects of my psycho-emotional being, through the process of acting, for the sake of fulfilling the role of Helen Jones. It served as a real model of how much has changed since then, and it brought to life, just how much has not changed for females. I became an artist much the same way a psychologist becomes a therapist: I wanted to learn more about myself. I find myself relating to authors such as Sophie Treadwell. The character of Helen Jones allowed me to experience the plight of a woman who desired more in life than the world allowed her to grasp at. Treadwell wrote about a woman who was never encouraged to be more than a piece of property. As women we still struggle with the ownership of our own bodies. Theatre has been the medium for my voice in the same way it was for Treadwell. I would like to share the creative experience of preparing for my role as Helen Jones, as well as the many parallels between my own journey as a woman and the one presented in a play written more than 80 years ago.
9:40-10:00

Leroy Harden and Megan Rodriguez, Digital Media Arts

Tolerance

Faculty Mentor: George Vinovich, Digital Media Arts

The objective of this television public service announcement is to increase awareness of how positive attitudes about tolerance make society better. Co-producers, Leroy Harden and Megan Rodriguez, 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, 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 tolerance can make society better.

10:00-10:20

Joshua Samuel

Day in the Life of a Sports Broadcaster

Faculty Mentor: John Hsiao, English

A broadcaster relays information to the public through television, radio, and print. More specifically, a sports broadcaster does this for the world of athletics. For various reasons, this industry has changed dramatically over the last 20 years. My paper will focus on these changes, and how they impact the media that covers sports. One of the biggest changes that plays a role in sports broadcasting is the social media affect. Social media affects sports broadcasting because today sports broadcasters are able to see what an athlete is doing at all times; for example, TMZ is a big part of social media today. TMZ helped sports broadcasters and the Cleveland Browns witness what Johnny Manziel was doing on his week off. Previously, a professional sports team or broadcaster would never know what an athlete was doing because social media was not big. Another change sports broadcasting is going through is having to travel a lot throughout the years. Sports broadcasting has gotten so big that the sports industry needs multiple people to be at certain games, especially the big games such as those on Christmas or during the NBA finals. However, even though sports broadcasting has been through a lot of changes, there are also some benefits that come along with this job. For instance, sports broadcasters help build connections with certain athletes, for instance, Stephen A Smith’s connections with athletes are insane. Smith is connected with people like Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, Dez Bryant, etc. Since Stephen A Smith’s connections with athletes are so huge, he is always at least the first guy that knows about the latest breaking news. Sometimes, people don’t think about this but sports broadcasting can help you start conversations with everyday people.

10:20-10:30

COFFEE BREAK

10:30-10:50
Jose Gonzalez, English

**WITHDRAWN**

_The Silver-Lined Shovel: Flipping the Script as a Means of Writing and Teaching Autobiography_

Faculty Mentor: Rod Hernandez, English
California State University Dominguez Hills is a commuter university. Student engagement in clubs, club activities and campus wide events has been low to moderate. The main reason behind low engagement stems from two main areas; student interest and availability. The activities that students do engage in are either geared towards their major, improving their skills or making connections with like-minded student and employers. Students, however, are unable to attend many events due to their schedules. Students of California State University Dominguez Hills are also in the workforce and many events on campus run during the day, which makes attending campus functions difficult. Research tells us that involvement in student groups has a positive effect on student grades, retention and graduation. This paper will address the difficulties of student engagement in extracurricular activities, research the points of view of instructors, students and student organizations, and impose strategies to improve student involvement campus wide.

California State University, Dominguez Hills is a university with a less than stellar reputation. This research outlines three methods to build and ultimately strengthen the university’s social status through outreach to its campus community and students in local middle schools, high schools, and community colleges. This outreach would inform them about the services CSUDH offers such as clubs and organizations, campus resources, student success programs, jobs and internships, developmental workshops, retreats, conferences, sports, campus events, and emphasize the importance of getting involved with these services. The university is next to Compton, a city known for gang violence and drug affiliation, and this is a vital cause for the negativity it receives from people all over the Los Angeles County. Through outreach, student success programs such as EOP, ETE, UATC, and SSS will be presented to students, their parents, teachers, counselors and administrators. These programs provide students with bridges to excellence. Current and former students of CSUDH, many who were part of these programs, will share their experiences based on how much CSUDH has helped them grow into
professionals and the great significance of the different services our campus offers. This university can also increase its school spirit by encouraging students to join a club, support CSUDH sports, attend campus events, wear Toro gear, and hosting “Spirit Mondays.” Finally, a leadership retreat can be hosted on campus for middle and high school students, so they can have an experience at CSUDH that will transform their lives forever, and learn about the great resources we have. Students would be able to take an official tour of the campus and interact with current college students. This way, students and families living in Los Angeles will have a better understanding of how beneficial and challenging CSUDH actually is.

9:40 AM

**Monica Esmeralda Pineda, Education**  
*United States Curriculum*  
Mentor: John Hsiao

The United States Education System is failing to meet the needs of students. When compared to countries ranked higher than the United States by the International Assessment (PISA), the United States was ranked lower than 5 competitive countries. These top countries’ curricula revolve around the students, unlike the United States curriculum. First of all, any curriculum should be focused around the students, with an emphasis on developing knowledge, character, and the whole person within the curriculum. Hong Kong’s curriculum is focused on developing the whole person and augmenting the students’ knowledge at their own pace by demonstrating through life. Korea’s national curriculum emphasizes character development and human values, by teaching students to have good virtues. Japan surpasses the United States because their curriculum revolves around the students’ personal growth through the idea that less content is more knowledge. Finland’s curriculum is focused on helping students learn their identities and around the idea that less content is more knowledge for the student. These four countries perform above the United States because their curriculum is focused on the students’ growth of character, whole person, and knowledge. Their curriculum is not created to out-score any countries; rather, it focuses on making a difference in each individual. In the United States, the Common Core curriculum emphasizes numerous concepts which students are expected to know by the end of the school year. Educators are hard-pressed to meet national standards for testing, proving through assessment results which students memorize the best. The United States Education system fails to grow students’ knowledge because its curriculum is based on standards set for future careers, and neglects each student’s personal growth at the present moment. Overall, the United States should adopt key concepts to help students develop their capacities personally and academically.

10:00 AM

**Julie To, Business Administration**  
*Are We Ready Yet? : An Examination of Student Remediation Efforts in the CSU System*  
Mentor: Charles Thomas II, Business Administration
My research proposal seeks to provide a better understanding of what the term “Prepared for College” means within the California State University system. I seek to examine the different quantitative measures of preparedness within all twenty-three campuses. The goal is to survey these campuses to establish best practices for remediation, with the hopes that institutions like CSUDH could benefit from innovative techniques and practices utilized by other campuses within the CSU system. This project seeks to examine not only what works, but provide some insights into why certain strategies are more successful than others. Armed with this knowledge, campuses like CSUDH can replicate similar programs to ensure success for each incoming freshman. Finally, my research seeks to establish that the California State University student population is not monolithic. Consequently, not all college preparation and remediation programs should be the same at all twenty-three campuses. In doing so, this research will provide evidence that there are strategies and “best practices” for a range of student profiles across the academic spectrum.

10:30 AM

**Joel Avalos, Cristal Martinez, Kathy Romero, Miguel Gumawid**

*Inequality, Then and Now*

Mentor: John Hsiao

This research demonstrates the poor living conditions of the people of Watts before California State University, Dominguez Hills was established in the city of Carson, how these dreadful living conditions led to the Watts Revolution, which then lead to the establishment of CSUDH at its current location, the effects the university has had at this location on the communities it serves, and the existence of a system of inequality that continues to oppress people of color today. During the 1960s, the people of color who were living in Watts were facing devastating challenges such as poor housing, low-quality education, and little to no employment. These challenges led to the Watts Rebellion, which took place from August 11th-17th, 1965. The rebellion resulted in 34 deaths, 1,032 injuries, $40 million in property damage, and 3,953 arrests. This influenced former Governor Edmund Gerald “Pat” Brown to choose Carson as the site for the establishment of CSUDH to serve the people of color in Watts by providing them with access to higher education so that better employment and housing can be available to the families living in that area. Since then, CSUDH has been transforming the lives of underrepresented individuals in the South Bay area by providing them with a powerful higher education and student success services that helps them reach the career of their dreams. However, inequality, undeterred by the Watts Revolution and the establishment of CSUDH, still exists. Inaccessible education, unemployment, crime, violence, and police brutality are all forms of inequality that continue to affect the people living in and around Watts. Movements such as Black Lives Matter arose after police murdered several innocent black individuals. Today, Black Lives Matter fights against oppression aimed towards black lives as they are, both intentionally and systematically, targeted for murder.
10:50 AM

Gerardo De Luna, Business Administration

Improving Child Literacy
Mentor: Mike Grimshaw

There have been numerous studies that highlight what appears to be a decline in reading levels for low-income families. More than fifty percent of low income students can't read at a fourth grade level. There are ways to combat that deficiency and improve literacy for children. If the community got involved more and donated unused books it would be a step in the right direction. Motivating children with appealing prizes might also be an answer.
This study aims to elucidate the importance of incorporating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) history and Safe Spaces into middle school environments. Safe Spaces, a tool created by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), allows school faculty to train in counseling and aiding LGBTQ students when they are in need of support. According to a study conducted by GLSEN, in comparison to high school students, middle school LGBTQ students experience higher levels of bullying, harassment, and abuse because of their sexual identity. This leads to a decrease in grades and attendance, higher levels of anxiety and depression, and in extreme cases, suicide and murder. Middle school history is often taught as a heterosexually dominant subject, many times excluding the important contributions that minority populations have made towards society. Including LGBTQ history within middle school classrooms will allow both LGBTQ and heterosexual students to gain awareness of the impact this marginalized community has had in society. Through the qualitative method of focus groups, this study intends to examine how LGBTQ individuals have challenged oppression and discrimination in the school site. The analysis will help uncover teaching techniques and academic resources that will help improve the educational and social lives of LGBTQ students during their middle school time period.

Student Research Day at CSUDH is a great opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to share their research or innovative projects within a supportive campus community of fellow peers and faculty. This study was intended to uncover both the obstacles to providing research opportunities for students as well as the motivation and resources influencing both students and faculty to take part in this high impact activity. Ultimately, we are assessing the impact of the research experience on student learning. The purpose of this study is to evaluate which of the features of California State University Dominguez Hills’ Student Research Day are perceived as successful by student presenters, faculty judges, and student and faculty attendees. We are also going to explore a tentative hypothesis that predicts increased ease when research is done in context of a class assignment. Another aim of this study is to uncover which abilities are improved in the undertaking of a research project. A final goal is to query both students and
faculty about the obstacles to undergraduate and graduate research and creative projects. This study also further explores students’ decisions to participate in research culminating in presentation at Student Research Day. The questionnaire targeted three distinct groups: Student presenters, Faculty Mentors, and Attendees, who participated in the February 12, 2015 Student Research Day. This was a cross sectional design. 101 student and 44 faculty surveys were collected. The most common reason given for participating in SRD was the desire to share their project with others. The most common barrier encountered was time. The mentors were most strongly identified as making it possible to participate in Student Research Day. Organization and communication problems are the most common recommendations for the planning team.

6:10 PM
**Yolanda Kol, Education**
*Student Motivation in 21st Century Education*
Mentor: John Davis

The rapid advancements of information and communication technologies have positive implications for teaching and learning in the 21st century. Effective technology integration provides access to extensive amounts of information, platforms for communication and collaboration, and tools for critical thinking and creativity. This research examines the impact of technology on student motivation in regards to career readiness based on the constructivist theoretical framework. Participants in the study consist of high school students who vary in grade level and academic achievement at a public high school in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. The results of the mixed methods research show that using Internet-based research technology to explore academic content, a 3D CAD design tool to envision real-world concepts, and a blogging platform to communicate and collaborate in a student-centered learning environment increases motivation in regards to career readiness, preparing the next generation for college and career.

6:30 PM
**Kimberly Serpas, Psychology**
*Attachment Style Predispositions Effect Amongst First Generation College Students*
Mentor: Giacomo Bono, Psychology

First generation college students encounter challenges in their academic trajectory. The most common barriers for first generation college students are the lack of financial resources, lack of institution support and lack of family support. These barriers present a problem for first generation college students, limiting them to fail to complete higher education. Researchers have also compared the support of parents to that of peers in relation to the adjustment of ethnic minority college students. Existing evidence from researchers in higher education suggests that peer support may be extremely important for the academic adjustment of college students (Astin
& Tinti, 1993). The study explores the relationship between individuals predisposed attachment styles and the way first generation transition from high school to college, and develop campus adjustment.

7:00 PM

Matthew Smith, Special Education
Reading Like a Historian: Using Document-Based Lessons to Teach Historical Thinking Skills to Students with Specific Learning Disabilities
Mentor: Kelli Beard

Students with specific learning disabilities (SLD), as compared to all other disability classifications, represent the largest proportion of students with disabilities in the United States (Zirkel, 2010). Recent data shows that 66.2% of all students with SLD spend 80% or more of their educational time enrolled in a general education school learning in general education classrooms (Digest of Education Statistics, 2013). This suggests that, now more than ever, students with disabilities are being included into the general education curriculum to the greatest extent possible. While the National Council for the Social Studies College, Career, and Civil Life (C3) framework emphasizes rigorous learning, analysis of primary sources, and the development of critically thinking students, their framework is largely silent on how to teach students with special needs. The C3 framework states that students with special needs, including students with SLD, will need teachers to create appropriate learning experiences (2013). The Document-Based Lesson structure engages students by combining explicitly taught background knowledge with primary sources that, though accommodated for brevity, maintain the meaning of the text. The primary sources in each lesson are highly accessible, allowing students the opportunity to learn disciplinary reading skills related to historical thinking (Reisman, 2011). This study uses a pre-test, treatment (Document-Based Lessons), and post-test model to measure ‘historical thinking’ skills, which are, essentially, skills related to analyzing primary sources and drawing conclusions from sources. The purpose of this study is to analyze the benefits of teaching Document-Based Lessons to students with SLD. This study seeks to measure to what extent the utilization of the DBL will increase historical thinking skills in students with SLD. Results of this study can inform not only general education teachers in the content area, but also special education teachers looking to teach content-related skills in a special education setting.

7:20 PM

Jose Andres Franco, Faith Duyan, Natalie Liberman, Business
Demand and Necessity of Evening/Weekend College Courses
Mentor: Thomas J. Norman
In today's higher education system it is seen that Nontraditional College Students (NCS) are returning to school. To better accommodate NCS it is important to understand the characteristics and preferences that NCS need. In a recent study, it is stated that the success of NCS has been the existence of evening and weekend college courses (Hoyt, 2009). In the current mixed methods study, a 42-question survey was created to collect data on students’ temporal preferences as well as satisfaction levels of scheduled college courses. The survey was sent out to 20,000 California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) students via email. Preliminary results show an 11% response rate (n = 2,199) with good representation to the overall demographics of the university. Almost half (45%) of the sample was categorized as NCS. The purpose of the current study is to understand the characteristics of NCS as well as the demand of scheduled courses. In order to examine temporal preferences, the survey investigated: hours worked, hours of care towards a dependent, non-traditional age, enrollment status, and late enrollment to a 4 year university. Criteria for describing the magnitude of NCS is based off of the number of variables met from the participant. Participants that met 1 out of the 5 variables (e.g. hours worked) were labeled as a low status NCS, while a medium status NCS was categorized as meeting 2-3 variables, and high status NCS were labeled as meeting 4-5 variables. Statistical analysis on the data is in progress to find differences between the different status of NCS and temporal preferences on scheduled classes. Hypotheses are that evening classes will be more desirable for NCS as well as weekend classes being more desirable for NCS than traditional students.

7:40 PM

Soumia Bouallou, Perla Escobar, Benjamin Gomez, Psychology

Student Learning Outcomes and the Assessment Measures for California State University
Mentor: Louis Carrier, Psychology

The purpose of this study is to examine program-level Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and the SLO assessment measures used within departments/programs on campus. The importance of institutional assessment correlates with students continuing within that major and well-written SLOs. “Direct” assessment measures (e.g., a knowledge exam) ask a student to perform a skill of interest or to demonstrate knowledge of interest for the SLOs, whereas “indirect” measures infer skills or knowledge based on responses to the measure (e.g., a self-report survey). The present researchers wanted to enhance the assessment tools used at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) by first conducting an accurate count of assessment tools used by nearly 70 degree programs. The annual assessment cycle at CSUDH during the 2013-2014 school year provided the researchers data for the reports. The data were plotted into tables based on the information on assessment evidence on graduates being properly prepared for their degree, and on how programs use this information.
Results were broken down in order to identify departments relying to a large degree on “direct” or “indirect” assessments. The findings indicated that direct assessments were heavily relied on to assess students. Direct assessments included exams, essays, and oral presentations. Rubrics were used frequently as part of the assessment processes. Fewer programs relied on indirect assessments. The use of direct assessments is in alignment with “good” practice at other institutions and in agreement with expert recommendations on assessment practices. It is hoped that the findings could be implemented and used by other educational facilities, establishments, majors, and any other system that bases their educational goals on SLOs to track progress of their students.
Despite getting the majority of the resources, CSUDH has an undergraduate completion rate of only 31%. The graduate completion rate for CSUDH is unknown, but since there are few resources given to graduate programs at CSUDH, like the undergraduate completion rate, the graduate completion rate is likely less-than-impressive. Low graduation rates equal more wasted resources for the university, not only in the form of funds, but in time wasted by professors on projects that students never complete. The students also suffer; it would be unfortunate enough if students who drop out of graduate programs only wasted their time and money pursuing a degree that they never receive but, after dropping out, many also feel depressed and in some cases, suicidal. The purpose of this study is to better understand the experiences of graduate students who successfully completed their program by measuring their satisfaction with their advisor, satisfaction with the university, and their TTD. Until this year, there had never been an attempt to measure the experiences of graduate students at CSUDH. In response, we created a survey measuring graduate student attitudes about their experiences at CSUDH and administered it through SurveyMonkey. We sampled a subset of 4,250 graduate students who graduated in past 5 years. This study will analyze the most recent graduates from academic year 2014-2015 (n=307). The survey consisted of over 50 questions which were designed to better understand student experiences during graduate school. The specific questions about TTD, university satisfaction, and advisor satisfaction were selected for univariate, bivariate, and multivariate regression analysis using SPSS. The findings of this study could help the university better serve graduate students and highlight patterns of successful graduate students across the university. We will focus on comparing outcomes by different degree programs (e.g. colleges), gender, and race/ethnicity.
Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) uses to fulfill this speculation is assessing student learning outcomes (SLOs). SLOs are the cognitive, behavioral skills and/or affective values you expect the students to achieve during their time at the university. The university has a list of outcomes that every student at CSUDH needs to meet while each department has a specific set of outcomes. The main purpose of this project is to raise awareness of the need for assessment, especially focusing on student learning outcomes-based assessment. In order to do this, information on this process was gathered from departments and faculty members to create an assessment newsletter. This was done by gathering and collaborating information from the university’s faculty. An interview with the Chair of the History Department occurred, discussing about the involvement of the department’s role in assessment. Also, faculty members from other departments in CSUDH such as Communications and Special Education have contributed by creating articles for the newsletter. The current newsletter was based off of the first initial newsletter created in previous years and will act as a continuation of a plan to raise awareness regarding SLOs at CSUDH. The newsletter will be posted on the assessment section of the campus website as well as distributed via email to all faculty members and staff on campus. The expected outcome of creating and distributing the newsletter is that people on campus will become more familiar with the concepts of student learning outcomes. As a result, the university will understand new learning techniques and measurement tools, which can lead to better student performance.

9:40-10:00 AM

Jaelen Barnett, Africana Studies

Relevant Alternatives: Bridging Old Academic Gaps
Faculty Mentor: Justin Gammage, Africana Studies

A culturally relevant program is a program or initiative that will help to generate educated leaders that will become agents of change within their own communities. Academic success is the ability to matriculate into, and graduate from a Master’s or Doctoral program. This survey examined how the Male Success Alliance (MSA) impacted academic success among the 6 men involved with. MSA is a culturally relevant program on campus at California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) that promotes graduating from high school and increases college graduate retention rates for men of color. There were 2 Latino participants and the other 4 were African American. The survey questions were geared around 4 specific areas of concentration: Perceptions of self/school, environmental/living factors shaping school/community experiences, staff/mentor/peer interaction, and parental involvement. Cultural relevant programs promote academic success and provide educational agency which allow first generation students to become more active within their communities and more engaged within their communities. By combining environmental factors with cultural pedagogy, this research highlights aspects of engagement that allows students to internalize the relevance needed to pursue higher education and become agents of change. This research will also look at other factors that attribute to low graduation rates such as the lack of advisors per department and per college, transfer of majors, and the number of years a student has attended the university. The results of CSUDH
Advisement Referendum Report will be created to highlight this topic on a state level and solidify the need for advisement equity throughout the CSU system. The College of Arts and Humanities and some departments within the Division of World Cultural and Gender Studies will be the first undergo the advisement audit on campus.

10:00-10:20 AM
**Benjamin Ferrufino, Lindsay Hunt, Special Education**
*Collaboration Between Special and General Education Teachers: Are Teachers Prepared?*
Faculty Mentor: Saili Kulkarni, Special Education

The purpose of this study is to highlight the importance of general education teacher credential programs and collaboration between special and general education teachers in order to provide universal access for students with disabilities. This study will be directed at general and special education teachers. Effective credential programs and collaboration between general and special education teachers and are paramount. The lack of instructional strategy knowledge and ineffective teacher collaboration will negatively affect universal access for students with disabilities. This study will show that general education teachers are not receiving the necessary training for implementing strategies in the general education classroom as well as collaborating with special education teachers. Participants will be given a survey/questionnaire which addresses their preparation to work with special needs students as well as to collaborate with special education teachers. This study will show that the general education teachers are not receiving the necessary training in order to implement strategies in the general education classroom when working with students with special needs. Therefore, collaboration is a key element when general education teachers are not prepared adequately to serve students with disabilities. This study will benefit general education teacher preparation programs as well as professional development opportunities for teachers.

10:30-10:50 AM
**Desha Higinio, Charlotte Johnson, and Gloria Juarez, Psychology, and Shushu Li, Child Development**
*Work Those HIPs: Faculty Perceptions of High-Impact Practices at CSUDH*
Faculty Mentor: Mark Carrier, Psychology

High-Impact Practices (HIPs) provide substantial educational benefits to students; however, not all students participate (Kuh, 2008; National Survey of Student Engagement, 2007). The main purpose of this project is to study the relationships between HIPs and student success to determine whether the evidence supports the connection between HIPs and student learning. In the current study, California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) faculty members (n=16) were selected to participate in an interview that focuses on faculty members’ experience with HIPs and student success. First, faculty members read an overview of 10 “high-impact” educational practices: First-Year Seminars and Experiences, Common Intellectual Experiences,
Learning Communities, Writing-Intensive Courses, Collaborative Assignments and Project, Undergraduate Research, Diversity/Global Learning, Service Learning, Community-Based Learning, Internships, Capstone Courses and Projects. Second, after reading the overview, faculty members will participate in the interview to answer ten questions related to HIPs (e.g., Do you know what High Impact Practices are? Are the HIPs you use in your class effective? Do you think HIPs are essential to the education of CSUDH students? Which High Impact Practices work best for CSUDH students and why?) Third, all interviews were recorded for analyses. We will review all responses using qualitative analysis -- looking for common themes as well as unusual but informative responses -- to address the research question. Lastly, we will examine whether HIPs actually will have an impact on student learning and development.

10:50-11:10 AM
**Claudia Alcaraz, Ignaly Dircio, Psychology**
*Non-Returning Students in Higher Education*
Faculty Mentor: Louis Mark Carrier, Psychology

Retaining college students until they complete their degrees has been a worldwide challenge. Some studies support the theory that students from low income level tend to have higher dropout rates. This could be due to the lack of financial support their families are able to provide. Other studies support the theory that a lot of students tend to go back to their community colleges as a safety net. This could also be tied back to the financial instability theory. Life responsibilities also interfere with school schedules. Students have work opportunities that enhance their work experience, but interfere with their educations. The goal for this research project was to figure out why students were deciding not to continue at Cal State Dominguez Hills after completing one semester. Researchers conducted surveys via phone, and targeted those students who chose not to continue their educations at Cal State Dominguez Hills after completing a semester. The callers had a script that they followed that asked questions regarding the respondent’s economic situation, academic comfort, skills acquired and personal reasons for leaving. The researchers confirmed the identity of the participants by making sure they had attended Cal State Dominguez Hills the previous semester. Three hundred and ten students completed the survey. One item assessed was whether life/family obligations interfered with coming back to school. 50.2% of the respondents said that these obligations interfered, while 49.8% said they did not. Another item asked whether childcare was not available or too costly, 9.6% of the respondents said that this was the case (90.4% did not). These and other results could help colleges in constructing various workshops for their students to help them address obstacles to staying enrolled, e.g., helping students be informed of their financial options could help institutions retain students until graduation.
11:10-11:30 AM

**Joel Avalos, Magaly Ordonez, Miguel Gumawid**

*Women’s Colleges and Universities and Connections Beyond*

Faculty Mentor: John Hsiao, English

This research is about all-female colleges, primarily Smith and Barnard Colleges, how they connect to CSUDH, the texts *Herland, Paradise, The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, Y: The Last Man*, and the films *Some Like It Hot* and *Top of the Lake*, which are texts and films about all-female communities. These connections are important because they help us understand how the service programs at CSUDH function, and how we can improve them. Smith College, located in Northampton, Massachusetts, was founded in 1871. Its first class included merely four students. Today, 2,989 students are enrolled there. With one of the best faculties in the entire nation, Smith College’s mission is to provide women with a high-quality education with assistance from mentors. Educating women is their greatest strength, and it is the world’s greatest need. Barnard College, on the other hand, located in New York City, New York, was founded in 1889. Barnard has a lower enrollment amount of students and cheaper tuition than Smith, but still is the distinguished leader of the “Seven Sister Colleges,” which is an association of seven liberal arts colleges, including Smith College, located in the Northeastern United States. Barnard College has a partnership with Columbia University. Thus, Columbia University provides many of its resources to students enrolled in Barnard. Similarly to CSUDH, Barnard has small, intimate classes, so professors and students are able to connect fully and effectively. These classrooms relate to the Resource Center for Sexuality and Gender (RCSG) located in Smith College and Paradise in the film *Top of the Lake*. Both RCSG and Paradise provide a safe space for women to talk about their problems with other women, and receive advice on how to overcome those conflicts. The central connection here is that all three provide intimacy, which leads to close relationships and friendships.

11:30-11:50 AM

**Faith Duyan, Physics, Jose Franco, Psychology**

*Understanding Students’ Class Modality Preferences*

Faculty Mentor: Thomas Norman, Marketing and Management

A student satisfaction survey was created during the fall of 2015 and sent to approximately 20,000 students currently enrolled at CSUDH. With the goal of increasing the rate of timely graduation in the future, the survey asked students to share their schedule and modality behaviors and preferences, their overall degree of satisfaction of their programs, and factors affecting their timely graduation. One reason for lower graduation rates in previous years may be due to the rise in non-traditional students. These students have been categorized as being minimally, moderately, or highly non-traditional, depending on how many of the seven characteristics apply to them (Horn & Carroll 1996). Several students are returning adult students because employers want more educated employees. Non-traditional students have also been defined as those who...
deviate from the traditional ages of 18-24, have a part/full time job, and care for a family (Lane 2004). Therefore, the primary hypothesis is that students who have work and/or family commitments will be more likely to enroll in an online or hybrid course. Understanding students' modality preferences is important to help students get the classes they need to graduate. The supporting hypothesis is that by increasing the number of online and hybrid courses, the graduation rate will also increase. According to Zawacki-Richter (2015), non-traditional students have the greatest need of flexible study time and space. It is also important for them to learn at their own pace. Prior enrollment patterns and graduation rates were studied, revealing that students would like more online and hybrid courses to be offered. Data from the survey indicated that students should be better able to complete college given a wide range of modalities.
Health, Nutrition, and Clinical Science I          LSU 324-325

9:00-9:20

Kelly Archer, Elizabeth Giancola, and Laura Gonzalez, Occupational Therapy

*Water Quality and Human Occupation: A Phenomenological Study*

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Perceptions of poor water quality have substantial impacts on behaviors and occupations involving water. The objective of this study was to explore the link between perceived poor water quality and human occupations for residents living in Los Angeles, many of whom live in low income housing. This project was inspired by the article “Water Quality, Health and Human Occupations” (Blakeney & Marshall, 2009), which documented the link between polluted water and its impact on occupation for residents of Letcher County, Kentucky. For this study, we used phenomenological research methods to understand the phenomena of poor water quality and to learn how this impacts the lives of our seven participants: three women and four men of diverse backgrounds. We met each of the participants for thirty to sixty minute interviews and then confirmed our findings with them in a follow up conversation by phone. Despite the confidentiality of our research, four of our participants living in Section 8 apartments refused to be contacted for follow up conversations due to fears that it would negatively impact their housing situation. This further cemented socio-economic themes tied to water, which surfaced during interviews. We found that many of our participants were first alerted about problems with poor water quality through warnings from neighbors. Six participants expressed concerns regarding the negative health effects of using their water. As a result they chose to use filters or buy bottled water in order to improve the taste and the smell, and to gain peace of mind regarding their health concerns. Occupational therapists emphasize the importance of looking at the whole person, which includes environment and functional performance. This research highlights the interconnectedness between the person, environment and occupational performance, stressing the need for occupational therapists to be aware, and sensitive to, the perceptions that can drive clients’ behaviors.

9:20-9:40

Michelle Bacani and Dinah Cardenas, Occupational Therapy

*Crying Sessions in Occupational Therapy*

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

There is a dearth of research regarding adult crying behavior, and even much less on how occupational therapists (OTs) approach crying behavior. This qualitative research study explored experiences that OTs have of crying behavior with their adult clients during therapeutic sessions. Adult crying was generally defined as adult clients who shed tears during an occupational therapy (OT) session. Data was gathered by interviewing seven currently licensed OTs with at
least one year of experience working with adult clients. This data led to the following five themes: strategies and approaches taken by OTs, crying contexts, invaluable field work experience, professional distance, and internal self-regulation. These themes are useful for OTs to implement into their practice when dealing with adults who exhibit crying behavior.

9:40-10:00

**Sydney Bessner, Brooke Tramel, Tiffany Vintayen, and Jill Purdom, Occupational Therapy**

*African American Caregivers: The Narrative Experiences of Having a Parent with Alzheimer’s Disease*

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

This study uses a narrative analysis qualitative approach to explore the lived experiences of African American adult-children caring for a parent with Alzheimer's disease. Although there is a high prevalence of African Americans diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease in the United States, there is a lack of research on the chronology of caregiving experiences of African American caregivers across dimensions of time; past, present and future. The participants include seven adult African American caregivers who are currently or have primarily cared for their parent living with Alzheimer’s disease. The participants were recruited using the snowball sampling method. The participant’s stories were collected by use of narrative analysis; a specific type of qualitative design in which personal stories are collected on a series of events or actions and later retold into a chronological plotline. The data was collected via two semi-structured and audio-recorded interviews lasting each for one hour. Ethical considerations include Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, the use of pseudonyms to protect the identity of the participants, secured data in locked file cabinets and password protected computer files. Research findings include the following themes: religion, family support, and trial-and-error strategies. Findings from this study may inform occupational therapists, as well as other healthcare professionals, to expand their knowledge of the African American adult child’s caregiving experiences of caring for a parent with Alzheimer's disease.

10:00-10:20

**Charlotte Furusa, Health Science**

*The Association of Sleep, Junk Food and Grades to Depression amongst Adolescents*

Faculty Mentor: Enrique Ortega, Health Science

Like depression amongst adults, adolescent depression is quite common, especially in the United States. It is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the world. Though it is a common mental health issue it may be hard for adolescents to detect that they are experiencing depressive feelings or depression, and they may not report it. There is a need to address the importance of this topic for intervention purposes in order to prevent and treat depression. This study investigated how of sleep, junk food and grades correlated with depression amongst
adolescents. We hypothesized that indications of poor health habits would correlate with higher indications of Depression. We expected these correlations would be stronger among females. The sample consisted of 452 European high school adolescents (49% female, 51% males), ages 15-19 years (mean age = 17.1 (S.D. = 1.2)), living in the northwest of Italy and in the northeast of Holland. The participants were representative of the population of adolescents attending high school in these parts of Italy and Holland. Correlation analyses were used between the following variables: sleep deprivation, junk food, grades and depression. Analyses were conducted separately by gender. Results indicated Junk Food (r= .13, P< .05) to be positively correlated with depression. Results for sleep (r= -.13, P< .05) and grades (r= -.20, P< .05) were found to be negatively correlated with depression. There weren’t any significant results among males, but for females there were significant findings, Sleep (r= -.23, P< .05) and grades (r= -.31, P< .05) Findings reflected the strong influence of sleep and grades on depression amongst female. No findings were present among males. Study implications are discussed.

10:30-10:50
**Rachelle Buenviaje, Techun Chao, Alyssa Cook, and Misty Gray, Occupational Therapy**

**Parental Experiences of School-Based Occupational Therapy Services: A Phenomenological Approach**

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Currently very little research exists regarding the perspectives of parents whose children have received school-based occupational therapy services. The purpose of this study is to describe and examine the phenomena of having a child in school-based occupational therapy services, from the perspective of parent experiences. Through this study, researchers explored experiences parents have with occupational therapy services received by their children in the public school system, in order to develop a shared understanding of the phenomena. This study utilizes a qualitative phenomenology design and open-ended, semi-structured interviews conducted with parents whose children, ages five to twenty-one, have received school-based occupational therapy services for a minimum of one year. Seven individual interviews were conducted with each parent. Data was transcribed verbatim, and parents were asked to member-check statements for accuracy. Findings indicated that communication between parents and school-based occupational therapists were often limited, with most communication conducted via classroom teachers or during IEP meetings. Despite the lack of communication, parents who continued to see their child progress and develop their skills had more positive feelings toward occupational therapy and reported high satisfaction with services. Beliefs that their child’s occupational therapists sincerely cared for their child also added to the value parents placed on therapy. Nonetheless, while all parents sought active roles in their child’s therapy services as an advocate, not all parents reported positive experiences. Since IEP meetings are the primary point of communication with occupational therapists, some parents felt the process was rushed and did not provide them adequate time to communicate their thoughts and concerns. In addition, some
parents reported lack of teamwork and feeling excluded from supporting their children despite their efforts.

10:50-11:10

**Calvin Cheng, Andrew Cho, and Amy Chu, Occupational Therapy**

*Uses of Virtual Reality: The Experiences of Occupational Therapists*

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Virtual reality is a relatively nascent tool in the field of occupational therapy. Numerous studies have identified significant potential in the clinical use of virtual reality as an occupational therapy tool, however there is a dearth of research on the perspectives of occupational therapists and their views on its usefulness and efficacy in clinical practice. To explore and describe occupational therapists’ experiences with virtual reality in clinical settings, a multiple case study method was used. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with various occupational therapists who have worked with virtual reality in clinical practice and who are located in the Los Angeles County and Orange County areas. Two one-hour-long semi-structured interviews were conducted with each occupational therapist. The interviews asked questions regarding the perceived challenges of use, feasibility, and efficacy of virtual reality in their practice. Other relevant issues such as perceived patient satisfaction, improvements to virtual reality tools, and the overall adoption of virtual reality in the healthcare continuum were explored as well. Findings indicated that virtual reality has undeniable potential as an adjunct to traditional therapy due to its unique advantages such as motivation and direct feedback, but its use remains limited due to lack of customization controls and diversity in relevant programs.

11:10-11:30

**Rosemary Guillen, Health Science**

*Immunization Rates among California Head Start Facilities, Before and After Assembly Bill 2109*

Faculty Mentor: Enrique Ortega, Health Science

California Assembly Bill AB 2109 was introduced with the intention of lowering the number of non-medical vaccination exemptions. Prior to the bill, California children aged 2 years to 4 years 11 months enrolled in child care facilities reported a total of 14,325 non-medical vaccination exemptions in 2013 alone. This investigation analyzed public datasets to determine the effects that the bill had on the number of claimed non-medical vaccination exemptions and specific vaccination rates throughout various counties within the state of California. In addition, possible population differences of the counties that were more affected by the bill were examined. Data was obtained from the California Department of Public Health’s Annual Immunization Assessments from 2013 to 2015. Analyses included cross tabulations to determine the effects of the bill across four CA counties with the highest percentages of children enrolled in Head Start child care facilities in 2014, compared to other childcare facilities in the same year. Calaveras,
Colusa, Glenn, and Trinity counties reported an overall decrease in non-medical vaccination exemptions in Head Start facilities after the bill’s enactment (47.6 percent before, and 77.8 percent after). Most Head Start facilities reported an increase in vaccination rates after the bill’s enactment, compared to a decrease in public and private school facilities of the same category. These results showed that the AB 2109 bill is having a more pronounced effect on particular counties within California’s Head Start programs, compared to other facilities in the same category. Possible reasons for this are income levels, educational attainment, and parental lack of vaccine knowledge. Further research and practice implications will be discussed.
Evelyn Guevara, Jennifer Kim, and Ruby Lopez, Occupational Therapy

*Transitioning in Young Adults with Autism-Spectrum Disorders*

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

This qualitative research study used a transcendental phenomenological approach to obtain the essence of the transition process into college for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Current literature in this field of research is limited; this study contributes needed research. Participants were recruited through snowball and convenience sampling. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven participants. Data analysis revolved around the main theme of transitioning into college with the emergence of seven sub-themes including: “Self-advocacy,” “Making friends,” “Support from counselors/mentors/teachers,” “Managing coursework,” “Bullying,” “Intrinsic challenges,” and “Special education problem.” Limitations to this study included the limited number of participants, the diversity of participants, and inadequate amount of information regarding the negative impact of ASD characteristics. Future studies should research the transition process through a longitudinal study, with a larger number of participants from diverse backgrounds.

Norma Mulato, Alysha Randazzo, Ruth Estrada, and Elva Esquivel, Psychology

*Are You Afraid to Tell Someone?*

Faculty Mentor: John Dulay, Psychology

HIV is a pandemic that began in the early 1980s in the United States and is still prevalent today. In 2014, the CDC estimates that 1.2 million people have died of HIV/AIDS related illness and that 39 million individuals have died since the epidemic. Often revealing HIV status can be a frightening experience. Individuals who are afraid of telling someone about their HIV positive status often fear shame, abandonment, violent response, or rejection. The process of disclosing and revealing one’s serostatus to another person in one’s social support network (Arnold, Rice, Flannery and Rotheram-Borus, 2008) can have negative and positive effects on the person who discloses their HIV/AIDS status. We plan to explore our themes by using quantitative methodology using a model T test and a correlational study. The aim of this study is to explore how social anxiety may affect revealing serostatus. Our second research questions examine: Does revealing serostatus to fewer or more people lessen or increase anxiety? The research participants in our study were over 1) the age of 18, 2) recruited from Kenya, Tanzania, and Trinidad. The participants were made up of two dyads relationship and individuals. The data set was collected from The Voluntary HIV-1 Counseling and Testing Efficacy Study Group. Conclusions will be drawn and implications will be discussed for supporting HIV stigma related
research in social support and disclosure judgement in Kenya, Tanzania, and Trinidad.

9:40-10:00
**Adolfo Villasenor, Health Science**
*Family Impairment and Binge Drinking Among Women*
Faculty Mentor: Archana Sharma, Health Science

Both mental health and binge drinking are serious public health problems. When emotions interfere with family or friends, it can be termed ‘family impairment’ (CHIS, 2012). An analysis of female binge drinkers who are a part of impaired families is needed. Chauvin (2011) defines binge drinking as “a pattern of alcohol consumption that places the user at risk for negative outcomes.” This study aims to focus on the relationship between family impairment and binge drinking among adult women in California. Data from the 2012 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) was used to analyze the drinking habits of 25,087 adult women and their level of family impairment. Respondents were asked: “Did your emotions interfere a lot, some, or not at all with your relationship with friends and family?” In the CHIS Study, women were considered binge drinkers if they consumed 4 or more alcoholic drinks on at least one occasion in the past year. The independent variable was family impairment; the dependent variable was binge drinking. Descriptive analyses and a Pearson Chi-Square test was done.

We found that nearly 18% of women reported binge drinking in the past year and 13% reported experience moderate to severe family impairment. Among women who had family impairment, approximately 19% engaged in binge drinking. The Pearson Chi-Square Test had significant results (p<0.05). There was a significant relationship between the two variables. Conclusions: Preliminary findings suggest that family impairment is associated with binge drinking in adult women. More detailed statistical procedures should be conducted. Future research should include more female-based studies conducted on these topics to have a better description of this complex relationship.

10:30-10:50
**Makda Gedyon, Adrian Ramirez, and Loza Gedyon, Psychology**
*Studies on Samoan Obesity in the United States and the Internal Effects of American Culture and Health Education on the Samoan Population*
Faculty Mentor: Enrique Ortega, Health Science

Previous studies of the Samoan population in the United States that have been conducted in the last two decades have shown rising rates of obesity. The Samoan population is at higher risk for chronic health complications such as cardiovascular disease, degenerative joint disorders and diabetes related to the prevalence of obesity. The purpose of this study is to help determine a link between obesity-related eating habits and cultural influences among the Samoan population. This study begins with a review of previous literature on risk factors for obesity followed by a
socio-cultural analysis of obesity within the Samoan population. Three different focus groups were utilized to collect information. The participants in the focus groups were recruited by invitation to gather primary data specific to the issue based on their perception. Each focus group consisted of Samoans who were over the age of 18. Participants were guided into a discussion using ten open-ended questions about their personal experiences related to their culture and religion and its relationship to obesity and body image. All participants were compensated for their time. Responses from all three focus groups was collected and utilized to create an online questionnaire which was administered to fifty participants (n=50). The questions consisted of Likert Scale (e.g., strongly disagree, disagree, neither, agree, strongly agree) and dichotomous questions (e.g., Yes or No, Unsatisfied or Satisfied). A socio-cultural perspective derived from the Health Behavior Model was applied to understand the confounding risk factors associated with obesity rates within the Samoan population.

10:50-11:10
Tamara Ludwig, Nursing
Recognition of Delirium and Delirium Subtypes in Adult and Geriatric Hospitalized Patients
Faculty Mentor: Terri Ares, Nursing

Delirium is recognized as an acquired psychiatric condition common in hospitalized adults and geriatric patients. It is associated with adverse physical, cognitive and psychological outcomes resulting in increased costs of care and high rates of morbidity and mortality. Knowing about delirium is not enough to establish accurate recognition of this medical condition. A systematic review of the literature was conducted to draw conclusions about the state of the science for nurse recognition of delirium. Integrative review methodology included: formulating the problem with a research question; searching the literature for data with well-developed research strategies; using inclusion and exclusion criteria based on anticipated amalgamation of the literature; evaluating quality of primary articles; and analyzing, integrating, and interpreting the evidence. A search for research publications between September and October of 2015 resulted in 5,119 articles. Articles were initially screened and excluded by review of title, abstract, duplication, non-delirium studies, delirium case studies, pediatric studies on delirium, and non-English written articles. Subsequently, 5089 articles were screened out leaving 30 articles for initial review. Studies that described delirium outcomes, interventions, non-nurse recognition of delirium, prevalence exclusively, performance improvement projects or articles related to nursing knowledge were placed in final exclusion. Eight articles met the inclusion criteria and were selected for this integrative review. These studies indicated that adult and geriatric hospitalized patients regardless of medical or surgical diagnosis were not exempt from the development of delirium. Valid and reliable assessment instruments exist to screen for delirium by bedside nurses. However, even with the use of these instruments, delirium is under-recognized by bedside nurses. More work needs to be done with bedside nurses to achieve accurate recognition of the subtypes of delirium in order to trigger appropriate treatment and spare patients from the consequences associated with this psychiatric disorder.
Dominic Asio and Megan Rose Dominguez, Occupational Therapy

Understanding the Occupational Experiences of Filipino Refugees and Trafficked Overseas Filipino Workers in Los Angeles County

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

The Philippines is considered one of the biggest suppliers of labor migrants in the world; over eight million Filipinos are reported to work and reside in more than 100 countries around the globe. Currently, there is little attention on the mainstream discourse of the occupational experiences of Filipino refugees and trafficked workers. This research contributes to filling this gap. The purpose of this narrative study is to understand the chronology of lived occupational experiences of Filipino refugees and/or trafficked Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in Los Angeles County from their time of entry into the United States to present-day. Based on data guided by principles of qualitative narrative analysis, researchers gathered interviews from seven OFWs to construct a narrative chronology of their experiences since arriving in the United States. The interviews were transcribed verbatim and later analyzed. This data led to the following three themes: economic vulnerability, personal and emerging values, and changes in quality of life. These themes will be useful for understanding what occupational areas are impacted for trafficked workers, such as the primary barriers preventing access to health care services, as well as other services conducive to their activities of daily living. Furthermore, this research aims to discuss how occupational therapists can apply an occupational justice framework in practice.

Karen Carranza, Health Science

The Association of Child Consumption of Sweets and Soda to Eating and Physical Activity Practices

Faculty Mentor: Enrique Ortega, Health Science

A number of studies have indicated that the consumption of high caloric foods and drinks, namely sweets and sodas, is associated to obesity and obesity related behaviors. This study investigated the potential associations that the consumption of sweets and sodas had with other eating behaviors, physical activity and BMI scores among a sample of Italian children living in the Northwest of Italy. This study was conducted among 900 children of both genders (48% boys, 52% girls) between the ages 8 to 10 years old (M=9.38; SD=0.89) attending the second (30%), third (53%) and fourth (17%) grades of primary schools in urban and suburban areas of three cities in Northern Italy. The participants were representative of the population of children attending primary school in this part of Italy. We conducted correlations to assess the potential
associations among consumption of sweets, soda, breakfast consumption, consumption of fruits and vegetables, level of physical activity, number of hours they practiced and organized sport and BMI scores. Results indicated that higher consumption of sweets were associated with lower BMI ($r=-.125, p<.05$). Greater consumption of soft drinks on the other hand was associated with lower consumption of fruits and vegetables ($r= -.09, p < .05$), with lover physical activity ($r=-.124, p< .05$) with less breakfast consumption ($r=-.08, p<.05$ and with lower bmi ($r=-.116, p<.05$). Greater consumption of fruits and vegetables was associated with greater breakfast consumption ($r=-.153, p< .05$), and with more hours spent practicing an organized sport ($r=-.08, p< .05$). While some results coincided with literature reports regarding the consumption of sweets and sodas, our findings are contrary to what was expected regarding BMI. Implications to prevention will be discussed.

2:10-2:30

**Anna Cheng, Emily Crizer, and Laura Dumas, Occupational Therapy**

*Understanding Experiences of a Foster Youth*

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

This qualitative biographical narrative focuses on one individual’s experience of foster care. Researchers conducted five one hour interviews during which time the participant expanded on her experiences and theorized about how her previous circumstances led to her current success. From these interviews, several turning points and themes were discovered. Such themes include: feeling like a burden, foster care as an impersonal and distant system, isolation amidst transition, body as home, lack of attachment and trust, development of self-worth, and the importance of community. These themes lead to a discussion of how occupational therapy and other services could better equip and assist foster care youth.

2:30-2:50

**Ellen Joy Florendo and Chad Geving, Occupational Therapy**

*Narrative Analysis of Veterans with Psychiatric Conditions that Overcame Homelessness*

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

A plethora of research on the high rates of homelessness in the veteran population document causality factors such as PTSD and substance abuse. Literature on interventions and factors that facilitate the transition from homelessness to housing for U.S. veterans with psychiatric conditions, however, is sparse. The purpose of this study is to examine how veterans with psychiatric conditions overcame homelessness using a narrative analysis approach. Seven formerly homeless U.S. veterans participated in semi-structured, open-ended, and audio recorded interviews that were approximately forty-five minutes in length. Events were re-storied in chronological order and plotted using a 3-dimensional model. Turning points occurred when participants experienced a moment where they no longer wanted to continue to live the way they were and took actionable steps to change the circumstances that facilitated homelessness. These
steps included recovering from substance abuse, receiving psychiatric treatment, taking direction from others and obtaining support and help of agencies or people. These findings can provide insight to this population’s lived experience and the evolution of events that led to overcoming homelessness. These findings suggest that occupational therapy interventions that build intrinsic motivation to change lifestyles, such as motivational interviewing or leisure exploration, may be helpful in transitioning homeless U.S. veterans with psychiatric conditions into permanent housing.

2:50-3:10
Nina Im, Jamie Paik, and Meredith Palmer, Occupational Therapy

*Learning Challenges of Female Students with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: A Phenomenology*

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Women with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) experience various sensory sensitivities that are not well understood due to limited research on the subject. In this study, researchers analyzed the classroom experiences of female students with ADHD, in order to gain a greater knowledge of how this diagnosis affects their educational experiences. Researchers conducted semi-structured interviews with seven participants currently enrolled at a university in California. The transcribed interviews were analyzed using a transcendental phenomenological approach, and researchers derived significant statements, formulated meanings of significant statements, then clusters of common themes from the gathered data. The essence of this phenomenon describes that female college students with ADHD perceived their learning styles as different from others’. In order to manage their inattention and/or hyperactivity, they needed to take multiple and frequent breaks during lecture sessions. Consequently, due to their learning difficulties in the classroom, they have a proclivity for being misinterpreted as unintelligent.

3:20-3:40
Jennifer Kunic, Andrea Lee, and Jennifer Nguyen, Occupational Therapy

*The Decline of Functional Mobility in Parkinson’s Disease: A Phenomenological Study*

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

This interpretative phenomenological study explores the lived experiences of individuals with Parkinson’s disease (PD) as they describe their regression of functional mobility. Although there is current research regarding the effects of physical symptoms of PD, there is limited research concerning these effects from a personal perspective. Investigating how declining functional mobility impedes engagement in everyday tasks is crucial for gaining a deeper understanding of the increasing barriers these individuals encounter. Awareness of these experiences may aid occupational therapists in developing more client-centered interventions. Data was collected from seven participants. They were engaged in 60 minute semi-structured interviews that were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim for further analysis. Data was clustered into relational
themes before common meanings were identified. Significant statements were found regarding
difficulty with functional occupations, difficulty with movement, home and community
obstacles, and apprehension over falling. Results indicate that regression of functional mobility
impairs the ability to engage in respective environments and carry out everyday occupations.

3:40-4:00
Maritza Lozano, Katy Pinto, and Terry Peralta-Catipon, Sociology
Examining the Relationship between Stress, Diet, and Obesity for Black and Latina College
Students.
Faculty Mentor: Katy Pinto, Sociology

Obesity is a rising epidemic that affects people of all ages. There are many health concerns
associated with obesity such as high blood pressure and diabetes. Lifestyle habits can influence
obesity. College students are forming lifelong eating habits and are at risk of obesity if they form
bad habits. College life can influence eating habits because of stress and could lead to obesity
when food is used as a coping mechanism for stress. Stress causes a person to eat more than they
normally would and college students face stress because of the multiple demands of school.
Moreover, the type of diet that individuals have can affect their health. The World Health
Organization recently announced that processed meat contains carcinogenic properties,
suggesting that a diet heavy in processed meat could lead to cancer. I argue that it is important to
take into consideration different types of diets such as veganism, vegetarianism, and omnivorous
when studying obesity. This project looks at the relationship between diet type, stress, and
obesity. Assuming that an individual uses eating as a coping mechanism for stress, we may be
able to determine whether one diet type would be better suited against the fight on obesity. An
online survey will be administered to college students 18 and over at a large public university.
We will collect important demographic background information (including age, sex,
race/ethnicity, income, neighborhood, enrollment status, immigration). The main dependent
variable will be Body Mass Index (measured by Height and Weight). The main independent
variables are stress (measured by likert scale items on stress and well-being) and diet type
(vegan, vegetarian, and omnivore). The findings will add to the literature on obesity by focusing
on women of color from college-aged backgrounds and by examining factors not traditionally
studied in obesity research.

4:00-4:20
Amanda McConnell, Faer Morrison, and Johana Neri, Occupational Therapy
Understanding the Emotional Benefits Service and Support Animals Provide Their Owners
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

This narrative research study seeks to examine and understand the human-animal bond found
between service and support animals and their owners. Substantial research supports the value of
this bond and its physical benefits to animal owners; however, there is a lack of qualitative
research exploring the development of the human-animal bond and the emotional value that service and support animals provide their owners, especially within the field of occupational therapy. Considering the importance of animals in the lives of their owners, it is vital to understand the meaning that these animals provide, as well as the emotional benefits they afford. Using narrative methodology, seven research participants were recruited using snowball sampling, and their stories were analyzed within a three-dimensional narrative inquiry space that allows inquiry into the personal and social along one dimension, the past, present, and future along a second dimension, and place along a third dimension (Clandinin & Connelly, 2000). The participants’ narratives illustrate how their worlds reopened after becoming an owner of a service or support animal. Moreover, participants shared how their personal well-being and social relationships have prospered because of the bond they share with their animal. Findings from this study could contribute to the occupational therapy literature by shedding light on how service or support animals can be used directly in interventions with their owners, and may provide a basis for how and why animals are used synergistically in occupational therapy interventions.

4:20-4:40

Kristi Sprowl, Health Science
Speak On It: Effective Physician Communication on Treatment Outcomes of African American Breast Cancer Patients
Faculty Mentor: Enrique Ortega, Health Science

The purpose of this study was to analyze the perceptions of African American breast cancer survivors regarding the role that doctor communication styles had on their current health conditions and treatment outcomes. This study attempted to explore the ways in which effective physician-patient communication can be associated to better treatment outcomes, especially among African American women. Past research in this area has reported high mortality rates among African American breast cancer patients above most other ethnic groups even while being diagnosed at similar rates to others. We conducted a one hour focus group with 6 African American breast cancer survivors between the ages of 40-70 years who are members of the Breast Cancer Survivors Network located in Los Angeles, CA. Participants were recruited through personal contacts with the support group leadership. Focus group participants were asked a series of questions aimed at eliciting information on the following specific themes: patient adherence, patient satisfaction, and patient trust with the physician. Discussions indicated that the focus group participants reflected general themes that have been reported in recent literature in the area, mainly the importance that good doctor patient communication has on adherence to medication, treatment conditions, as well as on prognosis outlook, as well as ethnic specific themes. Findings from this study can assist prevention scientists in understanding best communications styles to use with typical hard to reach study populations such as African American females whom are severely underrepresented in medical and health behavior research.
4:40-5:00

**Lena Saleh, Health Science**

*Adolescent Sensation Seeking as a Possible Mediator between Parenting Support and Age of First Sexual Behaviors*

Faculty Mentor: Enrique Ortega, Health Science

Studies suggest that parenting behaviors that are characterized by open communication are associated with less risky teen health behaviors including risky sexual practices. Nonetheless, these effects must be considered in light of differing levels of experimentation that is characteristic of this developmental period. This study investigated the possible mediating effects of adolescent sensation seeking between the association of perceptions of parental support and age of first sexual behaviors among European adolescents. The sample consisted of 452 European high school adolescents (49% female), ages 15-19 years (mean age = 17.1 (S.D. = 1.2)), living in the northwest of Italy and in the northeast of Holland. The participants were representative of the population of adolescents attending high school in these parts of Italy and Holland. Multiple Linear regressions were used to analyze the association between age at first sexual experience and perceived parental support, with age and gender serving as control variables. Additional regressions were conducted to assess the possible mediation effect of sensation seeking between parenting and sexual activity. Results indicated that parental support was positively associated with age of beginning sex (B = .79, p<.05). The mediation model indicated that sensation seeking was acting as a possible mediator among parental support and age of first sexual behaviors. The inclusion of sensation seeking in the model reduced the effect of parental support on age of beginning sex (B = .79, p = NS). These findings point toward the fact that natural inclinations toward experimentation must be considered when considering the possible influence of directive behaviors with adolescents. Further analysis is required which may parcel the effect of biological drives on behaviorally based sexual risk preventions.

5:00-5:20

**Christina Arzate, Health Science**

*The Mediating Effect of Self-Esteem on Feelings of Alienation for Victims of Sexual Victimization*

Faculty Mentor: Enrique Ortega, Health Science

This study investigated the possible mediating role of self-esteem between the association of alienation and sexual victimization among a sample of Dutch adolescent females. Literature in the field suggests that females that report greater isolation and general low social functioning are at greater risk for sexual victimization. Likewise, greater psychosocial functioning has been reported as protective against sexual victimization. The sample consisted of 102 female Dutch high school adolescents aged 15-19 years (mean age = 17 (S.D. = .78)), living in Holland. Multiple Linear regressions were used to analyze the association between sense of alienation and indications of sexual victimization, with age serving as a control variable. Additional regressions
were conducted to assess the possible mediation effect of self-esteem between the association of sense of alienation and indications of sexual victimization. Analyses indicated greater sense of alienation to be significantly associated to greater reports of sexual victimization (b = .299, p < .05), and to lower number of sexual partners in the last year (b = -.51, p < .05). The mediation model indicated that self-esteem was acting as a possible between the association of sense of alienation and indications of sexual victimization. The inclusion of self-esteem in the model reduced the effect of alienation on indications of sexual victimization (B = .261, p = NS). Evidence suggested that the possible influence of sense of alienation on sexual victimization may be mediated by self-esteem among Dutch females. Possible explanations for these associations may include the strength of the protective effect of psychosocial factors.
Understanding the epidemiology of antibiotic resistant bacteria is necessary for the treatment and prevention of this dynamic public health threat. Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), once found only in hospital settings, is now widely prevalent in the community.

Current literature, including the data used for this research, has shown peak incidence of MRSA infection during summer and autumn months, indicating a potential seasonal variation. This study compares MRSA isolates with respect to patient type and specimen origin, to the surrounding temperatures of the study region to determine any trends that may be present. Over 5,000 Methicillin-Resistant and Methicillin-Sensitive Staphylococcus aureus (MSSA) isolates were collected from hospitals, physician offices, and nursing homes in Ashtabula County, OH over a five-year period (2005-2010). The diagnosis of MRSA versus MSSA species were determined by clinical laboratory culture (antibiotic resistance screening). Temperature data was collected at the Ashtabula County Airport and obtained from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Climatic Data Center. Daily high and low temperatures were associated with each MRSA/MSSA isolate. The results showed no discernible correlation between incidence of MRSA and temperature. The highest incidence of MRSA occurred during the third and fourth quarters, while average quarterly temperatures were highest during the second and third quarters. On a monthly comparison, highest incidence of MRSA occurred from August-October with another peak in January, a month with considerably lower temperature. With a significant increase in MRSA incidence during the third quarter each year and no clear trend associated with temperature, this study shows the need for further research on the epidemiological factors that impact the incidence of MRSA infection in a community.

This study researches the perceived family relationship experienced by young adults after a mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI). Previous research for young adults with brain injuries is mostly focused on moderate to severe traumatic brain injuries instead of the mild form. A qualitative approach was selected in order to provide detailed, personal insight into young adult experiences after a mild traumatic brain injury. Moustakas (1994) transcendental phenomenology was used to
investigate these young adult experiences. The study consisted of two audio-recorded semi-
structured interviews with 7 participants which were transcribed verbatim. All participants had
experienced an mTBI or severe concussion between the ages of 18 and 24 years. This study
found two main themes that participants hid information about their mental health from their
families and that fathers tend to be less sympathetic. These findings can inform families and
community members about mild traumatic brain injury experience, raise awareness and provide
a basis for more research on this topic.

6:10-6:30
Katherine Macapinlac, Zayra Ortega, Young Im, Occupational Therapy
Diabetes and Interventions within the Hispanic Community: A Narrative Analysis
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

This narrative analysis study aims to understand the chronology of intervention strategies used
by Hispanics with Diabetes Mellitus type 2. A qualitative approach was chosen for this research
study in order to gather subjective data related to participant experiences. Seven participants
were recruited for this study, four females and three males, through a key informant and
snowball sampling technique. Inclusion criteria consisted of the participants being of Hispanic
descent and having had Diabetes Mellitus type 2 for at least five years. Data was collected
through semi-structured interviews, and was audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. Each
interview was approximately 60 minutes. The information was then gathered into common
themes. Common themes were found across participants that were either a support or barrier to
their intervention strategies. In conclusion, participant data showed that commonly experienced
interventions were lifestyle changes in regards to their nutrition and exercise habits, as well as
the use of medication. With the information that was gathered, occupational therapists will be
better equipped to help individuals with diabetes adhere to their diabetes management.

6:30-6:50
Dana Jensen, Danielle Heck, and Mirielvy Mahan, Occupational Therapy
Describing the Experiences of Job Satisfaction among Occupational Therapists: A
Phenomenological Study
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

There is limited research within the last six years exploring job satisfaction of occupational
therapists (OTs) in the United States, therefore this study seeks to illuminate the experiences of
OTs that find their work satisfying. Seven participants were chosen to explore their job
satisfaction through the use of semi-structured interviews. The inclusion criteria for participants
was to be satisfied with their job, to be working full time (40 hours/week) directly with clients,
and to have been working in the profession for at least five years. This study used Moustakas’s
transcendental phenomenology for data reduction and analysis. Six common themes that
contribute to job satisfaction were identified during analysis. These themes consisted of
flexibility of the profession, meaningful relationships, awareness of the profession, helping people, work environment, and cognitive demands. These themes were found to be consistent with previous research on job satisfaction. Results also identified a contrast to job satisfaction with participants who identified themselves as more or less satisfied. These themes consisted of dissatisfaction with salary, demanding workload, demands of the job, and OTs role not being defined. Recommendations for future research should include male participants and part-time OTs as this study only encompassed full-time female participants.

7:00-7:20
Breanne Haeger, Cameron Kaichi, and Sara Matsuura, Occupational Therapy

*Occupational Therapists’ Experiences Adapting to Evolving Mobile Technologies: A Narrative Analysis*

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

This narrative analysis study aims to understand how occupational therapists have adapted their practice to use mobile technologies across past, present, and future dimensions of time. Narratives were collected through semi-structured interviews with eight occupational therapists with experience using mobile technologies in treatment. Participants’ narratives were constructed and analyzed using Clandinin and Connelly’s (2000) Three-Dimensional Narrative Inquiry Method. This approach allowed researchers to consider occupational therapists’ experiences as they relate to personal and social interactions, the continuity of time, and the situation in which experiences occur. Data analysis between narratives produced several common themes regarding the use of mobile technologies in occupational therapy practice. Prominent themes derived from this analysis included therapists’ ability to access mobile technologies and keep pace with rapidly advancing interventions. This research provides insight into factors that influence occupational therapists’ choice and ability to use mobile technologies in therapy. Thus, findings provide important information that will help guide the future application of mobile devices in occupational therapy intervention.

7:20-7:40
Michelle Savarese, Rebecca Prosser, Daniel Tran, and Katrina Scalzi, Occupational Therapy

*Shared Experiences of Social Support for People Living with HIV/AIDS: A Phenomenology*

Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

This transcendental phenomenological research study seeks to explore the phenomenon of shared experiences of social support (SESS) among adults with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) who are at least 5 years post diagnosis. Current research describes the benefits of social support for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), but there is a lack of qualitative research on the meaning of support in the realm of occupational therapy (OT). Exploring the SESS for PLWHA can help occupational therapists
and other healthcare professionals gain a deeper understanding of the meaning and experiences of social support. Knowledge may inform OT interventions focused on client’s expanding their access to social support. Seven participants explained their personal experiences of social support. A simplified version of the Stevick-Colaizzi-Keen method of data reduction was used in analyzing data and collecting the essence of these experiences (Moustakas, 1994). Findings revealed that accessing social support was largely affected by the stigma and inhibitions experienced by participants. Participants reported family support as valuable, and that there is an absence of external support in the form of age appropriate and accessible support groups.

7:40-8:00

**Daisy Hernandez**

*Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis*

Faculty Mentor: John Hsiao, English

Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA) is an autoimmune disease where the body attacks itself causing swelling and pain in the joints, and possibly the internal organs. Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis is a severe condition many are not aware about but it is a condition that can maybe have an affect on a young loved one. Particularly this condition because it targets children of the ages eighteen and younger. Once verified that a patient has JRA there is no escape from it. The only way you can control this condition is by stabilizing it with treatments at a younger age, and even then this is rare. Not many know the major impacts it will have on both the patient and parents. There are three different types of diseases. These include pauciarticular JRA (four or fewer joints are affected), polyarticular JRA (five or more are affected), and systemic onset JRA (affects both the joints and internal organs). The joints are what gives us the movement to enhance our stability to function. This makes this an issue that can not be ignored nor remain unheard of by the masses. Treatment for JRA includes taking a variety of pills and/or steroids. This will be a part of ones life as long as they live, as mentioned it is an incurable disease. There will be many obstacles for example, financial issues, having to balance out appointments for ones treatment to be taken in place along with social life, and of course the commuting may be an issue for some. Solution such as: medical to take care of treatment expenses, getting a transfer to a hospital or clinic close by, or have the hospital obtain flexible hours.

8:00-8:20

**Anthony Gonzalez**

*GMOs and Their Misrepresentation in the Community*

Faculty Mentor: John Hsiao, English

In general, Americans are not knowledgeable in the area of science, leading to false speculation about products created by the scientific community, such as GMOs. The objective of this research is to clarify and identify this lack of scientific awareness and how it affects views of genetically modified organisms. Public awareness of science is at a crucial low in our country's
education system and as a result GMOS suffer misconceptions. The National Math + Science Initiative Association states, “36 percent of … U.S. high school students are ready for college-level science.” Read carefully, “[ONLY] 36 percent” suggests that roughly about 1.5 students out of every 4 going out into the world with a basic understanding of science. With the minimal understanding of GMOs people make biased assumptions about their “evil”. GMOs are Organisms that have received DNA from another Organism to improve its function, and they comprise 70% of our consumable products. If not for GMOs our population’s food development would not be as bountiful as it currently is. With this information in mind it is easy to identify where the lack of education is glaring and how it affects us. The solution is that people need to be aware, and that can only be accomplished by targeting blind spots and alerting our peers of their presence.
The purpose of this study is to explore seniors’ perceptions of their transitions to assisted-living over time. The qualitative method used is the narrative analysis approach and data were collected using semi-structured interviews and field notes. A qualitative approach was undertaken to understand from a holistic perspective how seniors tell their stories of the need for change of living arrangements, the transition process itself, and the new life they now lead. The seven participants are seniors who are between sixty-five and ninety-five years of age. There were four inclusion criteria: first, seniors who chose for themselves to enter assisted living; second, seniors with no known cognitive impairment; third, seniors who have resided in an assisted living facility for a minimum of one year; finally, all of the seniors must speak English. Access to participants was gained using flyers and the snowball sampling technique. The findings will be helpful due to the need for occupational therapists (O.T.) to improve transitional care and planning. One of the most striking results was discovering how the assisted-living narrative told by the medical and therapy communities is in sharp contrast to the narratives expressed by participants. Participants described the disparate factors leading to their decision to move, the move itself, and their current lives as compelling success stories that allowed them to see a major life change as "no big deal," whereas health care providers viewed this transition as a significant milestone. Along with insights on pragmatic aspects that O.T.s can assist with during transition planning, we learned that helping to foster an adaptive narrative can be a powerful intervention in its own right.

This qualitative study used a narrative analysis research design to explore the experiences of individuals with acquired vision loss regarding development of romantic relationships. Researchers hoped to develop a deeper understanding of ways romantic relationship formation changes due to acquired vision loss. Face-to-face semi-structured interviews were conducted with seven adults who experienced acquired vision loss after puberty, engaged in romantic relationships prior to vision loss, and have dated or have been interested in dating after vision loss. Data were analyzed using the three-dimensional space approach of narrative inquiry.
proposed by Clandinin and Connelly (2000). A chronology of themes was identified: method of meeting, expectations, challenges, and outlooks. This study adds to an understanding of how adults with acquired vision loss form romantic relationships and explore challenges they may face.

9:40-10:00
**Beverly Bailon, Health Science**
*Time in the Military and Psychological Distress*
Faculty Mentor: Archana More Sharma, Health Science

The study objectives involved researching both time in the military and psychological distress. The null hypothesis claimed that there is no association between time in the military and psychological distress. The study design was done using the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) and a statistical computer program (SPSS). There were 4,864 participants and the rest of the data was collected using a Pearson Chi-square test. Alpha was equal to 0.05 and if my p-value is less than that, it means there is an association between both variables. Using the Chi-square test, my test statistic was 7.279 and it was a two-tailed test. My alpha was set to 0.05, confidence interval at 95%, and my p-value was .122. Since my p-value was greater than 0.05 we fail to reject the null hypothesis, because there is no association between the two variables. If my p-value would have been less than my alpha (0.05) then it would be significant; a relationship would be present between the length of time in the military and psychological distress. There was not enough evidence to reject the null hypothesis which means there is no association between the two variables in the study conducted.

10:00-10:20
**Sosse Bedrossian, Nursing**
*Removing Barriers to TDAP Vaccination in Adolescents*
Faculty Mentor: Lauren Outland, Nursing

Healthy People 2020’s (2015) objective IID-1.7 is to reduce cases of pertussis among adolescents. California has experienced a pertussis epidemic since 2012, especially among this age group. As a result, seventh grade students are required to have a tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) booster vaccine for school entry. Barriers to accessing the vaccine have been identified as a major reason for low immunization rates in low income adolescents. Barriers include parents having to take time away from work, leading to lost wages and decreased productivity, no transportation, lack of insurance, and long clinic waits. Traditionally, such barriers prompted some parents to sign a personal belief waiver to avoid their child being excluded from school attendance, leading to an increase in the number of unvaccinated students. By bringing the vaccine to the child rather than the child to the vaccine, many obstacles may be circumvented. School-based vaccination programs have been shown to be both advantageous and successful when planned well (Kansagra et al., 2014; Wilson, Sanchez, Blackwell, Weinstein, and El Amin,
Vaccines have long been known to be effective in preventing mortality and morbidity. With the recent pertussis epidemic, the importance of immunizations has been significantly highlighted. Research aimed at studying the advantages and effectiveness of school-based vaccination programs will be valuable. Significant dollars could potentially be saved from lower cost vaccines and fewer missed workdays for parents and school days for students. With the recent passage of Senate Bill 277 (Health and Safety Code, 2015), personal belief waivers for school required immunizations will not be permitted beginning July 1, 2016. Therefore, the need for school-based immunization programs may be essential more than ever to reducing barriers, ensuring compliance, and fiscal accountability.

10:30-10:50

Maricruz Suber, Nursing

*Physical Inactivity, A Modifiable Risk Factor Amongst Hispanic Females*

Faculty Mentor: Lauren Outland, Nursing

The World Health Organization has identified physical inactivity as a major health problem, causing approximately 3.2 million deaths globally. Physical inactivity is a serious, modifiable risk factor that has been linked to heart disease, diabetes, and even cancer. Healthy People 2020 has established physical activity as a goal to not only improve health, but also fitness and quality of life. Latinas have reported the lowest levels of physical activity (Larsen, 2013). A program designed to prevent physical inactivity among this vulnerable group is warranted. A focus on self-efficacy through dance classes will help facilitate the behavioral change necessary to be physically active. Latinas are more likely to be physically active when they know people who exercise and or belong to a community like a faith-based group that exercises. The classes will take place after church services on Sundays, as churches play an important role in guiding lifestyle choices amongst the Hispanic community. Research has shown that aerobic dance has helped Hispanic females increase physical activity, reduce body mass, as well as foster social support for exercise. Recruitment and the one-hour dance intervention will take place after service on Sundays at an urban Church in Southern California. The twelve-week intervention includes a weekly 60-minute dance lesson. This intervention will help participants enhance their self-efficacy, physical activity, and quality of life by participating in dance—a fun and inexpensive physical activity. More than 80% of adults and adolescents in the United States do not meet the recommended guidelines for physical activity. The Hispanic community is the largest ethnic group in the United States, and the prevalence of physical inactivity is high amongst the females of this population. Further research is needed to help develop a culturally competent intervention for Hispanic females that will prevent physical inactivity.
The focus of this research study is the diversity of new innovations used for treatments in the field of physical therapy. According to the website, *Supplemental Health Care*, “Innovations in PT technology are designed to shorten patients’ healing times, increase comfort levels, and improve their overall level of care.” The concepts of these innovations all have one aim: to restore the lost physical functions of patients so they can improve their lifestyles. These new treatments are more physically hands-on, as these innovations are performed on the patients’ bodies, offering a healthier way to recuperate immobility. In comparison with PT innovations, prescribed medications might trigger improvement in physical health, but can have possible side effects that could potentially lead to bad conditions in the patients’ internal health. Examples of new treatments include Esko Bionics’ Suit, Nintendo Wii and Rehabilitation Robots. The Esko Bionics’ Suit is made of rigid metals (aluminum and titanium) which fit on a patient’s injured body to help and retrain the patients who have problems with their lower extremities to walk again. Nintendo Wii is a game console which gives patients the benefits of healing faster by playing the digital sports games. Rehabilitation Robots are machined devices which restore the patients’ physical functions by connecting to the arms and legs, which substitute as the strength; they can be programmed with personalized plans. These technologies would be effective if used properly for particular conditions: rehabilitating functions or maintaining bodily functions that cannot be restored or substituted. The new treatments for physical therapy may allow faster recovery for patients. The price range of these treatments can be expensive, but once more hospitals start adopting these technologies, the price will start to be more affordable.

MDA MD 231 triple negative breast cancer cells (TNBC) express phenotypes that are resistant to virtually all known cancer therapies to date. Therefore, the design of therapies that can improve the prognosis of the triple-negative breast cancer is in great demand. Temozolomide (TMZ) is an alkylating agent used for clinical treatment of several types of cancers and remains as the main chemotherapy agent based on its ability to increase the median survival. TMZ has been used to treat metastasized breast cancer. However, like all chemotherapies, the drawback is high cellular toxicity toward normal cells. Here we propose to use a natural product, EGCG from tea extract to reduce the concentration of TMZ in chemotherapy with a potential to increase its potency due to the synergistic effect of the combination treatment. We are interested in exploring if green tea
extract EGCG will decrease the cellular toxicity of anticancer drug temozolomide (TMZ) without reducing the potency of the anticancer drug TMZ. This work proposes a method by which the possible synergistic concentration of EGCG/TMZ is needed to inhibit MDA MB 232 TNBC cell density by 50% can be confidently determined by using an IC50 curve. Results show at optimal drug concentration, approximately 50 percent of cellular density inhibition is reached. These results indicate significant improvement in cell density quantification over previous efforts by Thangapazham et al. The work presented here has broader significance in increasing the utility of chemotherapeutic agents through synergistic augmentation with natural products.

11:30-11:50
Rani Barba, Nursing
Focus on Skin Integrity and Nutrition for the Prevention of Hospital Acquired Pressure Ulcers
Faculty Mentor: Julie Zimmerman, Nursing

With a hospital acquired pressure ulcers (HAPU) goal of zero, the initial and ongoing assessment of pressure ulcer risk is crucial as it affords for a consistent practice for determining the needs of patients and the resources that will be utilized from day to day. A HAPU score of greater than 0% required the implementation of an action plan from a multidisciplinary team perspective. The team, composed of the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) preceptor, a CNS student with Certified Wound Ostomy and Continence background, and a Dietitian, examined the nursing process used related to patient risk identification and initiation of multidisciplinary consults. The steps taken included examining internal and external evidence to support continued use of the Braden Risk Assessment Tool and make recommendations to improve the HAPU scores. Internal evidence gathered showed that the transition to Electronic Medical Record-based charting resulted in unplanned changes that impacted nursing behaviors. An education session regarding the importance of optimal nutritional status and its effects on skin integrity was conducted to reinforce critical nursing behaviors and the nursing interventions that address identified risk factors using the Braden Scale. The educational intervention was followed up with a second in-service on nursing assessment of nutrition risk factors using a focused physical examination, review of laboratory results, history taking, and ongoing assessment of food intake. An algorithm was subsequently designed as an ongoing tool to support nurses implement the behaviors that may assist with achievement of a unit based goal of zero HAPU rates.
The goal of this research was to investigate the between social network service (SNS) usage and psychological and social health indicators among young adults. This investigation examined these associations among a sample of Italian youths in order to better comprehend what dimensions of SNS usage had potential health effects on specific indicators of psychological and social health including self-worth and interpersonal relationship skills. The sample consisted of 255 Italian university students (49% female), ages 19-23 years (mean age = 21.2 (S.D. = 1.2)), living in the northwest of Italy. The participants were representative of the population of young adults attending university in these parts of Italy. Correlations were used to analyze possible associations among the following variables: SNS usage rate, social likeability, social vulnerability, social power, friend companionship, friend reliability, friend intimacy, friend emotional security. Results indicated higher rates of SNS usage to be associated to greater self-perceptions of likability (r = .156, p< .01) and with greater indications of self-esteem (r = .154, p< .01). While studies looking at the health effects of SNS usage are in fairly early stages, there is growing evidence of particular personality profiles that have been associated with problematic SNS usage. These results may suggest that perceptions of the self may be important indicators of greater reliance of SNS usage.

Hypertension is a chronic disease that places people at risk for heart attack, stroke, kidney disease, and heart failure. About a third of Hispanics who have high blood pressure are not taking their blood pressure medication. Hispanics have higher mortality rates from complications of hypertension than any other minority. The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) will be used to create a culturally tailored intervention that promotes antihypertensive medication adherence. In the Hispanic community there is a normative belief that “No symptoms = No worries.” Hypertension is known as a “silent killer” because symptoms may not be felt. Participants in this study will be exposed to a video that depicts the internal changes that occur in a person with hypertension. Participants will also conduct home blood pressure monitoring (HBPM) before
medication and one hour after medication. Lastly, perceived behavioral control will be targeted
by weekly text messages with reminders and motivational quotes regarding health. Studies have
shown that HBPM can reduce blood pressure and promote medication adherence. Several
leading organizations have released scientific statements that HBPM should be part of the
management of every hypertensive patient because it can be a better predictor of target organ
damage than the readings conducted in the primary care office. The approaches used in these
studies indicate that a culturally tailored intervention could have significant results in the
Hispanic population. By improving hypertensive medication adherence, the researcher hopes
that overall mortality rates in the hypertensive Hispanic community will decrease.

9:40-10:00
Vanessa Dougherty and Lisa Faust, Occupational Therapy

*Occupational Therapy Trauma-Informed Practice Using the Community Resiliency Model: Narrative and Photo Voice with Veterans*
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Traumatic experiences or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may lead to difficulty engaging
in everyday activities, and veterans are an at-risk population for these events. The biological
basis of traumatic symptoms, including dysregulation of the nervous system (NS), points to the
need for biologically-based interventions. This study’s aim was to develop an understanding of
the experiences of veterans who have learned the Community Resiliency Model (CRM), a
biologically-based approach that teaches individuals how to self-regulate a dysregulated NS.
CRM does not require re-exposure to traumatic stimuli and consists of skills that are easy to use,
whereas current psychotherapeutic methods for treating symptoms of trauma are complex and
may re-traumatize clients or cause secondary/vicarious traumatization to the professional.
Additionally, they are generally outside of occupational therapists’ (OTs’) scope of practice.
However, OTs need to be both trauma-informed and resilience-informed, as their clients have
often undergone traumatic experiences, and CRM may suit this purpose. Through interviews, use
of a three-dimensional narrative method, and photovoice, the authors explored seven veterans’
life occupations before and after learning CRM. Results. Veterans identified differences in
personal, social and contextual areas, with improvement in well-being, symptoms, functioning,
relationships, and participation in meaningful activities reported, after learning use of CRM. The
authors uncovered a cycle of healing from trauma that they have termed the “Trauma-CRM-
Healing Cycle.” It describes stages of veterans’ progression, from pre-event functioning, to
symptoms following various traumatic events, to learning the CRM skills and subsequent
healing, and anticipated future functioning. The study suggests further research using CRM with
other populations, for professional self-care, and for developing CRM as a specific occupational
therapy Frame of Reference for populations experiencing traumatic life events.
Medical advances continue to extend life expectancy enabling people with chronic illnesses to live longer. Thus, hospitals treat more patients whose needs are complicated and multi-faceted. The chronically ill experience an array of symptoms, both physical and psychic, and require specialized treatment. Palliative care (PC) is a medical and nursing specialty that has evolved to frame care for the chronically ill and their families from the point of diagnosis through their demise. Hospital PC programs experienced significant growth from 15% of U.S. Hospitals in 1998, to 67% in 2014. PC is delivered by a consultative team or dedicated inpatient unit setting new goals of treatment, improving symptom burden and lowering the cost of care. How do outcomes and economics differ between inpatient palliative care units and inpatient palliative care consults; is one model superior to the other? This research is an integrative review; findings are based on a systematic literature review conducted on the topic of hospital based PC. Search terms included economics of PC; PC outcomes; PC + cost + outcomes; PC team; PC unit + outcome* and + economic*. Databases searched included CINAHL, ProQuest and PubMed. A hand search of references yielded articles for study as well. The eight studies included in this review were selected to obtain an overview of clinical and financial outcomes for PC delivered in the hospital setting, either by a multi-disciplinary PC patient consult (PCCT) or on a dedicated inpatient PC unit (PCU). Results found that hospital based PC, whether by consultative team or provided on a dedicated inpatient unit, provides significant clinical and economic benefits to patients and hospitals. The PCCT can deliver care to more inpatients, improves discharge status and costs less than PCU. The PCU provides care for higher acuity and/or dying patients and increases ED and ICU throughput.

The growth and advancement of technology in recent years has led to office workers spending more time at their desks and computers, ultimately impacting their psychological and physical wellbeing. Understanding the lived experience of office workers in the office environment is crucial to understanding what can be done to improve working conditions. The purpose of this narrative analysis is to explore and understand the chronology of office workers’ developing work-related musculoskeletal disorders. The researchers obtained data through open-ended questions during face-to-face interviews with seven participants that have work-related musculoskeletal pain. The researchers used a three-dimensional storied approach to analyze the
personal, social, and environmental factors associated with developing musculoskeletal pain across dimensions of past, present, and future time. The results showed that the participants undergo a wake-up-call moment, preceding the need to alter their lifestyles to cope with the increasing intensity of pain, in hopes of avoiding or prolonging the need for surgical intervention. Future research examining how the PRECEDE-PROCEED Model can be applied to study behavioral intentions of office workers and how occupational therapy and use of ergonomic technology may intervene by preventing these conditions.

10:50-11:10
Carley Spitzer, Melissa Perlee, and Kate Quintanilla, Occupational Therapy
The Experience of Working with Transgender Youth: An Occupational Therapist's Perspective
Faculty Mentor: Claudia Peyton, Occupational Therapy

Transgender youth are at high risk for life-threatening behaviors, homelessness, and poor academic performance. While previous research has identified the appropriateness of occupational therapists working with the population, little is known about the views of occupational therapists about their experiences. The purpose of this study was to describe the experience of working with transgender youth from the perspective of occupational therapists – including challenges, barriers and enablers, and personal views on the needs of the population. This experience of working with transgender youth is referred to throughout this article as the “therapeutic experience.” Using a qualitative, phenomenological approach, seven occupational therapists– six female and one male – were interviewed in person and via videoconference regarding their experiences. Interviews were transcribed for analysis, then data was reduced to identify significant statements, invariant constituents, and core themes defining the therapeutic experience. The results of the study suggest that when it comes to these clients, the OT role is less about helping transgender youth wrestle with their gender identities, and more about helping them navigate external barriers and associated anxieties. Gender identity is also described as just another piece of a complicated lifescape that occupational therapists must consider. Participants also noted that their transgender clients were still adolescents dealing with typical adolescent issues, that education and research on the topic is lacking, and that the overall therapeutic experience was a learning experience that was interesting and rewarding.

11:10-11:30
Alejandra Regla Vargas, Darlyng Granados, Adrian Ramirez, Makda Gedyon, and Loza Gedyon, Human Services
Development of an Instrument to Assess Samoan Cultural Values and their Association with Obesity
Faculty Mentors: Phu Phan and Enrique Ortega, Health Science

The population of Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI) is one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States (Hixson, Hepler, Kim, 2012). There are
approximately 1.4 million people in the US that identify themselves as NHOPI today and this number is projected to rise to 2.6 million by the year 2050 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007). Alarmingly, the prevalence of overweight or obesity among NHOPIs is among the highest in the world (Duncan et al., 2015). Current investigations have reported that 56% to 74% of Samoans are considered obese (Keighley, McGarvey, Quested, McCuddin, & Viali, 2007; World Health Organization, 2007, 2011). A recent study found the mean BMI for Samoans aged 25–54 years to be between 30 and 32 for males, and between 32 and 36 for females. These mean BMI scores are particularly worrying given the fact that BMI scores of 30 and above indicate obesity (WHO, 1995). Samoans also have the highest levels of physical inactivity (Davis et al., 2004). The 2007 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) indicated that 80% of Samoans reported having had no exercise within the past 30 days (CDC, 2008). Such levels of obesity and physical inactivity have contributed to Samoans having among the lowest life expectancies due to premature deaths from obesity-related chronic diseases (Park, Braun, Horiuchi, Tottori, & Onaka, 2009).

11:30-11:50
Jean M. Rockwell, Nursing
*Factors Contributing to Length of Hospital Stay for Acute Stroke Patients*
Faculty Mentor: Terri Ares, Nursing

The financial burden of stroke in the U.S. is almost $34 billion annually, and $8.8 billion of that cost is directly attributed to acute hospital emergency room visits and inpatient stays. Hospital length of stay for acute stroke patients averages 6.1 days, and annual hospital discharges have reached over 1 million. Length of hospital stay accounts for 43% of the total variance of hospital cost for stroke patients. With stroke related costs anticipated to increase by 129% by 2030, efforts must be made to decrease the financial burden. What factors contribute to length of hospital stay for acute stroke patients? An integrative review of the current literature was accomplished by systematically searching the bibliographic databases CINAHL, ProQuest, and PubMed, and performing an ancestry search. Articles were grouped based on methods and independent variables studied. The variables were then further abstracted and grouped by common themes. These groupings included: demographics, pre-morbid conditions, stroke severity, vascular territory, and in-hospital, medical complications.

Demographic variables that were positively associated with hospital length of stay (LOS) for stroke patients, included older age (> 65 years) and male gender. Pre-morbid conditions positively correlated to LOS included atrial fibrillation, diabetes mellitus, and functional status, and, to a lesser degree, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia. Stroke severity positively correlated with LOS. Hemorrhagic strokes and strokes involving the total anterior circulation or posterior circulation all led to increased LOS. In-hospital complications of pneumonia and urinary tract infections correlated to a longer LOS. Knowledge and early identification of factors
that influence length of hospital stay can alert health care practitioners to the need for early goal-oriented interventions to control and/or eliminate the modifiable risk factors.
Humanities and Letters I

Ballroom C

9:00-9:20
Guillermo Garcia, Communications

*The Branding of the Oprah Winfrey Network*

Faculty Mentor: Sharon Sharp, Communications

The research project analyzes the branding of the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) and how it intends to attract viewers through themes of spirituality/religion, therapy, philanthropy, and Oprah Winfrey’s presence in the network and website. This research will first highlight scholarly views on Oprah Winfrey’s success, ideologies, and therapeutic programming prior to the launch of the network. It will also examine primary sources including programs such as *Belief*, *Oprah’s Master Class*, *Iyanla Fix my Life*, and *Super Soul Sunday* to determine how their content communicates such themes. This research also analyzes OWN’s website and articles explaining the network’s approach to distinguish themselves from other cable channels.

9:20-9:40

Melvin Lee, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution, and Peacebuilding

*Male Success Alliance: Role in Increasing Black Male Graduation and Retention Rates*

Faculty Mentor: Margaret Manning, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution, and Peacebuilding

The majority (74%) of the black male dropout rate is due to health concerns and family problems and the balance is attributed to students believing classes were too hard. After high school 26% go on to receive their GEDs. Criminal records account for less than 1% of the reasons black men drop out of high school. Black male dropout rates are closely related to teen’s desire to work, medical needs, loss of focus, and peer-pressure. Black youth often attend schools which lack social and community programs that aid retention rates. Even though these numbers are alarming, they are not the same in all states. Amherst College in Massachusetts has the highest number of black males entering a liberal arts university as freshmen. Columbia University and University of Virginia tie for first place for large numbers of black enrollment in their first year. Organizations, such as Male Success Alliance (MSA) do their best to help change the depressing demographics. This research sets out to study what makes MSA successful. The purpose of MSA is to motivate young men of color, while increasing their retention and graduation rates. Part of their success relies upon participants traveling to middle and high schools around southern Los Angeles including Watts, Compton, and Carson. In addition to acting as mentors to students in public school settings, MSA is dedicated to building a network of minority men who can rely upon each other while attending CSUDH. They spend a lot of time doing bonding exercises, communicating and resolving some of the conflicts they encounter as men of color. MSA is not only a network of educated men of color, but also a support system that holds one another to very high standards.
A conflict can be defined as a form of competitive behavior between people or groups. It occurs when two or more people compete over perceived or actual incompatible goals or limited resources. Resolving conflict requires one to understand the class of conflict, in order to design the best approach to deal with the conflict at hand. Scholars classify conflict in different schools: conflict management, conflict prevention, conflict mitigation, conflict resolution, and conflict transformation. According to conflict management approach, not all conflicts can be resolved; some of them can just be managed. Conflict Mitigation aims at reducing the conflicts. Conflict Resolution does not consider non-negotiable needs. Everything can be negotiated. This approach is based on interests that can be discussed and negotiated, with the outcome being as a result of use of coercion, litigation or a blend of the two. Finally, conflict transformation is based on the basic human needs theory-unless you satisfy all these needs conflicts will erupt. Transformation of norms, society and social relationship more in general in order to satisfy all those needs aiming at reaching peace and stability. It’s also a peace-building approach. Galtung suggests the 3 Rs of peace-building theory: - Resolution, Reconstruction, and Reconciliation. This research explores how soccer has been used in conflict transformation in Baricho, a small Kenyan village.

The Korean Wave is a phenomenon of Korean popular culture that has spread beyond Asia. The popularity in Asia of Korean pop culture seems to stem from being relatively free from political and historical burdens of hegemonic and imperialist western and Japanese culture in some countries. Korean pop culture has disseminated in the United States because it has been facilitated by American media to be a marketable product. This also signifies a new direction of transnational cultural flows from Asia to the U.S. Koran Pop music groups are popular among non-Asian Americans because of their attraction to the Korean standard of beauty. Through interviews, participant observation, and online fan community observation I am going to address the fans of Korean pop music fans thoughts on the physical appearance, style, and sexual attraction to Korean pop groups. From this data we will determine how much of the success of the Korean Wave was because of non-Asian Americans attraction to the Korean standard of beauty. The process of the entire project include determining what determines beauty through interviews and compare physical traits of Korean pop groups to see if there is a correlation between the two. The interviews, participant observation and survey of online fan communities
will help determine if non-Asian Americans attraction to the Korean standard of beauty can be why the Korean wave is successful in America.

10:30-10:50
Tory Russo, English

*Isolation in the Country House*

Faculty Mentor: Kimberly Huth, English

Isolation in country house poems opens up an interesting view on politics of the time. In addition to politics there seems to be a yearning to return to nature. I would like to explore the idea of the actual poetry creating this “safe” space to talk as well as the metaphorical country houses in the poems being seen as a sanctuary. I feel this is an important aspect because this double layer of safety, in theory, creates even more freedom to discuss the politics of the time. The country house poems share a similar idea of safety within nature. Why is nature so important in this blanket of safety? Also, many of the poems do not directly reference nature. The poems are set in nature, and that setting is not fully talked about in most of the poems. Judith Dundas argues in her article “A Pattern of the Mind: The Country House Poem Revisited” that most critics of the Country House Poems focus only on generic topics. She argues they do not take into consideration the playfulness of the poetry. She argues they are a revisiting of a time even when the present tense is used. I do not know that I fully agree with her statements. The playfulness idea intrigues me, and would line up with an argument about safety, and within said safety the experimental and playful form can emerge. Isolation, safety, and freedom of speech are three major things I am currently interested in researching on the topic of Country House Poetry. The connection of these three topics to politics fascinates me, and I truly believe there is hidden commentary within the poems. My plan is to talk about each of these topics in all of the Country House Poems, and to see if they can connect to one another in a political sense under the umbrella of isolation, safety, and freedom of speech.

10:50-11:10
Ashlee Papillion, English

*Ideological Influences*

Faculty Mentor: Helen Oesterheld, English

John Milton says his purpose in writing Paradise Lost is to “justify the ways of God to men” (1.26), so his success or failure hinges on mankind’s sufficiency, as God clearly states in Book III. Eve’s sufficiency and role in the fall is a matter that critics have been arguing over for decades. In order for Milton to be successful, the fall has to be both Adam and Eve’s fault since all of mankind was punished. Should Eve, for example, be found insufficient, that would mean either Milton failed in his purpose or God unjustly punished mankind. Since the subject is Milton, he would hardly intend to doubt God. Focusing on the inconsistencies and portrayal of women/Eve—and the effects of this—in Paradise Lost reveals the effects of the societal/cultural
environment which Milton inhabited and supported. Considering Milton’s purpose for Paradise Lost and related concepts in his prose writings, namely “Of Education”, Eve’s purpose for being, her role in relation to Adam, and Adam’s role suggest that Milton unintentionally makes Eve insufficient to stand, which undermines his defense of God’s actions.
Everything we know about Marie de France has been gleaned from her own commentary in her texts. The debate over her biographical identity is hundreds of years old, yet critics still cannot reach a consensus. The search for Marie’s identity is fruitless, and yields little in terms of textual interpretation. Howard Bloch notes “Marie remains only a name, a name as detached as one can imagine from any more specific reference to a supposedly real person…Marie comes as close as one can imagine to being anonymous.” Indeed, many authors and poets contemporary with Marie never named themselves at all. This project suggests that if Marie is regarded as anonymous, her act of naming herself can be read as symbolic, adding meaning to her texts. This approach can yield new insights about identity in Anglo-Norman Britain, particularly female identity. This project will further trace Marie’s interest in naming and identity as it manifests in her lais, short lyrical romances that she claims to have translated from Breton sources. The lais “Le Fresne,” “Yonc,” “Milun” and “Lanval” all feature “fair unknowns,” characters whose noble lineage is concealed, only for their identity to be restored at the end of the tale. A majority of fair unknown characters are male, and the stories typically address issues of masculine identity formation and paternal lineage, but Marie De France also shows an interest in female fair unknowns, who must serve a different purpose in the stories. This project seeks to discover the purpose of the female fair unknowns in Marie’s texts, how they illuminate issues of gender identity in the Anglo-Norman, and how they reflect Marie’s concerns with naming and identity.
opportunity to tell his story to Captain Walton and practice “narrative-making.” I posit that Mary Shelley’s immobility of Walton’s ship and Arctic setting create a “heterotopia,” an othered space which “on one hand promises positive change and transformation while on the other threatens death and destruction. Moreover, for Mary Shelley, these other(ed) spaces are not merely locations or settings in the novel; heterotopian spaces are narratives in themselves that structure the novel” (Bachinger, 159). Within these spaces, issues such as primogeniture can be analyzed without the hegemonic influence of society. I argue that narrative creation is a masculine privilege, as men are allowed to create history through their ability to move outside of the domestic sphere. This is demonstrated in my examination of Walton’s narrative being incompletely delivered to Margaret, his sister. In contrast, I argue that the creature’s ability to transgress narrative spaces demonstrates Shelley’s critique of first born sons. Moreover, I state that the creature’s ability to leave the “Domestic Space-ship” at the conclusion of the novel demonstrates the creature’s ability to exist in multiple narratives and the self-realization of subaltern subjectivities.

2:10-2:30

**Jennifer Henriquez, English**

*Translating the Romantics*

Faculty Mentor: Jane Lee, English

The Romantic period is often reduced to literature dedicated to glorifying nature, and this assumption completely disregards the compelling discussions regarding education and the validity of literary forms taking place during the late eighteenth century. While the general consensus regards the Romantics as a movement dedicated to the revitalization of nature, as a counterpoint to industrialization, this oversimplification ignores the works of Mary Wollstonecraft and William Godwin, who provided much of the foundation for the idealism of this movement. These revolutionaries undoubtedly influenced the works across all the Romantic generations with their ideas on education, and the place of government. Amongst poets like Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, and Byron there is a profound dedication to uncovering and redefining poetic and literary forms. Although these Romantic poets define their works as bridges between great ideas and the general populace, one must question the purity of these related insights. As intermediaries, the Romantics sought to encapsulate and convey meditations on the sublime, nature, education, and society, but found existing and accepted forms of poetry as inadequate modes for their discussions. As a result, Romantics repurposed archaic poetic forms to supplant traditionalism and impart radical notions. Furthermore, Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein acts as the nexus wherein Romantic notions and forms are juxtaposed with earlier revolutionary paradigms. Although Shelley’s sympathies lay with the second generation Romantics, she nevertheless critiques their idealism. Similarly, though she is the daughter of political writers, she does not blindly accept, nor reiterate their political rhetoric. Instead, Shelley uses these two distinct schools of thought as the foundation for her novel. Shelley thoughtfully adds to the Romantic and Revolutionary discourses, yet she works to dismantle their
preconceptions, and ultimate conclusions. Specifically, Shelley argues how each mode of thought fails to account for the human condition.

2:30-2:50

**Andy Lara, English**  
*Crime, Mystery, and Marriage in Brontë’s Jane Eyre and Collins’s The Woman in White*  
Faculty Mentor: Jane Lee, English

At a time when literature and authors still had the potential to legislate the world, novel methods (such as the birth of detectives in fiction and real life) appear in both literature and parliament to address London’s increasing urbanization and co-occurring crimes. The establishment of the London Metropolitan Police in 1829 and the Detective Bureau in 1844 are two developments, which authors like Tom Fielding and Charles Dickens both support and proliferate, that lead to the development of sensation fiction. Combining elements of the gothic and the realist tradition, sensation fiction brings the horror abroad to the home, and it reflects the public anxiety over the detection and punishment of crime and the paranoia about the mysterious person next-door, symptoms of urban living. While not a detective story, Charlotte Bronte’s Jane Eyre does include a mysterious woman, an exploitative marriage, and an upperclassman’s secret, much like Wilkie Collins’s The Woman in White, the first sensation novel. Although both works are relatively bloodless, compared to the vicious crimes that shake London in the early nineteenth century, both address a more insidious, prevalent, and indoctrinated crime than murder, the violence inherent in marriage: its unhealthy effects on the attitudes of women and men; its transaction-oriented foundation; the exploitation of heiresses; and the discarding of ineligible women. Both texts bring up the criminal aspects of marriage through unconventional narrative methods, only to find solutions in conventional avenues or confirm traditional views: both Jane Eyre and The Woman in White argue that women are weak, fragile creatures that need man’s protection; thus, both novels reify the patriarchy. The chief crimes in these works, domestic violence, bigamy, identity theft, and fraud, which are exposed through innovative narrative techniques, are symptomatic of the unrecognized social problem/crime that is the institution of marriage.

2:50-3:10

**Jared Mukri, English**  
*Victor’s Hidden Love for the Creature*  
Faculty Mentor: Debra Best, English

Queer commentary on Mary Shelley's Frankenstein convincingly suggests that the novel is an accurate reflection of the secretive lives led by gay men in the nineteenth century, particularly as they must hide or ignore their true feelings. Victor Frankenstein, Robert Walton, and Henry Clerval all may be carrying on secretive homosexual relationships or at least harbor these tendencies. With homosexuality not being spoken of or acted upon legally during Mary Shelley's time, my research indicates that lewd acts and relationships were still occurring...they just were
This paper asks not if Victor and his friends engaged in homosexual activity, because I do not believe that to be the case; rather, was Victor aware of these homosexual feelings? This topic, while relevant today, has not been discussed in Victor’s case, although scholars have alluded to its possibility. They have noted that Victor has homosexual impulses and resists these urges, but they do not explore if he actually aware he is doing so. If so, then scholars must apply queer theory to other literary works and search ulterior motives regarding homosexuality.

3:20-3:40

**Olympia Woods, Humanities**  
*She Has Something to Say: Women “Political” Artists from 1844-Present*  
Faculty Mentor: Kirstin Ellsworth, Art and Design

This research paper raises the question why is it that whenever a woman artist's work is successful, though it may be accepted, her talent is almost always assessed under the constructs of a "political" critique? Dating back to the European Renaissance, the act of a woman producing noteworthy art was taboo. Over centuries the art world has evolved and warmly welcomed women into the fold. However, patriarchal dominance has prevailed and exhibits itself in the form of critique. By critique I mean, more often than not, when women artists create works of substance and or depictions of personal perspective, their work has been negated by a "political" label. Interestingly enough the term "political" has inherently been improperly used and put in place of the term "radical." Countless women artists fall victim to this kind of judgment including sculptor Edmonia Lewis, painter Dr. Daphne Odjig, photojournalist Dr. Doris Derby, and street artists Tatyana Fazlalizadeh. All of their pieces stem from personal experience, or the world around them, and are not merely ‘political’. In the end the very definition of the term “political” used against them is contradictory to the true definition of art. When it comes down to it, women artists should be celebrated for their achievements because they are good, never upon any condition, or that they are just good enough for a woman.

3:40-4:00

**Stephanie Metoyer, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding**  
*The Evolution of Disney Princesses from “Yes Ma’am” to “Not Going to Happen!”*  
Faculty Mentor: Margaret Manning, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

This research looked at four different princesses portrayed under the Disney animation brand to study whether or not the portrayal of women has changed since the airing of the first feature-length film “Snow White” in 1937. This research draws upon primary sources, such as surveys, and also secondary data from the Walt Disney archives. Prior research focused on feminism and how after all the years, women are still not portrayed favorably. This research focuses on whether there was a change in the representation of women, especially since the 1980’s and also how Disney Movies have become a great source of empowerment for girls of all ages. The four
princesses selected for the study started with Snow White in 1937 and showed a gradual escalation of empowerment and assertiveness over the years until Tiana from “The Princess and the Frog” in 2009, who was a female of color who worked two waitressing jobs to realize her dream of opening her own restaurant. The results from a survey of eight questions with 71 respondents confirmed that people believed there had been a change for the better in the role of women portrayed in the films. Of the 71 who answered the survey, the largest age group was between 26 and 55, but there was no correlation between age and favorite princess. Other questions asked respondents to identify the film when princesses started rebelling, and whether Disney portrays women fairly. They were asked to identify how they were they portrayed from a menu of eight choices and the top three were determined, independent and strong.

4:00-4:20

**Christine Walker, English**

*John Donne: A Short Collection of Poems*

Faculty Mentor: Kimberly Huth, English

Since John Donne’s poetry was printed after his death, we do not have a clear idea on the order of his poetry. Scholars are not able to completely separate the works of Donne into perfectly chronicled categories According to Dayton Haskins, Izak Walton, the most revered biographer of John Donne, suppressed what might have been known about Donne’s youth. This biographical suppression lead to attempted biographically readings of Donne’s erotic poetry (875 Warren). Unless the poem was dated, other means are used to categorize them. His poems can be categorized by subject matter, usually by determining the “Jack” poems and the “Dr. Donne” poems. Jack poems are sexually explicit and highly irreverent. These poems can be easily categorized into poems regarding the flesh, or body. Dr. Donne poems embrace strong religious metaphors and allegories. These poems categorize easily into poems regarding the soul. Salvation becomes the desired subject manner. However nothing is that simple when reading Donne. Looking closer at the religious poems, there is still a division. Donne ponders the fate of the body as well as the fate of the soul. Anxiety around the state of salvation and the state of the body appears in several of his poems. This anthology will look closely at a few of his poems starting with Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward and Holy Sonnets 1, 5, 7, 11,and 13.

4:20-4:40

**Jaime Nguyen, Asian-Pacific Studies**

*K-pop’s Appeal and Globalization*

Faculty Mentor: Jung-Sun Park, Asian-Pacific Studies

Over the past few years, Korean popular music, also known as “K-pop” has become a global phenomenon. The popularity that Psy’s “Gangnam Style” garnered in 2012 partly attests to K-pop’s growth and phenomenal success. K-pop has expanded its market all over Asia and is now further expanding into other international markets including the United States. This paper
proposes to explore what it is about Korean popular music that appeals to international audiences and contributes to its globalization. The Korean music industry is unique and has been able to differentiate itself from the music industries of other countries. For example, the term “K-pop” umbrella’s diverse music genres, such as pop, hip-hop, R&B, electronic, and rock. The Korean music industry’s incorporation of multiple genres of music and utilization of music styles influenced by the West have attracted various audiences around the world. Moreover, K-pop has catered to the Asian market partially through cultural proximity and has reached out to international markets through its utilization of online distribution channels. The K-pop phenomenon continues to grow as audiences become devoted to and consumer the Korean music. This paper will examine the reasons for K-pop’s global popularity and its meanings. The initial research for this topic was conducted through a class research project on K-pop and globalization. I will further elaborate and supplement the research by collecting additional data through interviews and observations made by participating in online fan communities over the next couple of months. Part of the interviews will be conducted and gathered at K-pop concerts in Southern California where there will be a wide range of attendees.

4:40-5:00
Livia Bongiovanni, English
The Anglo-Saxon Ælf: Old English Influences in Terry Pratchett’s The Wee Free Men
Faculty Mentor: Debra Best, English

As Jacqueline Simpson explains in her article “On the Ambiguity of Elves,” Anglo-Saxon beliefs about elves typically vary between helpful and harmful. These beliefs extend even to the linguistic level, where the Old English word ælf is simultaneously associated with beauty and disease. These associations, she argues, are not mutually exclusive. Rather, they are a representation of the ambiguous nature of everyday life in Anglo-Saxon England. Modern day fantasy author Terry Pratchett channels this ambiguity in his novel The Wee Free Men, featuring elves and elfin creatures in supportive as well as antagonistic roles. Utilizing a New Historicist approach, this paper will examine the relationship between Anglo-Saxon attitudes about elves and how elves are portrayed in Pratchett’s work, paying close attention to the ways in which these attitudes have informed Pratchett’s text. Taking into consideration the linguistic and textual evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period, we can conclude that Pratchett, whether intentionally or unconsciously, is in fact building on very old forms of belief and reinterpreting them for a modern audience. The elf queen’s use of dreams as her primary form of magic, for example, hearkens back to the Anglo-Saxon belief that elves were responsible for nightmares. Likewise, the elves themselves are seen as a form of disease, feeding off the creative energy of the human world because they are unable to create anything for themselves. Although Pratchett differentiates between elves and what he terms “pictsies,” we must remember that the word ælf was originally a blanket term used to describe all manner of supernatural entities. These little blue men are just as ambiguous as their elfin counterparts, capable of great mischief as well as loyalty.
The purpose of this research is to seek effective nonviolent approaches, training and solutions for ongoing community conflict in Sweden and Europe due to current unprecedented influx of refugees. The author proposes to seek a cause and effect approach to the current situation in Sweden and Europe, consequently develop nonviolent solutions to the diverse cultures merging in Sweden and Europe. The author seeks to explore hands-on effective cross cultural training of nonviolent approaches to help prevent eruptions of violence into communities in Sweden and Europe. The research analyzes existing literature with real-life case studies, such as integration policy in Sweden. The research specifically compares and contrasts Swedish immigration during the 60’s and the current influx of refugees, discusses challenges and proposes effective training to achieve valid non-violent approaches to cross cultural collaboration.

The research argues the need to have common ground, and defines and discusses commonly used terms relevant to the research, such as individualism versus collectivism, and masculine versus feminine values. Findings suggest that experiential learning or learning-by-doing works best to effectively instill non-violence and collaboration to shape communities. The author proposes further research be conducted to measure qualitative and quantitative results of cross-cultural training and implementation.
Muslim Spain is characterized by a myriad of sophisticated and complex dynamics that invariably draw from a foundation rooted in an ethnically diverse populace made up of Arabs, Berbers, muwalladun, Mozarebs, Jews, and Christians. According to most scholars, the overriding theme for this period in the Iberian Peninsula is an unprecedented level of tolerance. The actual level of tolerance experienced by its inhabitants is debatable and relative to time, however, commensurate with the idea of tolerance is the premise that each of the aforementioned groups was able to leave a distinct mark on the era of Muslim dominance in Spain. The Arabs, with longstanding ties to supremacy in Damascus and Baghdad exercised authority as the conqueror and imbued al-Andalus with culture and learning until the fall of the caliphate in 1031. The Berbers were at times allies with the Arabs and Christians, were often enemies with everyone on the Iberian Peninsula, and in the times of the taifas, Almoravid and Almohad dynasties, were the rulers of al-Andalus. The muwalladun, subjugated by Arab perceptions of a dubious conversion to Islam, were mired in compulsory ineptitude under the pretense that their conversion to Islam would yield a more prosperous life. The Mozarebs and Jews, referred to as “people of the book,” experienced a wide spectrum of societal conditions ranging from prosperity to withering persecution. This paper will argue that the Berbers, by virtue cultural assimilation and an identity forged by militant aggressiveness and religious zealotry, were the most influential ethno-religious group in Muslim Spain from the time of the initial Muslim conquest of Spain by Berber-led Umayyad forces to the last vestige of Muslim dominance in Spain during the time of the Almohads.
Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, but there is no data to suggest that preparation and life outcomes have improved with the legislation. Rather, data demonstrates that key agencies are not adhering to the new policies, nor implementing the suggested programs. Aggravating this protracted problem is the lack of federal oversight of state management of funds designated for the Independent Living Programs. This paper recommends peace-building strategies utilizing reconciliatory and restorative justice methods to address transcendence, healing, adjusting to change and developing and maintaining healthy relationships to assist in making this population successful and self-sufficient. These recommendations are based in part on author’s personal experience and reflections as a foster youth, but also from observations of former foster youth who have become agents of change like Carol Reza of Bridge of Faith, Franco O. Vega of The Right Way Foundation, and Janet Knipe, founding Executive Director of California’s Youth Connection, who recently launched a national organization the National Foster Youth Action Network. Utilizing the voice of current and former foster youth in collaboration with implementing NCRP guidelines and practices is imperative to healing our communities and shaping the future conversation.

6:10-6:30
Michelle Rogel, Communications
*Latina Representation in Television*
Faculty Mentor: Karina Kim, Communications

The main objective of this research study is to explore how Latina women are portrayed within television shows and how they perceived their representations in the shows where Latina women are being portrayed. By conducting textual analysis, the study examined the ways Latina characters are presented in media, including their typical appearances, lifestyles, and overall impression. Specifically, the study examined that the portrayals of women are sexual, not complimentary in positive light, rather that of a women doing domestic roles. Additionally, the study applied in-depth interviews and found that the participants negatively reacted to these stereotyped representation of themselves in media. It was discovered that the Latina women never had a respected profession, rather that of a women doing domestic roles, loud, obnoxious, with heavy accent, and more. Overall, the study findings indicate that media constantly create many typical stereotypes associated with Latina women with a form of entertainment media. However, the findings of in-depth interviews demonstrate that audiences hold an active role interpreting their media representation and understanding the issues related to the representation rather than consuming media in a passive way.
Susan Varghese, English
*Benjamin Rewrites S the R*
Faculty Mentor: Debra Best, English

The author’s experience in attempting to write a child’s book turns into a record of the dilution required to reduce various texts via translation and art; this motivates the workings of a child’s mind. Comprehending complex ideas children interpret simply, requires attracting their attention while holding their concentration. Reading and copying some of these conceptual ideas helps their memory. In the end the book becomes a familiar haven in which these ideas continue to dwell; they can be referred back to when the child is older to gauge growth of thought.

Sarah Wheeler, History
*How the Golden Age in al-Andalus Flourished as a Result of Religious Diversity and La Convivencia*
Faculty Mentor: James Jeffers, History

Al-Andalus, the Muslim-controlled territory in the Iberian Peninsula during Spain’s Medieval period, experienced a significant “golden age” throughout the tenth and eleventh centuries, when it became a major epicenter for academic and cultural achievement. Starting around the beginning of Abd al-Rahman III’s reign, there was considerable political stability, which facilitated an unprecedented level of religious tolerance and cooperation, sometimes referred to as la convivencia, or the coexistence. During this period, Christians and Jews were not only tolerated under Muslim rule, but actively contributed to many corners of society. In addition, gender roles were relatively relaxed. The cultural advancements of this time, in turn, propagated the political stability that allowed them to thrive in the first place. This contrasts starkly with the prevailing belief that uniformity is necessary for cultural advancement and development.

Caitlin Bartlett, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding
*Oh Boys Club, Up Yours! How Does Sexism Affect Women in Los Angeles Punk Rock?*
Faculty Mentor: Margaret Manning, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

This research paper explores how women experience sexism in the Los Angeles punk rock music scene. Historically, women have played an important role in all types of music, however they rarely receive due credit for their contributions. This paper focuses on the subcultural punk rock music community in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is rich in punk rock history, being home to famous punk bands like Black Flag, Descendents, and Circle Jerks, however few women have been openly recognized for their contributions. In present day Los Angeles, the punk scene is very active, and prides itself on being generally gender-inclusive. This research examines the
treatment of female musicians and promoters at shows and events, how female members of the community view their experience as women in punk, and how female musicians and the implications of using terms such as “female-fronted” and “girl band.” Four in-depth interviews with active female musicians in Los Angeles, five questionnaires from active female musicians in Los Angeles, and a survey with 160 respondents provide insight on how sexism affects women in today’s punk rock community in Los Angeles.

7:40-8:00

**Brenda Bran, English**

*The Broken [Family] House: Crumbling Ideology within Edgar Allan Poe’s The Fall of the House of Usher*

Faculty Mentor: Jon Hauss, English

The Industrial Revolution brought about a plethora of socioeconomic changes that forced the world to modernize from an agrarian based market system to one reliant on manufacturing. As a product of the quaint antebellum society in the South, Edgar Allan Poe looked upon the rapidly changing world with a great deal of anxiety and fear. In fact, his short story, The Fall of the House of Usher reflects some of these anxieties as the titular family, who represent the increasingly irrelevant aristocratic sector in the South, faces extinction in light of the modernizing ideology around them. Throughout the narrative, the speaker reiterates the Ushers’ inability to change and evolve, thus suggesting their resistance to Althusser’s idea of interpellation. Althusser argues that individuals become part of, or interpellated, into society once they have accepted their roles within the established ideology. The Usher family’s resistance to interpellation reflects a fear of extinction and an apprehension about progress, particularly as they refuse to integrate themselves into the world outside the Usher family home and immediately expire upon their interaction with an individual foreign to the ideology within the Usher home.

8:00-8:20

**Evelyn Hildebrand, Arts and Humanities**

*The Consequences of Racial Matriarchal Stereotypes in Film Media*

Faculty Mentor: Carolina San Juan, Arts and Humanities

The media represents white women as the height of civility. They are perceived to wear the symbolic corset of what is proper and sophisticated, and their lies their power. This creates major issues for all women, especially women of color. This also creates issues for how families are perceived in the media and society. For women, this specifically creates two issues: for white women, there is nowhere to go but down. For women of color, it sends the message that they are not good enough or “womanly” enough. For families, this perception in the media perpetuates the notion of child abuse for families of color, while at the same time diminishing the existence of it in white families. Why does the mass media equate white femininity with proper civilized
behavior, and subsequently all others with negative behaviors, and how does this consequently impact their respective families? My research uses two popular movies, *The Princess Diaries* and *Madea’s Family Reunion*, to provide evidence of the media’s categorizing families in terms of race and the consequences this signifies for the real world. Using a media analysis of the two main matriarchal characters and their underlings, comparing scenes of specific interactions between the characters including portrayals, visual analysis, how they communicate, and the use of common stereotypes, these destructive ideals can be confronted. This will showcase the significance of the narrow channel of information, its negative impact on women and families. The consequences of being placed higher up on the “racial ladder” will prove to be important steps in understanding messages the public receives. These findings provide evidence of racial and gender stereotyping and conformist standards of women and can be used to support the reality of abuse within families.

8:20-8:40

**Cory James, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding**

*Necessary Alternative Dispute Resolution and the 2014 West Coast Ports Contract Dispute: Why Didn’t They Use Mediation?*

Faculty Mentor: Margaret Manning, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

The highly contested port dispute in 2014 between Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) in the twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach highlighted a long and interesting history of contention. The more recent introduction of port-related technologies has upped the ante in the dispute. The Federal Mediation and Conciliatory Service (FMCS) helped facilitate the earlier contentious 2002 contract between the ILWU and the PMA, yet the 2014 negotiations vetoed this particular dynamic. However, for the ILWU, coming to the table is not in their best interests and for the PMA, opting for mediation is a negative, because it implies an inability to get the union to come to the table, de-legitimizing its function for the businesses it represents. This study posed the question of why Alternative Dispute Resolution, like mediation or arbitration processes, was underutilized in 2014, and if the current negotiation tactics would continue to persist. My research was done to predict the use of mediation for the next contract dispute by using number of days of uncertainty as a variable. My hypothesis did not meet my expectations, and understanding why raises even more questions for future research to answer. However, based on this study, it predicted that it would be best for the parties to meet in between “not anchoring at the table” and the “reinstatement of the Taft-Hartley Act” in contract years in future disputes between the ILWU and the PMA.
My presentation is going to discuss the mid to late 16th century Central Mexico colonial period from an indigenous perspective with an emphasis on Native self-government. The account of the Spanish colonial system often tell how the Spanish maintained their control over the area and imposed their own Iberian system onto the colonies. However, the Spanish control is only one part of the post-conquest world. Native elites were able to hold onto power in parts of Central Mexico after the conquest, as they filled a role of leading at the local level. The Indigenous control of local politics helped them to maintain some of the culture that was present before and also adapt to the new Spanish order. These native elites also had to maintain a balance of meeting the Spanish demands and also taking care of their native populations while also trying to advance their own interests at the same time. Indigenous self-government helps us to understand how there was both change and continuity in the post-conquest world, in which indigenous peoples had to adapt to this new world order. This research was conducted using primary sources written in both Nahuatl and Spanish.
Humanities and Letters IV

9:00-9:20

Brittany Hackett, History

Afro-Argentines: The Historic Memory of Blacks In Argentina Through Presence Of Afro-Porteños In Buenos Aires

Faculty Mentor: Namala Doris, History

Argentina possesses a population that is declared 97% European, making it the whitest nation in South America in accordance to racial makeup. Paradoxically, Argentina took part in the African Slave Trade, alongside Brazil, all the way through to the mid-19th century. In several provinces, one third of the population was reported to be of African descent. In Buenos Aires alone, three fourths of its market participated in slavery. The tango, a cultural symbol of the country, has roots in African creation. Much of Argentine history has denied African influence and presence within the country. Some Argentines have no knowledge that their country carried a history in slavery. Analyzing the connection with the absence of Afro-Argentine culture by exploring the significant influence on the presence of Afro-Argentines and people of African descent during Buenos Aires’s early formation and colonial era, opens new discourse in today’s Argentina about their forgotten African heritage. Exploring Buenos Aires avails the most research by way of primary sources such as testimonies, travelogues, government files, photographs, and paintings. In addition, secondary sources, such as passages from articles and books, all help to showcase the presence of people of African descent and their place within Argentine society. Questions I will address include: When exactly did Africans arrive in Argentina; from where and why? What communities were created from these African populations? What were the reasons for their ultimate decline into oblivion? The Afro-Argentine has become sort of an anomaly. The overwhelming embrace of European heritage undermines both African and indigenous histories. People do not “disappear,” something happens to them. In this case, it happened to the Afro-Argentines. In sum, this topic further explores new ways of analyzing what multiculturalism and post-racial societies really mean for ethnic minority populations living in the peripheries.

9:20-9:40

Maria Rasmussen, English

The Portraiture of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein

Faculty Mentors: Jane Lee and Debra Best, English

Three examples of portraiture appear in Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein: Caroline Franklin’s full-size portrait; a framed miniature of William Franklin; and a necklace miniature of Caroline. During Shelley’s lifetime, portraits reflected the dominant cultural values of England. However, the patrons who commissioned works of portraiture could use the artwork to highlight the values and codes of behavior most important to them, effectively personalizing the images.
Shelley’s text uses artwork to provide the reader with insight into the relationships of the Frankenstein household. In addition to evaluating the portraiture of the text, I propose a relationship between Caroline’s portrait over the Frankenstein mantlepiece and the portrait of Mary Wollstonecraft that hung above the fireplace in Mary Shelley’s childhood home. Portraits in *Frankenstein* serve as tangible reinforcers of familial roles within the Frankenstein household and are symptomatic of Alphonse Frankenstein’s control over the family. The family power dynamics influence Victor psychologically and contribute to his obsession with creation.

9:40-10:00

**Robert Stevenson, Art History**  
*The Promise of Forever: Religious Missionary Expansion and Syncretism in Images of the Afterlife and the Beyond*  
Faculty Mentor: Kirstin Ellsworth, Art History

“The Promise of Forever: Religious Missionary Expansion and Syncretism in Images of the Afterlife and the Beyond” focuses on the importance of syncretism in religious iconography of the afterlife and the beyond in the activity of missionary religions in educating new populations about cosmic order and moral behavior, through depictions of the ultimate individual goal of transcendence. The religions that developed the first universal eschatological and soteriological messages needed to develop semiotic systems for indicating order in the afterlife and the beyond that new populations could comprehend. In seven chapters, the study surveys the mutual development of world religions in syncretizing the core beliefs about the afterlife and beyond of each religion with the necessary local traditions and expectations required for that population to understand and internalize its message. Chapter Five, “Images of the Afterlife in Islam: Syncretism and Imperial Expansion of the Garden and the Fire,” analyzes instances where particular communities of Muslims found it appropriate to visually depict aspects of the afterlife, despite the aniconic traditions of Islam, as imperial statement, educational tool, or both. The two periods explored are periods in which Islam spread quickly to communities that already held strong cosmological beliefs with existing artistic traditions: the initial spread of Islam during the Umayyad Caliphate and the expansion of Islam through Central and South Asia during the Ilkhanid, Timurid, and Mughal dynasties. Analysis of the Umayyad Caliphate works demonstrates a willingness to syncretize visual elements from Christian Byzantine mosaics with Islamic imagery of the Garden within an imperial statement. Analysis of the art of the Ilkhanid, Timurid, and Mughal dynasties demonstrates a willingness to create direct visual representation of both the Fire and the Garden to educate new ruling elites, and imagery of the Garden, through the charbagh, to make public imperial and educational statements.
Sarah Stevenson, Art History

Remixing Ethnic Identity: Hybridity and Genre Bending in the Work of Mixed Heritage Artists
Faculty Mentor: Kirstin Ellsworth, Art History

Though we use the convention of a single word to refer to complex, sweeping concepts such as "Art," "Identity," and "Race," it has become increasingly clear that the contemporary world is not adequately described in static, singular terms. Boundaries, both artistic and geographic, are revealed to be porous, and identities are shifty, resisting categorization. Theories of identity in academic discourse have moved toward a recognition of the full complexity of the individual and the importance of dynamic factors such as migration and historical context. Identity as a fixed idea has become a dated notion, and yet the paradigm of discrete, mutually exclusive identities continues to inform arts and culture in 21st-century America, even as our society slowly moves towards a more nuanced view of identity. Artists in this environment, particularly artists who have crossed cultures and/or have multiple ethnic or racial heritages, find creative inspiration in the exploration and interrogation of categories of identity that no longer quite seem to apply. Hybridity, a term reclaimed by postcolonial theory, is employed in this context to describe artists who exist across multiple spheres of culture, race, and national origin, and "hybrid" is a fitting description of their artwork as well. The written portion of this project traces the theory and practice of identity in the postmodern era, with a specific focus on the Asian American mixed-race experience, and explores how artists address identity as a dynamic creative process. The creative project consists of a series of mixed media works exploring identity from the artist's own standpoint, each engaging with themes, genres, and ideas identified by the scholarly study as relevant to mixed-race identity, such as "language," "phenotype," and "geography." Collectively, they will form a self-portrait that reflects my identity as an American of mixed ethnicity, and embodies hybridity in content and form.

10:30-10:50
Kenneth Hill, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

Colombia: Is Peace Finally within Its Grasp?
Faculty Mentor: Margaret Manning, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

After 50 years of internal warfare, the Colombian government and the rebels, known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia or FARC, are in the final stages of negotiating a peace agreement to be ratified in March 2016. There are many complicated details to iron out, including demobilizing and disarming the rebels, deciding where they will be located and whether they will be pardoned, and compensating citizens who were victims. Another hurdle to overcome will be the public’s low regard for FARC. There are lessons that can be learned from other states that have experienced internal strife such as Northern Ireland after the Good Friday Agreement and South Africa in the post-Apartheid era that formed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), a form of Restorative Justice. An issue that has the potential to be a deal-
breaker not been addressed in the negotiations, namely the appropriation of peasants’ land. La Violencia (the violence) started as a civil war between peasants and laborers in rural Columbia in 1948 when the Accelerated Economic Development (AED) took business away from small farm owners who sold products locally in favor of larger holdings which exported goods worldwide. This put smaller farms out of business, which meant families were kicked off and eventually their land was taken. In order to make the peace accord work, immunity would be granted to both sides if the crimes were politically motivated and they shared their stories with the victims, just as in the TRC, but one difference that would require leaders from the government and FARC to talk about their war crimes on live television. Only by doing this can the Columbian community begin to heal, which is much needed after decades of civil war.

10:50-11:10

Melvianne Andersen, English
Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus; ...or Slave Narrative
Faculty Mentors: Debra Best and Jane Lee, English

While the “othering” of the monster has been accepted as an allegory for the Asian or Indian issues that were mounting in England, this study analyzes the presentation of Frankenstein’s creature as an allegory of the slave in nineteenth-century England. The Abolition of the Slave Trade Act of 1807 had recently passed prior to Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein, and slavery was a highly contested institution in England. Through historical and cultural evidence I am able to establish the belief system towards racism and slavery during the early nineteenth-century, as well as Mary Shelley’s exposure to it. Finally, a close reading of Frankenstein will determine where within the spectrum of thought Mary Shelley places her creature. If we view Victor Frankenstein as the master and his creature as the slave, then there are several items that line up with the way the African slave was treated. The creature has a different size, color and features from the average Englishman. Though the creature has the same features: eyes, nose, mouth, etc., the compilation of these features somehow are abhorrent. The creature is abhorred by all whom he meets and rejected by his creator/master. The monster is uneducated and his creator/master neglects the primary responsibility of the creator/master role: nurturing and educating. The creature becomes a danger to his creator/master and to society as a whole when he gains knowledge of the duplicity of the justice system. And finally, the creature and his creator/master are both destroyed in the end because of their inability to effectively communicate and sympathize with one another.
At the turn of the 16th century, the old world and the new world were already aware of each other’s existence due to several colonies the royal crown of Spain had commandeered in the Caribbean. Although the Caribbean Islands generated a vast amount of revenue for the crown of Spain through the extraction of sugar cane from slave-worked plantations, it still wasn’t enough to suffice the avarice of Spain. Similar to several other colonizers, the Spanish crown was in search of gold for the simple fact it was worth its weight around the world. Around the same time this was going on the prominent and powerful Mexica altepetl was dominant throughout the majority of what is now present-day Mexico. The Mexica, also known as the Aztecs, were in power for several decades up until the Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes, alongside his native allies, navigated his way into the capital city of Tenochtitlan and overthrew an entire empire. The purpose of this paper is to show that native allies did not just translate language in the conquest of Mexico, but also participated in battles alongside the Spanish. Through several primary sources such as Bernardino de Sahagun’s “Florentine Codex” and the “Lienzo de Tlaxcala,” the role native allies had in the conquest of New Spain has a more significant impact on the research. Prior to the analysis of indigenous primary sources, historians relied on Spanish sources to portray a history of the indigenous people of Mexico and their defeat in Tenochtitlan. Now, through the help of several indigenous primary sources, a new concept of the Spanish conquest can be discussed through the voices of the people conquered.

During the centuries of Muslim rule in medieval Spain most Christians converted to Islam. The vast majority of citizens living in al-Andalus became Muslim within a century of their invasion. But unlike in other Muslim conquered lands, a notable amount of Christians did not convert. My research seeks to demonstrate why the Mozarab Christians of al-Andalus did not convert to Islam during the centuries of Muslim rule and dominance of the Iberian Peninsula. Despite the inconveniences and persecutions that befell those who did not seek conversion, there continued existing a significant number of non-Muslims living in al-Andalus. Most approaches to the history of the Mozarabs have focused on narratives of assimilation, examining Mozarab language, legal status, liturgical rites and religious practices, as a base for measuring vitality of their identity. With regards to the conversion, or non-conversion among the Christians in medieval Spain, there has not been sufficient research and analysis. Little devotion has been given to researching why Mozarabs did not convert. I will use the traditional approaches by
scholars, examining Mozarab identity under Islam, to find the likely reasons Mozarabs had for persevering in Christianity. The main reasons why Mozarabs did not convert to Islam included often negative treatment of non-Arab Muslims, the influence from Muslim leaders on Christian bishops, the teachings of Christian leaders and polemic writings from other Christians, how Islam and Mozarabs viewed each other, and the way they identified themselves within the multi-cultural peninsula.
The ability of tumor cells to move beyond their site of origin and infiltrate surrounding tissues is a critical aspect of disease progression. For cancers with variable survival rates due to highly infiltrative cells, such as glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), the development of an ex-vivo diagnostic tool capable of discriminating aggressive phenotypes could potentially aid clinicians in better predicting treatment outcomes for each patient. Substrate stiffness and topographical cues are key factors that influence cell movement. Variable stiffness, polyacrylamide-based hydrogel platforms with fiber-like surface patterns known to support guided cell migration were fabricated in order to elucidate the complex mechanical relationships governing tumor cell motility and further the development of a potentially useful prognostic tool for personalized medicine. This is the first known successful micro-molding of polyacrylamide against polydimethylsiloxane and may improve the cost-effectiveness of producing multiple gel platforms.

The CLAS (CLAS12) detector at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, JLab for short, is being modified due to the upgrades performed to the electron accelerator. To accommodate these changes, we must ensure that the angular and energy resolution of the detector meet the standards needed for the planned measurements of various particles. The focus of the new CLAS detector has been to the study the reconstruction of various particles. One interest of the CSUDH Hadronic Structure Lab is the photoproduction of the $\Omega^-$ hyperon. The process, $\gamma p \rightarrow K^+K^0\Omega^-$, is used and requires that we reconstruct the $K^0$, which decays into $\pi^+\pi^-$. To study this reconstruction in the detector, we have used a program called GEMC which we use to run simulations; it is based on the GEANT4 framework developed by JLab. GEANT4 is used to define the detector and simulate the response of particles traveling in the subsystem of the detector. These simulations can give us responses of the CLAS12 detector through the decay particles of the neutral kaon, responses that will be used to measure the ability of the detector to reconstruct kaons and estimate its angular and energy resolution. The initial study looked at the decay particles to assure us that our analysis was correct. Proceeding studies looked at the
reconstruction of the neutral kaon from ideal conditions. These were used to evaluate the best possible resolution for the detector, and also to guide us as to what we can expect from the experiment we are conducting. This presentation will be about the current state of our work, and will discuss how the results are going to be integrated in standard CLAS12 analysis techniques.

10:00-10:20
Robert Adams and Antonio Lopez, Chemistry

*DFT Calculations Relating Hydricities, pKa, and Redox Potentials in Coordination and Organometallic Iridium(III) Complexes*

Faculty Mentor: Kenneth Rodriguez, Chemistry

Hydricity is the potential for a metal complex to donate a hydride, which has been shown to be important in determining the activity and selectivity of several catalysts such as the Aldehyde Water Shift reaction. Unlike other thermodynamic processes, such as redox potentials and pKa, hydricity cannot be directly measured in water due to the instability of the hydride in aqueous media. It is also difficult to accurately calculate it via computational chemistry methods with water as a solvent. The solvent most widely used to model hydricity has been acetonitrile, because water causes complications arising from specific and non-specific solute-solvent interactions. However, hydricity, redox potentials, and the pKa of a complex are related by Hess’ Law. To develop accurate methods to calculate hydricity in water, electrochemical potentials of several iridium (III) complexes were analyzed. The potentials for coordination complexes were calculated with a root mean square deviation (RMSD) of 0.5 V versus experiment. Organometallic Ir(III) complexes were calculated with higher confidence, RMSD ~ 0.1 V.

10:30-10:50
Juan Cardenas, Physics

*Evidence for Λ Elastic Scattering in the CLAS Detector*

Faculty Mentor: John Price, Physics

The proton-proton interaction has been studied extensively for decades through the elastic scattering process pp→pp. A more complete understanding of the proton's structure can be obtained by measuring its interaction with the Λ particle, a particle related to the proton where one of its up quarks is replaced by the heavier strange quark. The main difficulty in this study is the production of a suitable beam of Λ particles. The CLAS detector at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility is able to produce large amounts of Λ particles via the process γp→K+Λ. The Λ particles produced from this process can then interact with a second proton in our target. Although CLAS was not designed to look for events of this type, the large acceptance of the CLAS detector, combined with a long liquid hydrogen target, make this an exciting possibility. Recent results at the CSUDH Hadronic Structure Laboratory from a data-mining project with CLAS data taken in 2008 have shown that a large quantity of Λp→Λp events can be observed. This process can be optimized to increase the Λ flux, allowing a study of several
processes other than simple elastic scattering. This talk will present the motivation, initial results, and future plans for this work.

10:50-11:10

**Hector Carranza, Physics**  
*Detecting Solar Relic Axions with ADMX*  
Faculty Mentor: John Price, Physics

Axions are hypothetical particles theorized to be a main component of dark matter seen in many astrophysical measurements. The Axion Dark Matter Experiment (ADMX), at the University of Washington (UW), is searching for dark matter axions through axion conversion into microwave photons inside of a Radio Frequency (RF) cavity. It is theorized that axions produced by photon conversion in the sun remain gravitationally bound in the solar system and build up over time. Though there are other experiments that are searching for solar produced axions such as the CERN Axion Telescope (CAST), we were not able to use their methodologies being that they are looking at relativistic axions and the ADMX experiment is specifically looking at non-relativistic axions. We estimate the energy density of solar produced, gravitationally bound axions and axion-like particles at Earth with two simple models. One is an optimistic model where the energy loss of the sun from axion-like particles is as large as allowed by current solar observations, and the other is a Quantum Chromo Dynamics (QCD) axion inspired model. This presentation will describe our calculations and findings of non-relativistic axions at Earth.
Poster Session I  Ballroom A

Yashica Warren, Nursing
Understanding LVAD Patients’ and Caregivers’ Psychosocial and Self-Care Concerns
Faculty Mentor: Terri Ares, Nursing

The ventricular assist device (VAD) is a mechanical pump used for short term treatment while waiting on a heart transplant, or long-term treatment for patients that are not eligible for a heart transplant. Current research on the psychological effects of LVAD patients and caregiver strain has yielded limited results. This investigation sought to answer the research question: What are the self-care and psychosocial concerns of LVAD patients and their caregivers post-hospitalization? The methodology used was an integrative review. Bibliographic databases including CINAHL, OVID, Proquest, Pubmed, Google Scholar, and PsychINFO were systematically reviewed for studies published between 2013-2015. Of the 40 studies reviewed, 17 met the inclusion criteria of: psychosocial and self-care needs of LVAD patients and caregivers post hospitalization, pre and post-implantation data collection in order to identify a progression or decline, and patients with newly implanted LVADs. The findings from the integrative review identified four themes: development of new instruments, psychosocial concerns of patients, patient self-care, and caregiver experiences. Post implantation LVAD patients experienced depression and anxiety related to complications, cardiac rehabilitation, medications, and device training. When compared with patients, caregivers reported higher rates of psychological distress after hospitalization. Patients and caregivers viewed the device as a second chance, resumed previous activities they once enjoyed, and continued to fear a system failure during sexual or physical activity. Patients and their caregivers learned to incorporate the device into their daily routine and adjusted in order safely live with the LVAD; however, both experienced a decrease in their quality of life. Valid and reliable scales on self-efficacy and adherence for LVAD patients were created and modified for caregiver evaluation. The findings from the integrative review addressed the objective of identifying self-care and psychosocial concerns of LVAD patients and their caregivers after LVAD implantation.

Nichole Freiboth, Sunehra Ali, and Brittany Stoodley, Psychology
Qualitative Study of Generosity and Gratitude Experiences in Young Children
Faculty Mentor: Giacomo Bono, Psychology

There is increasing interest in positive educational practices in the classroom, and research in this area is growing (see Furlong, Gilman & Huebner, 2014). Furthermore, social emotional learning programs designed to support students’ social development have been found to be effective in improving social and emotional skills, attitudes, behavior, and academic performance (Durlak, Weissberg, Dymnicki, Taylor & Schellinger, 2011). Providing opportunities for students to identify and regulate emotions and to practice kindness are central to such programs. This
qualitative study examines multiple behaviors that young children (ages 5-10) themselves report as sources of gratitude or examples of generosity in their daily lives. Teachers at a public elementary school in Orange County, California, were asked to instruct students in their classrooms to briefly describe 3 events of helpful or kind behaviors that students their age commonly do. Teachers did not specify whether students should provide examples of behaviors that are appreciated or done out of generosity, and if needed they helped younger children to write out their responses. Written descriptions of benevolent behaviors were obtained from 262 elementary students, 116 boys and 146 girls. Qualitative analysis has been conducted on these data, coded by two raters who were found to have good interrater reliability (Kappas > .70). Analysis was conducted to examine patterns by age, gender, and to consider relationships between gratitude and generosity in the data. Findings revealed themes most common to each age group, gender differences, and increasing integration of generosity and gratitude by age. Results are interpreted in terms of theories of moral and prosocial development, and emphases are given to identifying strategies for promoting gratitude in children ages 5-10 and better understanding of the relationship between gratitude and generosity in young children.

Richard Sato, Biology

*Understanding Symbiodinium Physiology under Thermal Stress*

Faculty Mentor: Jacqueline Padilla-Gamino, Biology

Corals are important keystone species within the reef that are affected by numerous environmental stressors such as temperature. Temperature not only affects corals, but it can also affect organisms living in symbiosis with the corals. *Symbiodinium sp.* (zooxanthellae) is a type of algae that lives within the coral that contributes significantly to the acquisition of nutrients. Under environmental stress *Symbiodinium sp.* can be expelled from the coral causing the tissue to look pale (bleaching) and in some cases to die. This research studies how reproduction of *Symbiodinium* can be affected by thermal stress. We will use qPCR to observe the expression of *Symbiodinium* genes related to reproduction. This study will help us to understand how corals will adapt to climate change and how diversity will be maintained in future generations. The benefit of understanding coral and symbiont physiology has important implications for ocean fisheries and maintaining ecological diversity in tropical seas.

Christopher Brito, Brandon Gay, and Ian Weir, Anthropology

*PXRF Analysis of Obsidian Debitage from an Archaeological Site in Northern Baja California*

Faculty Mentor: Jerry Moore, Anthropology

This research is focused on analyzing the chemical composition of obsidian projectile points, (principally, arrow heads) found at various archaeological sites in northern Baja California. These projectile points are a part of an artifact collection from Baja California made by archaeologist Frederic Hicks in the 1950s, which is currently on loan from UCLA. (This research is a continuation of the paper, “PXRF Analysis of Obsidian Debitage from an Archaeological
Site in Northern Baja California” by C. Brito, B. Gay, and I. Weir presented at the Southern California Conference on Undergraduate Research on November 21, 2015). The chemical composition of these projectile points was determined by using a portable x-ray fluorescence (pXRF) device, more specifically a Bruker Tracer III-SD. The chemical compositions of the projectile points are compared to the chemical compositions of known obsidian sources in Baja California and surrounding areas. Using the pXRF, artifacts and obsidian sources were chemically characterized based on the elements rubidium, strontium, yttrium, zirconium, and niobium. The main objective of this research is to determine whether hunting and gathering groups used single or multiple obsidian sources to manufacture their projectile points. The first outcome can be explained by the hunter and gatherer groups directly obtaining the obsidian during their annual subsistence cycle, while the second outcome can indicate that the obsidian was obtained through trade. This project investigates alternative patterns of prehistoric procurement.

**Wesley Seymour and Michael Bates, Psychology**

*Preferred Methods of Contact Based on Generation*

Faculty Mentor: John Dulay, Psychology

518 people participated in a survey asking them to rate how they would feel being told “Happy Birthday” by a close friend in different methods of contact. The methods of contact ranged from more traditional forms of such as face to face, a phone call, or a birthday card, to more contemporary methods like text, email, and Facebook. The participants were then divided into four generational groups: Baby Boomer, GenX, netGen, and iGen. The researchers predicted that older generations would prefer more traditional methods, while younger generations would prefer social media methods. Data showed all generations scored high on positive feelings regardless of method of contact; however, in contrast to the researchers’ prediction, all generations also preferred more personal and traditional methods of contact with face to face scoring almost identically across the board.

**Alexandria Tucker, Biology**

*Role of Brown Adipocytes in Human Breast Tumor Development*

Faculty Mentor: Shela Pervin, Endocrinology, UCLA

Breast cancer remains the second highest cause of cancer deaths for women, suggesting urgent need of novel treatment strategies for long term benefits to patients. It is an ancient disease that, still to this day, goes untreated because of its complexity. As a result, about 40,290 of patients who have been reported will die from breast cancer by the end of the year 2015, according to the results from National Institute of Health’s SEER statistics fact sheet. Tumor microenvironments, in general and particularly in the adipose rich milieu, in which breast tumors develop, is a focus of intense investigation. Breast tumor cells interact to transform surrounding mature cancer associated adipocytes (CAA) to over-express inflammatory cytokines, proteases and collagens
that remodel the extracellular matrix to promote tumor progression. Using species specific primers, we have found that beige (CD137 and Tbx1) and classical brown (UCP1 and Myf5) adipose markers contributed from host and breast tumor cells, respectively, were expressed at various stages of xenograft development. This increase was independent of the site of implantation of tumor cells. Progenitors of brown adipocytes that express Myf5 were also detected in breast cancer cell lines and their xenografts. Depleting the UCP1 and Myf5 populations by fluorescence activated cell sorting (FACS) significantly reduced tumor growth, suggesting that these cell types might influence breast tumor development. I have been characterizing Myf5 expressing progenitor populations in human breast cancer cell lines. Using quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) and Western blot analysis, we found Myf5 expression was increased in mammospheres, which are known to enrich for mammary cancer stem cells. Double immunofluorescence staining indicates co-expression of Myf5 with Oct ¾, which is an embryonic stem cell marker, as well as CD44, a mammary cancer stem cell marker.

Vicky Padilla, Nursing

Pediatric Sleep Deprivation: An Integrative Review
Faculty Mentor: Terri Ares, Nursing

Sleep deprivation occurs in all hospitalized patients, including children and their parents. According to Herbert et al. (2014), there is a high incidence of inpatient hospitalized children that have disturbed sleep when compared to other children of the same age. Hospitalized children lose 20%-25% of sleep in general pediatric units and up to 54% of sleep in intensive care units (Hinds et al., 2007). For parents, there is an attempt to sleep when their child is hospitalized in an environment that is focused on patient care and not on parent sleep (Stremler, Dhukai, Wong, & Parshuram, 2011). While illness is known to cause sleep disturbance, pediatric hospitalizations should be examined for other issues contributing to sleep deprivation. Healthcare providers should be aware of the factors disrupting sleep. The purpose of this integrative review was to identify factors contributing to sleep deprivation in hospitalized children and their parents. The initial search resulted in 2,421 articles using CINAHL Complete, PsycINFO, and PubMed from 1/1/2010 to 10/1/2015. The John Hopkins Nursing Evidence-Based Practice (JHNEBP) model was used to analyze the strength and quality of research; all were descriptive, observational, and qualitative designs of overall good quality. The major themes identified were environmental, nursing related, and patient related factors. While some interruptions were unavoidable, there were many modifiable or preventable disruptions to sleep. Further research is necessary to examine for additional factors and identify effective interventions. Thus far, there have not been any intervention studies for sleep deprivation in children. Now that the problem and many factors have been identified, researching interventions to decrease sleep deprivation in the hospitalized pediatric population would be beneficial.
BreAna Brooks, Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Hugo Mora, Biology

Alkylation of Amino Acids by Anticancer Drug Chlorambucil

Faculty Mentor: Tieli Wang, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Chlorambucil (CB) is an alkylating agent used for clinical treatment of a variety of cancers such as breast cancer and ovarian cancer. It has been reported that the therapeutic benefit of CB involves reactions with crosslinking DNA. This DNA alkylation in turn inhibits the correct utilization by DNA base pairing, prevents cells from dividing and triggers the tumor cell death. However, the interaction of CB with amino acid residues in proteins is not well documented. Like phosphorylation, ubiquitylation and acetylation of proteins which have been extensively studied, alkylation of amino acid residues in proteins is an important posttranslational modification. It plays essential roles in regulating structure and function of a protein. In the present study, we examined the alkylation reaction of amino acids by CB using proteomic technology. Our results showed that the CB alkylates amino acids at physiological pH. This study provided a direct evidence of alkylation of amino acids by CB at molecular level. It is likely that CB exerts its anticancer activity not only through its interaction with DNA but also its interaction with amino acid residues in the proteins. Alkylation of amino acid residues in proteins will increase functional diversity of the proteome and have effects on all aspects of cellular survival pathways. Identification and understanding of this type of modification is critical in the study of cancer treatment and prevention.

Hugo Mora and Anthony Diaz, Biology

Biosynthesis of Chlorambucil-RNA Complex for Targeted Cancer Therapy

Faculty Mentor: Tieli Wang, Chemistry and Biochemistry

Alkylating agents such as chlorambucil have been used to treat a variety of cancers such as breast cancer and ovarian cancer. This type of drug crosslinks DNA and thereby prevents cells from dividing. However, a drawback of these drugs is their lack of selectivity to target specific cancer genes. Here we use a novel approach to tag an alkylating agent, chlorambucil as an example, to a siRNA oligo nucleotide generated from human Peroxiredoxin (Prx) II gene. In previous work, we have shown that PrxII- small interfering RNA (siRNA) can be used to turn off PrxII expression, a gene overexpressed in radio/drug resistant cancer cells. The goal of this project is to tag the RNA with anticancer drug chlorambucil in order to test the hypothesis that an alkylating agent-siRNA complex can synergize the potency to kill specific cancer cells due to the targeting property of siRNA and the cross-linking ability of alkylating agent. We reacted chlorambucil with a single RNA nucleotide, cytidine. A coupling reagent DCC (\(\text{N,N'}-\text{Dicyclohexylcarbodiimide}\)) was used to optimize the reaction condition. Our result showed that the chlorambucil-cytidine complex is the major reaction product using proteomic technology. The side reactions of hydrolysis of chlorambucil and the reaction of chlorambucil with other heteroactoms of the cytidine, especially N3 of cytidine reaction with chlorambucil, were minimized.
Keith Ball and Cynthia Parks, Mathematics

*Wronskians and Linear Dependence*

Faculty Mentor: Wai Yan Pong, Mathematics

It is a classical fact that a family of \((n-1)\)-differentiable functions \(f_1, \ldots, f_n\) are linearly dependent over the constants has zero Wronskian. The converse of this statement is not true in general. However, in 2014 Bostan and Dumas proved that the vanishing of generalized Wronskians for a finite family of formal power series over a characteristic zero field implies their linear dependence over the base field. In this project, we generalize Bostan and Dumas' result to formal power series ring in countably many variables. We take advantage of the fact that this ring is isomorphic to the ring of \(K\)-valued arithmetic functions which naturally comes with the log-Wronskian if \(K\) contains \(\log(n)\) for each \(n \geq 1\). We then remove this assumption on \(K\) by some basic facts in field theory and linear algebra.

Christina Arzate, Health Science

*“I Love Lucy?” – An Examination of Emotional and Financial Abuse Depicted in the Popular Sitcom*

Faculty Mentor: Carolina San Juan, Asian Pacific Studies and Women’s Studies

It is likely that most people are familiar with the popular 50’s sitcom “I Love Lucy”, with its famous quotes and the comical antics of a certain legendary red head. What is there not to love? However, viewing the television show with a feminist lens, these episodes actually portray instances of financial and emotional abuse. Research indicates that non-physical forms of partner abuse are just as harmful to victims as physical violence. Through the analysis of several popular episodes – such as the “Job Switching” episode, in which Lucy and Ethel went to work at a chocolate factory, to the “Ricky Loses His Temper” episode, in which a bet is made to see if Lucy can stop buying hats and if Ricky can control his temper -- this study discusses the danger of normalizing partner abuse.

Claudia Perez, Marissa Waltz, and Kaylan Green, Psychology

*Understanding What’s Wrong with My Head*

Faculty Mentor: John Dulay, Psychology

The main goal of this research project is to find if there is a difference between the level of knowledge that student athletes and students have about the symptoms and seriousness of concussions. Due to the lack of public knowledge of possible long term effects, we believe that student athletes and students know little to nothing about the symptoms of concussions. This observational research was survey based, that included twenty-four questions on the general knowledge of concussions and the symptoms. This survey was completely anonymous. A grading scale was created that ranged from 1 to 25. Anything higher than 12.5 would be
considered failing. Both student athletes and students failed the grading scale with a mean of 15.61. We learned that there is no difference between student athletes and students’ knowledge of concussions.

Angel Pinedo, Special Major
*Urban Wildlife Tracking at California State Dominguez Hills and Nature Preserves in Urban Cities*
Faculty Mentor: John Thomlinson, Biology

Wildlife tracks provide an affordable and convenient method of studying local fauna that are elusive and active during nocturnal hours. We utilized scent stations, consisting of three 1-m plot outlined or filled with gypsum baited with an animal lure, we identified and measured mammal tracks of raccoon, coyote, brush rabbit and domestic cat. Scent stations were placed in restored natural areas throughout California State University, Dominguez Hills. In addition, scent stations were also placed within the Dominguez Hills Nature Preserve and the nearby Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve. In particular, Coyote (*Canis latrans*) tracks were identified and plotted on a map with estimated home ranges. We hypothesized generalist species would be identified from scent stations and coyote home ranges would utilize the nature preserves and restored areas of the University campus. Our results thus far suggest meso-predators such as raccoons, domestic cats, and coyotes and smaller mammals, such as brush rabbit, thrive as expected in nature reserves and in urbanized settings such as our University. Therefore, despite urbanization, natural areas and natures preserves may help support mesopredator populations.

Maribel Vera, Art
*The Expansion of Japanese Pop Culture*
Faculty Mentor: Jung-Sun Park, Asian Pacific Studies

Japanese comics (manga) and animation (anime) have long been popular among American youths including adolescents and college students. This proposed research will examine why American youths are interested in manga and anime and the implications of this interest. Of course, how and why people become interested in anime or manga may vary from person to person. Also, the genres they prefer may differ. But it seems that anime and manga fans become connected, with each other through their shared interests. In many cases, American youths have an interest in being able to connect with other individuals. But it can often be difficult in modern society. In this context, maybe anime and manga can provide them with a way to connect with others and to belong to a community. The diverse genres that Japanese animation and comics offer are another attracting point. From playing RPG video games, to watching different anime shows or reading manga, to even attending anime conventions to show their fandom, there are a variety of options and activities that individuals can have. A growing number of people enjoy anime and manga in multiple ways and indicate a strong desire to understand and relate to certain anime and manga characters. Their American comics and animation counterparts could take a
similar role, but anime and manga fans want to experience something else that Japanese culture provides. Thus, a unique cultural experience is another alluring point. Focusing on the above-mentioned points, this proposed research will discuss why American youths are drawn to Japanese comics and animation. Data will be collected through interviews and online community observation.

Matthew Woods, Sociology
Exploring Attrition Rates of Graduate Students at Large Public Universities
Faculty Mentor: Katy Pinto, Sociology

Attaining a Master’s degree is a lofty aspiration for many undergraduates. Aside from the academic prowess and personal fulfillment the degree provides, the degree itself often lends one the opportunity for advancement in their professional lives. Yet, the unfortunate reality is that a large segment of students entering graduate programs fail to attain their degree. Research indicates that attrition rates on a national average are nearly 60%. This lack of perseverance affects the efficacy of the university, with loss of significant time and resources when a student drops out. Therefore, the focus of this study centers on the major obstacles faced by students. Graduate students who left graduate programs at CSUDH are the population of interest. We will sample graduate students who left programs in the past five years. Initial recruitment of respondents will take place via email, with subsequent phone calls for individuals who do not respond to initial email. Data collection will be facilitated by utilizing an online questionnaire powered by SurveyMonkey. Questions focus on a variety of variables affecting attrition including relationships with faculty, utilization of campus resources, increased rigor of graduate level coursework and any off-campus obstacles, such as personal or occupational obligations. While there was ample literature focusing on the recruitment process of graduate students, research regarding what actually caused students to dropout was limited, this study will close this gap in the research. Review of existing literature indicated that there was generally a mix of personal and economic factors that affected attrition in graduate programs, regardless of academic discipline. We expect to find similar results and will focus on variations in race/ethnicity, gender, and degree programs. In particular, this research is timely considering the lower numbers of men in higher education and the lower representation of minority students in STEM fields.

Nayeli Sepulveda, Psychology
Student Learning Outcomes
Faculty Mentor: Mark Carrier, Psychology

The purpose of the project is to assess the student learning outcomes (SLOs) of the Psychology program at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). The program has three broad learning outcomes: (1) critical understanding of psychology, (2) written and oral skills, quantitative analysis and professional behavior, and (3) scientific methods, personal and
professional ethics and values. In 2014-2015, the program evaluated learning outcomes for 3.1 through 3.5, they are: 3.1) scientific methods and reasoning, 3.2) knowledge of individual differences and diversity, 3.3) personal and professional ethics, including academic integrity and professional codes of behavior, 3.4) consideration of education and life itself to be a process of lifelong learning, and 3.5) some of the skills of taking multiple perspectives and relativistic thinking. A survey was distributed to 100 Psychology students in the spring of 2015. The survey contained test items based on information that would be learned throughout their time as a psychology student at CSUDH. Questions on the survey were focused on psychology terms, concepts, statistics, code of ethics, as well as famous theorists. The survey contained test items based on information that would be learned throughout their time as a psychology student at CSUDH. Questions on the survey were focused on psychology terms, concepts, statistics, code of ethics, as well as famous theorists. The findings will tell us whether Psychology students are learning and retaining information during their time at CSUDH. Implications of the project are that if students are not learning and retaining this information, there is a need for adjusting pedagogy in the department.

Heather Malca, Sociology

*PrEP Talk: A Pilot Study to Increase PrEP Uptake among Young Black Gay Men*

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 a three times higher chance of getting infected with HIV than Whites and Latinos. This multi-method study will evaluate the feasibility of recruiting and retaining the close friends of YBMSM and assess feasibility of discussing PrEP on their own, acceptability of the intervention, and gathering input on intervention components (content and delivery). Participants will be recruited by the research team through a convenience sample of ten YBMSM between the ages of 18-24. The target will be screened for PrEP eligibility. According to the CDC recommendations, this means reporting at least one criterion (such as anal sex without condoms, STI, or a partner who was HIV positive in the past six months), not currently on PrEP, interested in considering PrEP, HIV negative, and has a close friend who may participate in the study. Consent to the study will be requested, a brief survey will be administered to each participant, and a dyad interview conducted. The purpose of the research poster will be how the dyads respond on the pre and post surveys, and how they discuss PrEP uptake. We will use a grounded theory approach to analyze transcripts with Dedoose software for qualitative data analysis. Additionally, we also will use SPSS software to analyze the complementary quantitative data. This study is in data collection mode and we expect to present preliminary results for SRD 2016. We will examine feasibility ("Did participants attend and did they talk about PrEP?") and acceptability ("Did participants accept the proposed intervention and why or why not?"). We will discuss findings and next steps for further research.
Mayra Robledo, Kinesiology

*The Association between High School Engagement and Leisure Experiences among First Year College Students*

Faculty Mentor: Michael Ernst, Kinesiology

High school engagement has been shown to be strongly associated with success (Eccles & Barber, 1999). However, less is known about the relationship between high school engagement, leisure skills, and the transition from high school to college. The transition to college involves a change of schools, but it is also the period in which adolescents begin to take on more adult responsibilities, continued identity development, and restructuring of how life is lived. We would like to decrease the chances of mismatch in college transition, and increase successful transitions. We believe in order to do so, we need to have a stronger understanding of the association between structured high school activities, leisure skills (e.g., leadership abilities) and students’ transition from high school to college. Among a sample of first year college students who enrolled in the summer semester, (n=42) students completed questionnaires (T1) when they arrived to the university regarding previous high school experiences. Another questionnaire (T2) was offered as a follow up for students to reflect on current college experiences. The descriptive data shows that on average high school students engaged in 3 roles, 12 activities, and 26 hours per week. Using bivariate correlation to explore the relationship between high school engagement, leisure skills and transition into college led to the findings, we found that students who spent more hours per week in extracurricular activities were less likely to restructure boring situations, had less interest and an increase amount of boredom throughout their first summer semester in college. These students also perceived lower levels of social support through leisure. We suggest that when students accustomed to a structured schedule in high school transition to college in the summer with fewer opportunities for activities (compared to fall or spring semester) they experience a mismatch and have a more challenging time adjusting to the transition.

Christopher Gutierrez and Adriana Sekiguchi, Psychology

*Impact of Health Control Beliefs on Health Behaviors and Outcomes among Latinos At-risk for Diabetes*

Faculty Mentor: Silvia Santos, Psychology

The study seeks to analyze which mediated variables have the most significant impact on different health outcomes for Latino college students at high risk for diabetes due to familial history. The results focus on the relationship between self-efficacy and its influence on perceived health control (i.e. health and weight locus of control and self-efficacy), health behaviors (exercise and eating patterns), and health outcomes (BMI and perceived health). Participants were 156 Latino college students ranging from 18-60 years of age (44% make and 66% female). A path analysis was used to test a theoretical model examining the moderating effects of self-efficacy on health behaviors- exercise and eating habits, and on BMI and perceived health. The
outcomes revealed there is a direct negative effect of self-efficacy on BMI, and a direct positive effect of self-efficacy on perceived health. There is also a direct positive effect between self-efficacy and health behaviors. Interestingly, there is no direct effect between exercise and BMI, and there are no direct effects between health/weight loci of control on any of the other factors. Overall, these findings suggest that perceived health control, in particular self-efficacy, had a greater bearing on health outcomes for Latinos.

Emily Rose San Diego and Nayeli Perez, Psychology

Examining the Role of Psychosocial Factors on Fatalism and Health-related Locus of Control
Faculty Mentor: Steven Frieze, Psychology

Diabetes mellitus has become a worldwide public health concern that is believed to be influenced by a variety of psychosocial factors including socioeconomic status (SES) and ethnic background. SES is defined as one’s education, income, and occupation, and it has shown to impact health outcomes (including mortality) in patients suffering from diabetes. Despite numerous studies that have examined the relationship between psychosocial factors and diabetes, little is known about the contribution of SES and ethnic background on the fatalistic beliefs, health-related locus of control (HLOC) and health behaviors of those at-risk of diabetes. The present study aims to explore the relationship of fatalistic beliefs and HLOC with SES and ethnic background. Secondly, the study aims to compare the HLOC and fatalistic beliefs of individuals at-risk of diabetes with those who are not at-risk. Lastly, the study aims to examine if fatalistic beliefs and HLOC predicts health behaviors of those at-risk of diabetes. Participants include college students (age 18+) recruited from California State University, Dominguez Hills and are asked to complete a survey that measures their health-related locus of control and fatalistic beliefs. It is hypothesized that African American and Latino participants will show greater fatalism and external HLOC than non-Hispanic white participants. It is also hypothesized that participants of low SES will show greater fatalism and external HLOC than participants of high SES. Lastly, it is hypothesized that participants at-risk of diabetes will show greater fatalism and external HLOC than those who are not at-risk of diabetes. Examining the role of psychosocial factors on HLOC and fatalism will give us a deeper understanding if they predict the health behaviors of individuals at-risk of diabetes. Lastly, it will encourage the development of effective care treatments in preventing or delaying the onset of diabetes.

Aaron Street and Bessie Saenz, Psychology

Leadership and its Benefit on Groups
Faculty Mentor: Steven Frieze, Psychology

Working in groups has been found to involve challenges and encourages our capacity to evolve. The guidance of a capable leader has continuously been a determining factor in successful efforts. The specific factor that influences leadership in these situations including, building group motivation and consensus, needs to be further explored. Capable leaders that are able to
effectively motivate large groups of people towards a common goal are critical to group identity and success. Victor Vroom’s (1964) Expectancy Theory suggests that motivation and efforts put forth by individuals are determined by the perception of the benefits a person stands to gain as well as the assigned values to such benefits that will result from engaging in the solicited behavior. However, this does not explain how small groups are motivated to engage in a certain behavior once it is proposed to them by a leader. Nor, how it promotes group cohesion towards completing accomplishing a shared goal through the shared perception of an ultimate benefit. By examining ethnically diverse students from the California State University Dominguez Hills campus, this study seeks to evaluate measureable characteristics leaders possess that motivate a group towards task completion. Preliminary results show that participants feel more willing to participate in an activity if their leader is eager about the activity. This study, and further research in this area, will create a better understanding of a process that is ever present in societies across the globe.

Courtney Fiamengo, Environmental Science

*Thermal Tolerance in Early Life Stages History of Mussels*

Faculty Mentor: Jacqueline Padilla-Gamino, Biology

Aquaculture is a very economically important industry worldwide. In California, mussel aquaculture has been growing rapidly and current product supplies are still unable to meet the demand. Seafood supplies may be further threatened by climate change. Understanding whether currently farmed species have the ability to acclimatize to future ocean conditions and if certain traits are more favorable for adaptation will give insight into the future of the aquaculture industry. The economically and ecologically important Mediterranean mussel (*Mytilis galloprovincialis*) has a wide range geographically providing a good opportunity to study genotypes from mussels grown in different locations (Oregon and Southern California). We will perform selective breeding experiments with mussels from different sites to generate new genotypes and perform thermal stress experiments that simulate future ocean temperatures according to the PCC predictions. We will examine the survival, growth, and physiology of the offspring and examine what traits are heritable. The results of this study will provide important information to understand the potential for rapid adaptation to temperature stress based on genetic variability. By determining which genotypes are more resilient to warming, this study will help mussel farmers to select temperature resistant genotypes that can breed successfully under higher future temperatures due to climate change.

Maricruz Sandoval, Business Administration

*Unreasonable Prejudice against Women in Sports*

Faculty Mentor: Natasa Christidoulidou, Business Administration

In the sports industry, women are not given the same respect as men. The difference in their endorsement deals and league contracts are so far apart it’s hard to ignore that women get paid so little compared to men. The reason women are not given the same respect is because men’s
Sports are more popular than women’s. Men will get paid more in endorsement deals, because they have more fans than women athletes. The change begins with us, the viewing public; we need to pay more respect to women athletes. Supporting women sports can potentially result in the league giving women the same respect as men.

Alaina Govender, Angelica Rivera, and Adrian Delgado, Psychology

Self-efficacy and Social Support as Predictors of Academic Performance in College Freshman Students

Faculty Mentor: Karen Wilson, Psychology

Academic self-efficacy is described as a student’s belief in his/her ability to successfully accomplish a certain task, activity, or assignment (Bandura, 1997). Previous research has indicated that students with more self-efficacy tend to put in more effort towards academic tasks, are persistent, and perform better than students who are unsure of their ability to achieve. Social support can also have a positive effect on transitioning first-year college students, by acting as a buffer for stress, thereby relieving current frustrations and allowing students to perform better. These psychosocial resources can enable students to cope with the stress of transition to college and to persevere in academic tasks, thereby resulting in better academic performance and retention rates. This study aimed to explore the associations between self-efficacy, social support and academic achievement (as measured by GPA) among a sample of California State University, Dominguez Hills freshman students in their first semester (N=65). The study consisted of 50 women (77%) and 15 men (23%), between the ages of 18 and 20. Levels of self-efficacy were assessed using the College Self-Efficacy Instrument (CSEI) and levels of perceived social support were assessed with the Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS). Preliminary analyses indicated that there were no significant correlations between self-efficacy and GPA, or social support and GPA. Social support and self-efficacy did not make a significant contribution to the prediction of GPA. However, a moderate positive correlation was found between the variables of social support and self-efficacy, $r = .489$, $p < .001$, with higher levels of social support associated with higher levels of self-efficacy. This finding could suggest that perceived social support enhances adjustment among students and increases self-efficacy judgments for coping with stressors.
Carissa Hernandez, Special Education  
*Social Skills and Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities: Can Community Based Instruction Help?*  
Faculty Mentor: Saili Kulkarni, Special Education

The purpose of this research study is to assess how Community Based Instruction (CBI) affects the social skills of middle school students with moderate to severe disabilities. Existing literature has not come to any conclusive findings in terms of the effects that CBI has on middle school students with moderate to severe disabilities. This study will be completed using interviews and observations. Participants will be chosen using a convenience sample and are middle school special teachers and para-educators in one of the largest public school districts in Orange County, California. The students that will be observed have various moderate to severe cognitive disabilities and are in a self-contained special education classroom in a public middle school. The findings of this study are intended to support the use of CBI in special education classrooms and demonstrate how a functional and consistent program can improve the social skills of students with moderate to severe disabilities. Educators and administrators who may want more information on CBI and its benefits can also utilize these findings.

George Nnoli, Special Education  
*Investigating the Effects of Fights on Lesson Delivery and Student Learning in a Correctional Setting*  
Faculty Mentor: Saili Kulkarni, Special Education

The purpose of this study is to investigate how fights in the classroom affect lesson delivery and student learning in a correctional setting. The problem addressed in this study is that after a fight in the classroom occurs, teaching and learning stop. The climate of the classroom changes to fear and suspense. Data will be collected from selected students, teachers, attendance staff, and correctional officers through questionnaires, interviews, participant responses, and observations. This study is significant because it draws an awareness to the existence of violence in the classroom and how it hinders incarcerated youth from learning. Unfortunately, educational research has been largely silent on the effect of violence on student learning. My findings will show that there is a relationship between fights in the classroom and disruption of both teaching and learning. The study will highlight the need for a balance between correctional concern and academic concern. This includes things like teacher training, effective lesson delivery and learning. This study will benefit correctional facilities, the State Office of Education, and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).
Andres Ramirez, Health Science
*Using ArcGIS to Identify Health Disparities among Mobile Home Park Residents*
Faculty Mentor: Matthew Ting, Douglas Morales, Health Science

Mobile home park residents comprise of 7% of the U.S. population. They experience some unique socioeconomic and health-related issues in their living environments. Three decades ago, the California State Indoor Air Quality Program randomly surveyed mobile home park residents, assessing the level of exposure of formaldehyde (CH₂O) within their homes. Because the manufacturing process of mobile homes requires the use of pressed wood products, mainly plywood, and the airtight structures lack proper ventilation, mobile home residents experience elevated concentrations of CH₂O compared to residents of conventional homes. Also, because of constant exposure to CH₂O, mobile home residents experience respiratory issues, headaches, nausea and diarrhea. Many residents are still living in these mobile homes 30 years after.

Recently, a leading manufactured home insurance company surveyed over 10,000 mobile home residents, and of 5,827 who responded to the household income questions, 55% claimed to have an average household income of $30,000, which restricts their housing options tremendously. Access to healthcare, together with social determinants such as lower household income and poor living conditions, are often linked with poor health outcomes, and such are the experiences of mobile home residents throughout many parts of the nation. In order to better understand the health-related issues that mobile home residents experience, a Geographic Information System (ArcGIS) was used in this research to analyze the location and accessibility of public health center service areas relative to mobile home parks. The mobile home parks studied are located in Los Angeles County, areas such as Compton and Southgate, typically having annual household incomes equal to, or below, $30,000. The results yielded statistically significant evidence in lack of access to public health centers by these mobile home residents. Further analysis was conducted in assessing the best placement areas for new public health centers and making suggestions for policymakers.

Lizet Molina, Sociology
*Intimacy in Public Settings*
Faculty Mentor: Alexis McCurn, Sociology

Public intimacy is becoming more accepted in today’s society. Intimacy is occurring not only by romantic couples, but by friends as well as part social norms. The research questions guiding this study are: what are meanings behind the social interactions people involve in public? And how do people manage to engage in intimacy while in public? The method used for this study was ethnographic observations. Through the observations it was discovered that the majority of people are more focused on what is going on in their immediate space than in their surroundings, allowing for others to be able to participate in public intimacy.
Beginning in the late 1970s, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) was added as an oxygenate to gasoline to replace lead and burn cleaner fuel. However, studies from the 1990s showed that underground storage tanks often developed leaks that led to groundwater contamination. Further research done on MTBE confirmed its potential hazard to the environment and to human health. In 1999, California issued a ban to phase out MTBE, and a complete ban was in enforced in 2004. Efforts have since been made to remediate groundwater contamination by MTBE, and its degradation product, tertiary butyl alcohol (TBA). Research presented here focuses on the status of MTBE groundwater contamination cases in the Los Angeles area. Data regarding contaminated well sites and associated remediation was obtained from Geotracker, an internet-based hydrological database that integrates water quality data from interactive Google-based maps. A total of 16,157 well sites are recorded. Unless groundwater wells are either historical or active WDRs (exempt Waste Discharge Requirements), they are either 1) undergoing assessment, 2) between assessment and remedial action, 3) in remediation, or 4) eligible for closure. Of these, 7,693 cases are completed and closed. Recent groundwater monitoring shows that MTBE concentrations have declined significantly since 2005, with maximum MTBE and TBA concentration levels lowered by an average of 96% and 89%, respectively (API, 2012). Notably, in 1996 the Charnock Well Field in Santa Monica, CA was closed and classified as “extremely impaired” due to detection of high concentrations of MTBE from leaking underground storage tanks. In 1998, the city of Santa Monica began a restoration project using additive granular activated carbon (GAC) and reverse osmosis (RO); this project was completed in late 2010, and Charnock Wells has resumed operation.

Susan Dianne Eubanks murdered four of her children by her own hands. All four boys were younger than fifteen years old, and they did not trigger or agitate the mother. Instead, Susan Eubanks used murder as a strategy to get back at her boyfriend and husband. Research supports the notion that there are four main reasons for maternal filicide that could all be prevented if government authority was to step in. Overall, the youth population is the most vulnerable to different abuses, but they are least protected. The researcher hopes to draw attention to this issue with retrospect content analysis of academic studies to reveal the importance of saving children from abusive mothers. With this knowledge, the researcher hopes to influence others regarding
the information about maternal filicide to help protect other children from unnecessary harm and death.

**Jason Sender, Marlene Cortes, Sunehra Ali, Psychology**  
*Longitudinal Study of Gratitude's Unique Role as a Moral Emotion in Development*  
Faculty Mentor: Giacomo Bono, Psychology

Philosophers, scholars, and the public alike have long postulated that gratitude and prosocial behavior occur in synchrony. Ample amounts of correlational research have generally supported this notion. Experiments have also demonstrated that gratitude causes immediate increases in prosocial behavior not just in response to benefactors but to other parties. But do such effects translate into long-lasting changes in one’s life? Presumably, people who are more grateful for receiving kind behaviors from others are also more likely to reciprocate kindness or exhibit similar kind behavior toward others because as their gratitude grows kindness and trust of others grow in their social life as well. Indeed, one study found that greater levels of gratitude are highly correlated with increases in social support, adaptive coping abilities, beneficial psychological outcomes, positive functioning, and in experiencing other positive emotions that increase emotional well-being (Lin, 2015). McCullough, Kimeldorf and Cohen (2008) proposed that gratitude plays a unique evolutionary role, compared to positive emotions or happiness in general, that leads individuals to behave prosocially. Research demonstrating this longitudinally would provide strong support for this evolutionary theory. However, evidence that gratitude is linked to increases in prosocial behavior longitudinally has not yet been established. Nor has research examined this hypothesis among adolescent populations. Therefore, the current study examines gratitude, well-being, and prosocial behavior among adolescents over a 4-year period (N = 436; age = 11.74 years at start of study, SD = .89). In support of the hypothesis, gratitude at year 1 predicted increases in prosocial behavior 4 years later, whereas positive emotions or happiness at year 1 did not. Further, increases in gratitude during the 4-year period predicted decreases in antisocial behavior, whereas increases in happiness did not. Implications for the unique role of gratitude as a moral emotion in development will be discussed.

**Kamil Rajpoot, Business**  
*Promotional Campaigns in the Entertainment Industry*  
 Faculty Mentor: Natasa Christodoulidou, Business

The objective of this project is to learn the multiple resources and categories used when using promotional campaigns in the entertainment industry. We will take a look at various marketing tools and media sources such as the internet, television, radio, movie screenings, print advertising, and newspapers. The goal is to understand how each of these categories plays a role individually, that paints the overall picture at the end. The entertainment industry spends $150 billion dollars a year on expenditure and roughly 120 billion hours of consumed time on marketing (Vogel 1998, p. xvii). The entertainment industry has different sectors of products and
services such fine arts, sports, gaming, toys, print media, music, broadcasting, TV and movies. How the entertainment industry uses promotional campaigns in regards to these goods and services will be our overall focus.

**Kevin Nguyen, Biology**  
*Stimulation of Myofibroblast Turnover in the Peyronie’s Disease Plaque during Therapeutical Collagen Breakdown*  
Faculty Mentor: Nestor Cadavid, Urology

Peyronie’s disease (PD) is a localized fibrotic plaque of the tunica albuginea or a chronic inflammation of men’s penises. The dysmorphology lies within the tunica albuginea (TA) of the penis, where rigid connective tissue that surrounds the smooth muscle tissue in the corpora cavernosa (CC). Despite the fibrotic plaque buildup is still unclear, this may lead to serious problems such as penile curvature, painful erections, and erectile dysfunction. Due to the drawback of the myofibroblast turnover in the TA, this project focuses on the determination of myofibroblast accumulation and its function of disappearance or formation and apoptosis in tissues. The experiment was carried out from the animal model with PD-like plaque aiming to test for the collagen breakdown effects of the recently FDA-approved collagenase clostridium histolyticum (XIAFLEX). Although XIAFLEX might be a potential therapeutic medical treatment of PD, this could cause the penile fracture by corporal rupture or other serious injury to the penis. Phosphodiesterase 5 inhibitor (PDE5i) such Avanafil has shown to act as an antifibrotic pro-metalloproteinase (MMP) agent therapy in the PD plaque, which increases the expression of MMPs and down regulate the production of tissue inhibitors of MMPs (TIMPs). We suggest that the concurrent use of Avanafil from Auxilium Corp., an oral PDE5i, with intraregional XIAFLEX, might have an additive effect that can stimulate apoptosis of the diseased tunica albuginea to repair itself.

**Teshia Canet and Jenna Argomaniz, Special Education**  
*Early Childhood Learners with Autism: Does Family Involvement Matter?*  
Faculty Mentor: Saili Kulkarni, Special Education

The purpose of this study is to understand and analyze the importance and benefits of family involvement and support when having a child diagnosed with autism. The problem addressed in this study is that few families are involved with their child with autism. As a diagnosis itself, autism presents a variety of stressors that may tear a family apart or cause individual members to lose connection with each other. This study contributes to the gap in literature as a guide to inform parents of both typical and atypical children that children need that familial support in order to get through each day. For parents of children with autism, no one day will ever be exactly the same, so how families adjust and accommodate for their child not only benefits the child, but each member of the family as well. It is significant to understand the stressors associated with having a child with autism, the perspectives of family members, and the
experiences both at home and in the school setting. Data collection for this study will be done by looking at families who have a child with autism through observations and interviews. The audience of this study are parents and families of children diagnosed with autism. We hope that our findings will highlight some of the challenges families experience with having a child with autism.

**Thomas Twila, Psychology**  
*Judge, Jury and Racial Bias: A Look into Racial Bias and Criminal Judgements*  
Faculty Mentor: Silvia Santos, Psychology

Racial bias is at the forefront of one of society’s problems. Some people believe that United States justice system holds a bias against minorities, mainly African Americans and Latino Americans. This case study focuses on racial bias in the criminal justice system. A study conducted by Regina A. Schuller, Veronica Kazoleas, and Kerry Kawakami in Canada, assessed current procedures used to identify racial bias. The researchers wanted to identify if people could be neutral to a case despite the ethnicity of those involved. The research found that participants believe that they did not have the ability to neutral in their decision. The current case study answers the question: Does ethnicity has a role in judgment and sentencing? Focusing on minorities, this study compares Caucasian-Americans against African-Americans, and Asian-Americans as it pertains to sentencing and personal judgment. Fifty-three participants were randomly assigned one of six conditions, where ethnicity, age, and ethnic appropriate names were assigned to each condition.

**Alex Guerrero and Eric Spencer, Sociology**  
*New Member Experience through Male Success Alliance Program*  
Faculty Mentor: Matt G. Mutchler, Sociology

There are many programs around the United States working to help men of color navigate the K-12th educational system and become better prepared for college. “At the national level, the 2012-13 school year estimates indicate a national graduation rate of 59% for Black males, 65% for Latino males and 80% for White males” (Schott Foundation, 2012). We need to tackle those kinds of problems that California and other states are facing. In the CSU System specifically we find that “African American and Latino males are less successful than all females and their Asian and White male counterparts in graduating from the CSU system” (MSA Website, 2010). In an effort to improve the educational outcomes of men of color CSU Dominguez Hills launched the Male Success Alliance. The purpose of this study is to examine how the Male Success Alliance impacts their members’ college experience. This study will focus specifically on men of color in the Male Success Alliance program. The study will analyze transfer students and will focus on their experience at different colleges before joining MSA. The study’s purpose is to examine how the Male Success Alliance helps new students of the 2015-2016 academic year transition to a four year university, succeed inside and outside of the classroom, and prepare for a successful
transition into their careers. The study will survey 20 transfer students and ask students qualitative and quantitative questions, with Likert scales, and demographic information. The findings in this study will help faculty and administrators better serve men of color who transfer to California State University Dominguez Hills.

**Kaitlin O’Brien, Psychology**

*Impulsivity as a Risk Factor for Problematic Internet Use, Facebook Addiction, and Substance Use*

Faculty Mentor: Larry Rosen, Psychology

Impulsivity is defined as acting on a whim with little thought about consequences leading to poor decision-making and high-risk behaviors (e.g., sex, gambling, substance use). This literature review, performed as a precursor to a master’s thesis research study, examines the relationship between impulse control, Internet use, Facebook addiction and substance abuse. In the DSM-5, Internet Gaming Disorder is listed as a possible diagnosis in need of research. Along similar lines, with Internet use and accessibility on the rise, the question of harmful effects is posed especially among populations who already experience issues modulating their behaviors. Previous studies have found a specific connection between impulsivity, problematic Internet use (PIU), and substance use. PIU exhibits similar neurobiological mechanisms as substance addictions including the activation of dopamine pathways in the reward center (Holden, 2001). For example, studies have found that those who meet criteria for Internet addiction also experience addictive brain functions such as hypersensitization of the amygdala, another essential component of the brain’s reward system found in other addictions (Escheburua & deCorral, 2010; Turel, 2015). As a subset of Internet use, Facebook addiction has been associated with impulsive traits and substance use. Additionally, a predictive link has been found directly from impulsivity to substance use. Prior studies have found a strong association between individuals who exhibit impulse control problems and substance use and alcohol dependency (Bobova et al., 2009; Finn, 2002; Gunn & Finn, 2013; Wiers et al., 2010). Although previous research has investigated the relationship between Internet addiction, substance use, and impulsivity, no prior studies have explored Facebook addiction within this context. The purpose of the current literature review is to discover what other researchers have found concerning the role of impulsivity in the likelihood of developing PIU, Facebook addiction, and substance use and to use that information to create a research study testing those relationships.

**Marie Togashi-Karimi, Nursing**

*An Integrative Review on the Prevention of Arterial Line Infections*

Faculty Mentor: Terri Ares, Nursing

According to Walsh (2015), arterial blood sampling in the neonatal population involves multiple line entrances via stopcock for each specimen drawn. The use of an in-line sampling device in the neonatal realm is relatively new. There are yet to be studies conducted regarding the use of
this device in the neonatal population. Thus, this study concentrated on articles involving the adult population. This review sought to answer the question: Does the type of arterial line system affect the incidence of microbial contamination for the intensive care unit population? Bibliographic data-bases of CINAHL, Medline, and Science Direct were systematically searched for studies published between 1989 and 2015. Eleven quantitative studies met the inclusion criteria. The Johns Hopkins Nursing Evidence-based Practice Rating Scale was used to analyze evidence. The journals were organized under the following headings: Author, year, design, level of evidence; purpose; setting, sample, inclusion/exclusion; intervention or innovation; instruments; key findings; appraisal. Data were categorized by microbial contamination found with (a) use of a traditional stopcock, (b) use of a blood conservation device, and (c) comparison between the stopcock and the blood conservation device. The majority of studies pointed to the risk of microbial contamination with the use of a stopcock device in drawing specimens from an arterial line.

Jasmine Lau and Zuly Negro, Biology
Evolution in Escherichia coli in Different Media
Faculty Mentor: Karin Kram, Biology

*Escherichia coli* is a bacterium often found in humans as either a part of the normal microbial community or as a disease-causing pathogen. The environment in the human body can be stressful to bacteria, and so over time they have evolved to be well adapted to this environment. Understanding how microbes adapt to stressful conditions may help to control evolution of populations, which can lead to increased virulence or antibiotic resistance. In the laboratory, we can grow *E. coli* in other types of stressful environments, where cells can mutate so that it is better adapted to specific conditions. One condition that may affect how the cells adapt is the media in which it is incubated. Previously, several potentially adaptive mutations were identified that *E. coli* acquired in different environments. These mutations are in sspA, acrB, deoR and dsdC. Because *E. coli* acquires specific mutations in certain media, we will move these mutations into wild type *E. coli* and then compete the mutants with wild type cells in the different media. The different media that will be used in this experiment are Lysogeny Broth, 2X Yeast Extract Tryptone, Terrific Broth, and Super Broth. We hypothesize that the mutations are beneficial for the *E. coli* in the specific medium in which they were identified, as well as in other media.
Poster Session III

Juliana Soto, Sociology

Aging with HIV/AIDS: Qualitative Interviews with Gay Men
Faculty Mentor: Matt G. Mutchler, Sociology

There has been substantial research done within the HIV and AIDS area regarding prevention interventions and educational programs, mental health, stigma, and other related issues with younger adults. With the advancement and the application of effective antiretroviral therapy for people living with HIV/AIDS, many people live to an older age, thus increasing the median life expectancy. Research suggests that older adults living with HIV/AIDS may experience unique physical, psychological, and social challenges. Yet, the needs of this population have not been explored substantially. The research that I plan on conducting will be within the population of older adults living HIV/AIDS in collaboration with California State University, Dominguez Hills; the City of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator’s Office; and AIDS Project Los Angeles. I plan to conduct a qualitative research project using grounded methodology to explore the physical, psychological, and social needs of gay men who are aging with HIV/AIDS (50 years of age or older) regarding their health experiences within the spectrum of HIV/AIDS. I am planning to collect qualitative data via three focus groups with older adults, with a minimum of eight participants attending each group. I will ask them about the underlying issues they may experience such as isolation; stigma; special needs and barriers, attitudes, and beliefs related to aging with HIV/AIDS in their lives and community. I am also planning on transcribing and then coding the data collected, using grounded theory to identify the emerging themes. My plan is to disseminate the findings of this research project into a report that provides recommendation for people working with those who are aging with HIV/AIDS and to help people who are living longer with HIV/AIDS to find resources.

Shane Johnson, IDS/PACE

The Impact of Social Media: The Fear of Missing Out (FOMO)
Faculty Mentor: Anne Soon Choi, IDS/PACE

This project is about the way social media is creating a new negative emotional impact due to the Fear of Missing Out. The generation known as the millennials consists of people between the ages of 18-34 who have grown up with the internet being commercially available. This has allowed them to stay connected with family and friends throughout social media networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr. Smartphones have further expanded this dynamic by allowing owners to view various social networks anytime they wish. The Fear of Missing Out is introduced by the need to keep up-to-date on social media in order to make sure that the viewer has not been left out of any fun experiences. Because of this, negative emotions are being established by people feeling left out from the great experiences they see through social media.
Through an open-ended 10 question survey, participants were able to explain how different involvements with social media made them feel. These questions asked respondents to reflect on their social media usage along with the impact they felt from the use of social media from their friends and family. Interestingly, people did feel negative emotions when engaging in certain aspects of social media. Previous research on The Fear of Missing Out was established by surveys that had participants respond to questions on a numeral scale. The open-ended questions asked in this survey allowed people to discuss exact reasons and experiences they had with social media. Many of these responses contained similar answers that made patterns conclusive. This research provides a detailed description of why the Fear of Missing Out is causing negative emotions among social media users.

Jonathan Pedroza, Psychology

*Technology and Mental Well-Being: A Literature Review Examining Media Use and Health Factors’ Effects on Mental Health*

Faculty Mentor: Larry Rosen, Psychology

Research has shown that university students are faced with an often stressful environment resulting in depression and anxiety. One issue that has been seen to affect mental health is the use of media and technology. A previous study by Rosen et al. (2014) has shown that specific media and technology use negatively impacts mental health in teenagers. There is a need for more literature observing the connection between technology use and mental health among specific populations. The purpose of the current study is to determine if there is a connection between media and technology use and the mental well-being of college students through an extensive literature review. Research suggests that specific technologies such as television, video games, or being online have been linked to psychological health issues, including depression and anxiety (Martin, 2011). Secondary aims for the study were to examine other potential college student issues and their effects on mental well-being. Common college issues that were examined include unhealthy eating, lack of physical activity, and sleep issues. The concept of mental well-being is derived from examining depressive symptoms and anxiety. The literature review was completed by examining keywords such as technology use, depression, anxiety, college students, unhealthy eating, sedentary behaviors, and sleep. Studies were included in the literature review only if the focus was on technology use and college issues and their effects on mental well-being. Overall, 40 articles were examined to determine if these issues have any effect on college students’ mental well-being. Following this literature review the author will use the collected information to conduct a research study to examine if any of these college student issues, including technology use, are affecting college students’ mental well-being.

Karina Aguilar and Griselda Bernabe, Psychology

*Family Diabetes History and its Influence on Generation Perception*
Faculty Mentor: Silvia Santos, Psychology

The present study is part of a larger NIH funded investigation that seeks to examine family history and disease threat towards Latino college students’ health outcome. Participants completed a comprehensive survey that connected into constructs identified by the American Belief Model within a socio-cultural framework appropriate for Latinos. One hundred fifty-six Latino participants were recruited for this study with a range between 18-60 years of age (44% male and 66% female). A path analysis was used to test the model examining the variables – family history and disease threat to health outcome. The results offered centered on the relationship between genetic risks, relative illness severity, threat to self, perceived risk, disease threat, Body Mass Index (BMI), and perceived health. The outcomes revealed that the more severely a relative has been impacted by a disease the more it becomes a threat to self, which ultimately impacted BMI. Furthermore, it was also noted that frequent contact with the severity of a relative’s illness impacted overall view of the seriousness of the disease, which also impacted BMI. Finally it was observed that those with a family history of disease perceived the disease risk to be higher. To conclude, the results indicate that the severity of a relative’s illness contributes to the manner in which an individual perceives a disease.

Karen Barrera, Caron Mellblom, Kelli Beard and Saili Kulkarni, Special Education
What are the Effects of Video Peer Modeling among Preschool Children with Autism in the Area of Pretend Play?
Faculty Mentor: Caron Mellblom, Special Education

Children with Autism may experience attention deficits and repetitive behaviors. Along with these challenges, they also experience social and play skill deficits, particularly in the classroom setting. On occasion this may lead to being a social outcast among their peers. With guidance and modeling from peers their own age, children with Autism may have a better chance at succeeding in social interactions and play among peers. This study will examine the effects of a 6-week peer video modeling intervention focusing in the area of pretend play of two preschool children with Autism. Four participants will partake in the study; two typically developing participants with age appropriate pretend play skills will act as the peer models, and two participants will have an eligibility of Autism. The findings may reveal significant gains in pretend play and social achievement among preschool children with Autism.

Karissa Perez, IDS/PACE
Community Perceptions and Acceptance of Wastewater Reuse
Faculty Mentor: Anne Soon Choi, IDS/PACE

The available freshwater on the planet is a finite resource that has become more scarce particularly in drought stricken regions. California has been struggling with drought and water management issues for decades and more recently, the current mega drought that has affected
conservation efforts all the way to the community and individual level. This requires water authorities to rethink our freshwater resources and to find sustainable solutions to providing communities with water. Recycling of wastewater has been a topic of discussion that has gained attention and successfully implemented in various regions, such as Orange County. Despite the fact that it is a sustainable option for our freshwater needs, various wastewater projects have received negative reactions and opposition from community members. The implementation of wastewater treatment facilities is dependent on public acceptance and positive reactions and is therefore a crucial factor to its success. This paper provides evidence on the social and psychological factors that influence public attitudes and acceptance of wastewater reuse projects. The lack of information and trust factors are influential matters that affect public reactions toward wastewater reuse schemes. The original research consisted of an online survey administered, including both open-ended and close-ended questions which examined the existing knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of individuals toward wastewater reuse. The results supported existing research on the lack of knowledge toward wastewater treatment, reuse and water resources. The results confirmed that individual’s held positive attitudes toward wastewater recycling for certain usages while signifying disgust toward close-to-body uses such as potable reuse. This research is important as it supports the current research on community acceptance and attitudes and will provide the background knowledge needed when looking for potential strategies to gain public support of wastewater recycling.

Yarely Barajas, Psychology
Cognitive Load, Academic Performance and the Effect on Self-efficacy
Faculty Mentor: John Dulay, Psychology

Today, many college students do not perform well in their classes. Students who feel that they are given too much work to memorize (i.e., high cognitive load) and see that they failed their class they would most likely want to give up. The purpose of this study was to examine whether students had low or high self-efficacy once they were told that they passed or failed a test. Undergraduate students (N=80) were given a written task on high or low cognitive load, either counting backwards by 7’s or 2’s. Participants were then given a multiple test and told whether they passed or failed. They then were given a self-efficacy questionnaire. The hypothesis of the study was whether participants who were given a high amount of mental effort (i.e., counting backwards by 7) and told they passed the test will indicate high self-efficacy based on their responses, and participants who were given a low amount of mental effort (i.e., counting backwards by 2) and were told they failed the test will indicate low self-efficacy based on their responses. The results did not support our hypothesis. Cognitive load did not have an effect on self-efficacy. However, academic performance did have an effect on self-efficacy.

Magaly Duran, Child Development
Finding Links between Education Level and Executive Function
Faculty Mentor: Megumi Kuwabara, Child Development
Executive Function, the ability to inhibit automatic response in presence of conflicting stimuli, is a very important function for school success (e.g. Blair & Razza, 2007) and behavioral and emotional issues (Hughes & Ensor, 2011). Previous studies (e.g. Balir & Razza, 2007) found that in young children, children who have better executive function have better academic abilities, such as math and literacy. However, this relationship between executive function and education has not been clearly examined adult, community samples. The purpose of this study was to find links between education level and executive function in adult, community samples in Southern California. We predicted that executive function would be better in the participants with more education than those with less education even in adult population. In this study, participants were asked to complete a Stroop-like (1935) experiment where we presented two conditions, conflict and non-conflict conditions. Participants were asked to name the original color of fruit shown to them (e.g., yellow for banana). For non-conflict condition, participants saw the fruits in original color (e.g., yellow banana). For conflict condition, participants saw the fruits in contradicting color (e.g., green banana). Participants completed both conditions and order of conditions was counterbalanced to eliminate the order effect. We divided participants by their education level of participants by two groupings, the less educated group and the more educated group based on their self-report on their questionnaire. The interaction between conditions and groups showed that there is a marginal interaction, suggesting that education level may influence executive function. This study was intended to gain further insight into how education level and executive function are related in adult, community sample.

Karina Aguilar, Psychology
*The Influence that Age and Presentation Have on Compassion toward the Homeless*
Faculty Mentor: Steven Frieze, Psychology

According to recent studies various underprivileged people are at risk of becoming homeless. Current reports state that there are 578,424 people that are sleeping on the streets on a nightly basis (Hunnewell, 2015). According to the social identity theory, individuals tend to show more favorable attitudes and hold fewer negative stereotypes when it comes to people from the same in-group (Anthony, 2012). It is hypothesized that participants will score higher in compassion (which would be measured through the Compassionate Love for Humanity Scale) if given the vignette or shown a video with the elderly adult homeless individual as opposed to the young adult homeless individual. Participants will score higher in compassion if given the vignette or shown a video with a person of the same race/ethnicity as opposed to a person of a different race/ethnicity. Participants will score higher in compassion if they are shown a video of a homeless individual as opposed to being given a vignette to read. Lastly, participants will score the highest in compassion if they are shown a video of an elderly adult homeless individual as opposed to the participants that are shown the video with a young adult homeless individual. The goal of this study is to make people aware of their lack of compassion or the lack of compassion that is missing in our society, especially when it comes to dealing with the homeless population.
The purpose of this study is to analyze the effects that age and presentation have on an individual’s compassion.

**Griselda Bernabe, Nayeli Perez, Angel Perdomo, and Karen Sanchez-Alamillo, Psychology**

*The Immigrant Paradox Effect on Ethnicity, Generational Status, and Academic Success*

Faculty Mentor: Steven Frieze, Psychology

The immigrant paradox (a phenomenon in which early generations demonstrate more positive academic outcomes in comparison to later generations) is a perplexing consequence that has generated concerns among academicians. The more assimilated the student, the poorer performance in school. Previous studies have found that first generation students have exhibited better performance compared to third generation students. There appears to be a strong inverse relationship between the length of time in this country and level of performance in school. Moreover, student’s socioeconomic status (SES) seems to play a major role in how well the student performs in school. Immigrants with a higher SES tend to achieve higher educational goals compared to most immigrants with a low SES. This can be attributed, at least in part, to family value systems that greatly prize education. It is therefore assumed the greater the value a family places on education for all children in an immigrant family, a greater likelihood the child will thrive in academia. A possible explanation for first generation students to thrive is a form of obligation they feel toward their parents for their hard work. SES, educational attainment, generational status and family values are variables that will be used to ascertain whether they influence success in school. This study will focus on first, second, and third generation of immigrant students in the United States compared to non-Latino White, Asian and African Americans. It is hypothesized that first generation low SES student will be more motivated to attain educational goals than second and third generation students. Further, it is anticipated that first and second generation will further their education to a greater extent than those in the third generation. Finally, family values such as obligation and support of education will positively impact first generation students compared to second and third generation students.

**Nicholas Pfau, Mathematics**

*Twisted Differential Maps and Differential Algebraic Independence*

Faculty Mentor: Wai Yan Pong, Mathematics

A meromorphic function $f(z)$ is hyper-transcendental if $f(z)$ and its derivatives do not satisfy any non-trivial polynomial relation over $\mathbb{C}(z)$. In the paper “Differentially transcendental functions” by Mijajlović and Malešević the authors use the hyper-transcendence of Euler’s Gamma function to deduce the hyper-transcendence of several well-known functions in analysis: Riemann zeta function, Hadamard’s factorial function and Barnes G-function. We observe their key results do not rely on any analytic properties of meromorphic functions, and there are similar results in the literature in slightly different contexts. The goal of this project is to find a general formulation that will encompass all these contexts. To achieve this generalization we propose a notation that
we call. We establish their basic properties and give applications to fields of formal Laurent series and Hardy Fields.

**Michelle Frain, Special Education**

*Are iPad Games/Applications or Tangibles More Reinforcing When Evaluating Requesting Skills in Preschool-aged children with Special Needs?*

Faculty Mentors: Caron Mellblom, Saili Kulkarni, and Kate Espositio, Special Education

This study seeks to determine if requesting skills and vocabulary development in preschool aged children with special needs is improved with the use of tangibles as opposed to iPad games/applications. Potential benefits include increase in both requesting skills and vocabulary development. The data will be collected over six weeks by pulling students independently during free choice and performing ten trials a day. The expected findings for this study will be that the subjects requesting skills and vocabulary will increase with the use of an iPad. This is believed to be a preferred choice of learning as the use of iPad’s rise in classrooms and general community. The purpose of this study is to evaluate benefits of iPad and tangible reinforcers on language development such as requesting skills and vocabulary development. According to Eyyam and Yaratan (2014) the world is changing in regards to the role technology plays in a students’ life and the school needs to prepare them for what is now and what is to come. Special education preschool teachers have the ability to form a pathway for children to begin their academic careers in an uplifting way and in today’s society technology plays an extremely significant role in everyday life (Rafool, B., Sullivan, E., & Al-Bataineh, A., 2012). Exploring new ways to meet student’s academic needs is important. Teaching strategies are constantly changing and a rise in technology use in the classroom has begun. In previous research it has been proven that technology device such as a computer, iPod or iPad not only impact a child’s academic success but also have a positive outcome on their attitude towards lessons (Eyyam et al, 2014). Teachers are being forced to evaluate the impact of iPad use in the classroom with students with a variety of disabilities including SLI who are preschool age. Additionally, teachers are evaluating the iPad instruction compared to traditional teaching methods involving manipulatives. Individuals with disabilities capable of accessing technology at the tip of their fingers means empowerment (Lewis, 1998). The touch screen allows special needs students to access the same thing as other students which then leads to a high success level and better attitude toward lessons (Eyyam & Yaratan, 2014; Shah, 2011).

**Melissa Tolosa, Wendy Velez, Maritza Lozano, Ian Klinger and Mathew Woods, Sociology**

*Examining Master’s Student Graduate Completion: Understanding Sociological Methods, Survey Design and Data Collection*

Faculty Mentor: Katy Pinto, Sociology

The factors that influence graduate student education, especially at the Master’s level, are largely unknown in studies on higher education. Much more information known about undergraduate
students, but graduate students are left in the mist without any attention paid to them. In this study, we focus only on graduate students to fill the gap in previous research. The research presents the collective efforts of the students who participated in the survey design, data collection, and data analysis of a Graduate Student Survey administered to CSUDH alumni over the past five years (2010-2015). By examining students who successfully completed graduate programs at CSUDH, we can learn more about what contributes to student success and identify possible barriers in degree completion.

Asking questions that measure graduate student experiences and demographic background information can provide a more complete picture of their experience. For example, we asked about program rigor, proper courses provided at convenient times, and graduate coordinator assistance. Our survey design meshed other studies into one survey to develop a concrete understanding of what has been occurring with graduate students. Data collection used an online tool known as SurveyMonkey to help obtain the required information to help us understand the graduate student experience. The process to collect this data has ranged from a survey distributed by SurveyMonkey, and telephoning each person individually.