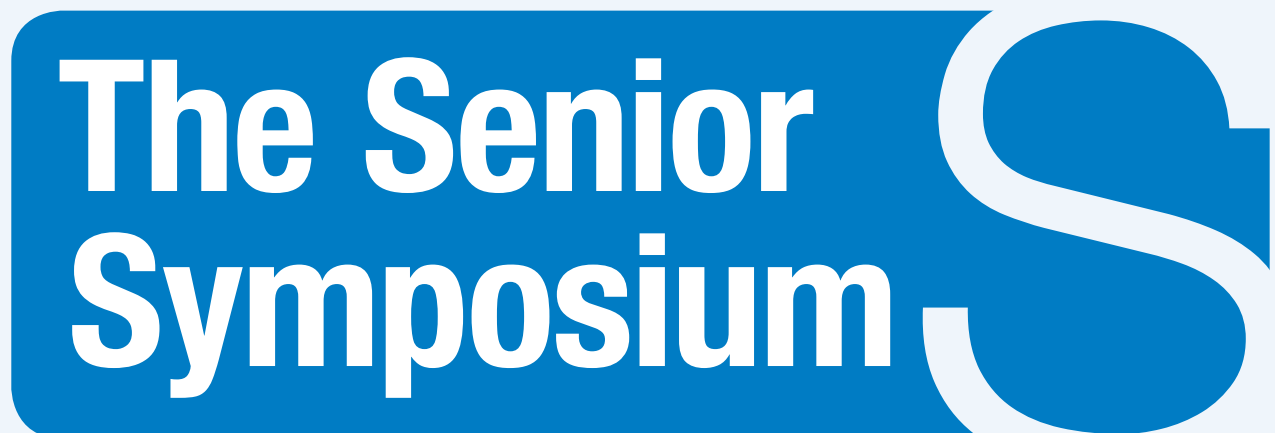


share your intellectual passions

HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

April 3, 2009

Sponsored by the
Center for Teaching and Learning



HOBART
AND
WILLIAM SMITH
COLLEGES

Dear Members of the Hobart and William Smith Community:

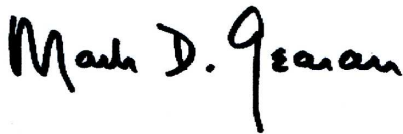
Since Hobart's founding in 1822 and William Smith's founding in 1908, the Colleges have remained singularly dedicated to creating a student-centered learning environment, one that is grounded in academic rigor and built on rewarding collaborations among students and faculty.

The Senior Symposium is an opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate that academic rigor and those rewarding collaborations. It is also an occasion to affirm the power and boundless possibility inherent in an HWS education.

Whether discussing their intellectual passions, independent projects, creative works or scholarly research, students participating in the Symposium have the unique opportunity to voice their work to a broad audience and to engage in lively debate across the curriculum. The Senior Symposium is also an example to first-years, sophomores and juniors of the level of intellectual engagement we as an institution expect from our students.

I am proud of the more than 80 seniors who chose to participate in the Colleges' first Senior Symposium. I am grateful to the many faculty members who mentored these students and who encouraged them to tackle complex research and creative topics. Finally, I am thankful to the Center for Teaching and Learning and to Dr. Susan Pliner and her staff for their vision and leadership in making the Senior Symposium possible.

Sincerely,



Mark D. Gearan
President

HOBART
AND
WILLIAM SMITH
COLLEGES

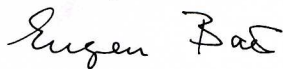
Members of the HWS Community:

The *Senior Symposium* is an exciting event which reflects and honors the depth and breadth of engagement among Hobart and William Smith students in a diverse spectrum of academic and creative interests. It makes visible that which is often invisible, the long hours and hard work students dedicate to the intellectual journey during their four years at the Colleges. Most importantly, it provides an opportunity for students, under the guidance of faculty advisors, to engage each other as teachers and learners.

In its inaugural year, the day long Symposium features presentations by Hobart and William Smith Seniors, arranged in panels and organized around a variety of research and experiential fields.

As your Deans, we join with the Center for Teaching and Learning in applauding those who are participating in the first Senior Symposium as presenters. This is an important academic achievement that you now have as part of your legacy. We also want to applaud the volunteer stewards who will assist in the organization of the day and the faculty and staff who will serve as panel moderators. The Deans also join in the welcoming of all members of the HWS community to this wonderful demonstration of student teaching and learning.

Sincerely,



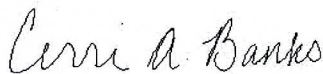
Eugen Baer, Ph.D.
Dean
Hobart College



Chip Capraro, Ph.D.
Associate Dean
Hobart College



David Mapstone
Assistant Dean
Hobart College



Cerri A. Banks, Ph.D.
Interim Dean
William Smith College



Valerie Gunter
Assistant Dean
William Smith College



Lisa Kaenzig
Assistant Dean
William Smith College

HOBART
AND
WILLIAM SMITH
COLLEGES

Dear Hobart and William Smith Colleagues, Students, and Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first annual Hobart and William Smith Senior Symposium, the first time the work of our graduating seniors is celebrated and highlighted in one collective event. On this day, April 3, 2009, we recognize the diversity and breadth of work here at the Colleges, and honor the academic interests, passion, and creativity of the Senior class.

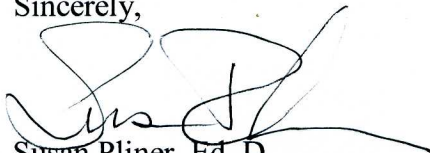
The Senior Symposium reflects the mission of the Center for Teaching and Learning: cultivating, perpetuating and sharing intellectual passion in all areas of study. As with many other CTL initiatives, the Senior Symposium is rooted in a love of learning and promotion of student academic engagement. The Symposium provides and prompts us to carry on an interdisciplinary dialogue across the diverse areas of study offered here at the Colleges, an essential part of any liberal arts education.

Moreover, the Symposium highlights the HWS curriculum goals, particularly Goals 1 & 2, as it is a way for students to communicate their ideas and demonstrate their ability to think critically, articulate questions, and access information. What better way to share four years of hard work in developing these skills than in this celebration in front of the HWS community?

The 2009 Senior Symposium allows graduating seniors to leave a legacy of their passions and pursuits to inspire upcoming classes to cultivate their own interests. This is the start of a rich tradition here at the Colleges.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Ruth Shields, Susan Hess, Caitlin Caron, and the CTL Staff for their dedication and hard work towards making this event possible.

Sincerely,



Susan Pliner, Ed. D.

Director, Center for Teaching and Learning

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The first annual Senior Symposium 2009 was made possible by the vision, leadership, and efforts of many in the Hobart and William Smith community.

Office of the President
Office of the Provost
Office of the Hobart Deans
Office of the William Smith Deans
Office of Admissions
Office of Parent Relations
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Center for Teaching and Learning

Caitlin Caron, Alicia Gregory, Susan Hess, Julie Isaacson,
Pam Lambert, Gary Matassarini, Samantha Miller, Susan Pliner,
Ruth Shields, David Silver, Evelyn Sperry, Sam Vann

Office of Communications

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Dining Services

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Abstract Writing and Presentation Workshop Faculty Facilitators

Lesley Adams, Meghan Brown, Sean Conrey, David Diana,
Christine de Denus, Jon Iuzzini, Mary Kelly, Michele Polak, Craig Rimmerman,
Sarah Russo, Kimberly Williams, Stacey Philbrick Yadav

Sincere thanks are extended to the students, faculty advisors, faculty moderators, department administrative assistants, staff, alumnae, and all who have contributed to the success of this year's event.

RESEARCH SUPPORT AND AWARDS

Symposium students have received generous support for their academic projects from the following organizations, programs, and funds.

American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund
Cohen Award: Trustee sponsored award for Psychological Research
Center for Teaching and Learning Grant

Faculty Grant for Research Assistantship Fall 2008

HWS Deans Award

HWS Summer Science Program 2008

Milton Turk Award

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Greater Research Opportunity (GRO) Fellowship

The White Essay Award

Wilson Ornithologist Society Student Travel Award

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, USGS Wood's Hole Science Center

Senior
Symposium
2009
Presenters

SENIOR SYMPOSIUM 2009 PRESENTERS

| Name | Department/Program | Advisor | Time/Room |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Abbott, April | Geoscience | John Halfman | 2:10/Creedon |
| Allen, Sarah | Geoscience | Nan Crysal Arens | 2:10/Vandervort 2 |
| Alton, Zachary | Environmental Studies | Beth Kinne | 2:25/Vandervort 2 |
| Art, Alison | Psychology | Jonathan Iuzzini | 2:25/Vandervort 1 |
| Athas, Marisa | William Smith Deans | Val Gunter | 9:30/Vandervort 2 |
| Bashaw, Bethany | Biology | Mark Deutschlander | 4:05/Vandervort 1 |
| Berger, Alexandra | Dance | Michelle Ikle | 7:00/Winn-Seeley |
| Bloom, Michael | Geoscience | Nan Crysal Arens | 10:10/Creedon |
| Cannon, Virginia | Public Policy | Craig Rimmerman | 3:50/Vandervort 2 |
| Carlock, Kaitlyn | Public Policy | Craig Rimmerman | 11:35/Creedon |
| Carpinella, Colleen | Psychology | Jonathan Iuzzini | 2:40/Vandervort 1 |
| Csapos, Brendan | American Studies | Eric Patterson | 1:30/Creedon |
| D'Urso, Michael | Philosophy | Carol Oberbrunner | 3:20/Creedon |
| Dailey, Anna | Philosophy | Rodmon King | 1:00/Vandervort 1 |
| Daley, Emma | Sociology | Wes Perkins | 2:25/Creedon |
| DeKraker, Katie | Education | Mary Kelly | 11:50/Creedon |
| Dill, Ryan | Public Policy | Craig Rimmerman | 10:40/Vandervort 1 |
| Ernst, Michelle | Sociology | Jack Harris | 11:50/Vandervort 1 |
| Evans, Caitlin | Sociology | Jack Harris | 11:20/Creedon |
| Faherty, Katherine | Economics | Paula Cole | 1:30/Vandervort 1 |
| Fisher, Stephanie | Biology | Meghan Brown | 2:40/Vandervort 2 |
| Gallagher, Corey | Biology | Meghan Brown | 10:25/Creedon |
| Gaydos, Melissa | Biology | Susan Cushman | 10:40/Creedon |
| Gentile, Tara | Psychology | Jonathan Iuzzini | 10:40/Vandervort 2 |
| George, Karen | Dance | Michelle Ikle | 7:15/Winn-Seeley |
| Gibson, Julia | Philosophy | Carol Oberbrunner | 10:55/Creedon |
| Gregory, Alicia | English | Lauren Alleyne | 11:50/Vandervort 2 |
| Gummoe, Sarah | Sociology | Renee Monson | 11:35/Vandervort 1 |
| Hecklau, Emily | Sociology | Renee Monson | 11:20/Vandervort 1 |
| Hopke, Leslie | Biology | Mark Deutschlander | 3:20/Vandervort 1 |
| James, Deja | Sociology | Richard Mason | 9:45/Creedon |
| Jones, Rebecca | Biology | Mark Deutschlander | 4:05/Vandervort 1 |
| Kahn, Alexander | English | Laurence Erussard | 4:05/Creedon |
| Kana, Austin | Public Policy | Craig Rimmerman | 10:25/Vandervort 1 |
| Kinnevey, Christina | Sociology | Wes Perkins | 2:25/Creedon |
| Kinnevey, Christina | Biology | Mark Deutschlander | 4:05/Vandervort 1 |
| Klutts, Kathryn | William Smith Deans | Val Gunter | 9:30/Vandervort 2 |
| Mancuso, Katie | Sociology | Portia Dyrenforth | 1:15/Creedon |
| Marshall, Katherine | Psychology | Julie Kingery | 2:40/Creedon |
| Mattes, Karen | Classics/English | Leah Himmelhoch | 9:15/Vandervort 1 |
| McIntyre, Garrett | Public Policy | Craig Rimmerman | 1:30/Vandervort 2 |
| Meeker, Oliver | Sociology | Jack Harris | 1:00/Vandervort 2 |
| Miller, Samantha | Sociology | Wes Perkins | 10:10/Vandervort 2 |

SENIOR SYMPOSIUM 2009 PRESENTERS

| Name | Department/Program | Advisor | Time/Room |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Mitchell, Katherine | Economics | Paula Cole | 1:30/Vandervort 1 |
| Mohamed, Rafeek | American Studies | Mary Hess | 2:55/Vandervort 1 |
| Mukomolova, Galina | English | Lauren Alleyne | 12:05/Vandervort 2 |
| Nihart, Heather | Biology | Kristy Kenyon | 3:35/Vandervort 2 |
| O'Loughlin, Meghan | Art History | Elena Ciletti | 9:00/Vandervort 1 |
| Orton, Celeste | Education | Cerri Banks | 2:10/Vandervort 1 |
| Patterson, Orlando | Sociology | Jack Harris | 11:50/Vandervort 1 |
| Petrella, Jillian | Sociology | Jack Harris | 11:50/Vandervort 1 |
| Pereira, Mariza | Philosophy | Carol Oberbrunner | 9:30/Vandervort 1 |
| Poon, Chi Kong | Biology | Mark Deutschlander | 3:20/Vandervort 1 |
| Prue, Keegan | Education | Kim Williams | 9:00/Creedon |
| Ramsey, Ben | English | Laurence Erussard | 4:05/Creedon |
| Reuter, Tyson | Psychology | Julie Kingery | 3:50/Creedon |
| Riggi, Richard | Biology | Mark Deutschlander | 3:35/Vandervort 1 |
| Rioux, Kelsey | Economics | Paula Cole | 1:30/Vandervort 1 |
| Robinson, Phylicia | Public Policy | Craig Rimmerman | 9:30/Creedon |
| Ryan, Danielle | Writing and Rhetoric | Cheryl Forbes | 9:15/Creedon |
| Samuelson, Lauren | Public Policy | Craig Rimmerman | 1:15/Vandervort 2 |
| Sands, Jacqueline | CCESL | Sarah Entennman | 9:15/Vandervort 2 |
| Santiago, Rayza | CCESL | Sarah Entennman | 10:55/Vandervort 1 |
| Sauter, Michael | Public Policy | Craig Rimmerman | 9:45/Vandervort 1 |
| Schara, Quinn | Biology | Mark Deutschlander | 3:50/Vandervort 1 |
| Sessions, Elizabeth | Anthropology | Brenda Maiale | 10:10/Vandervort 1 |
| Sheehan, Emily | English | Lauren Alleyne | 11:20/Vandervort 2 |
| Steiner, Michael | Biology | Mark Deutschlander | 3:35/Vandervort 1 |
| Stern, Amanda | Education | Helen McCabe/Mary Kelly | 1:00/Creedon |
| Strenger, Joshua | Sociology | Jack Harris | 11:50/Vandervort 1 |
| Styer, Charlotte | Art | Phillia Yi | 3:35/Creedon |
| Townsend, Amanda | Sociology | Jack Harris | 11:50/Vandervort 1 |
| Van Dellon, Peter | Political Science | Paul Passavant | 1:45/Vandervort 2 |
| Virgilio, Maria | Biology | Mark Deutschlander | 3:50/Vandervort 1 |
| Wager, Anna | Art History | Elena Ciletti | 1:15/Vandervort 1 |
| Wickenden, Andrew | English | Lauren Alleyne | 11:35/Vandervort 2 |
| Wolfe, Yanina | CGE | Doug Reilly | 10:25/Vandervort 2 |

Senior
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Schedule

VANDERVORT ROOM 1

| Time | Presenters | Abstract Title | Department |
|-------------|---|---|----------------------|
| 9:00 | O'Loughlin, Meghan | The Madonnas of Caravaggio | Art History |
| 9:15 | Mattes, Karen | Dragons in Ancient Greek and Norse (Indo-European) Mythology | Classics/ English |
| 9:30 | Pereira, Mariza | When Shiller Meets Soccer | Philosophy |
| 9:45 | Sauter, Michael | The Problem of Evil: Is it Refutable, Is it Useful | Philosophy |
| 10:10 | Sessions, Elizabeth | The Stewards of Eden | Anthropology |
| 10:25 | Kana, Austin | Green Politics: An Analysis of Energy Efficiency for Municipalities in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York State | Public Policy |
| 10:40 | Dill, Ryan | From Rags to Riches: The Case for Buffalo's Transition to a "Green Economy" | Public Policy |
| 10:55 | Santiago, Rayza | Breaking New Ground: My Year as the Bonner Leader for Environmental Outreach | CCESL |
| 11:20 | Hecklau, Emily | Analyzing the Relationship Between the Hobart and William Smith and Geneva Communities through Public Art | Sociology |
| 11:35 | Gummoe, Sarah | Examining Interactions Between Hobart and William Smith Students and Geneva Residents | Sociology |
| 11:50 | Ernst, Michelle; Patterson, Orlando; Petrella, Jillian; Strenger, Joshua and Townsend, Amanda | Downtown Development Initiative | Sociology |
| 1:00 | Dailey, Anna | Women in Philosophy: Understanding the Past to Shape the Future | Philosophy |
| | Wager, Anna | "Hope and Love Keep Us Happily in Prison: Widows, and Art Patronage in Renaissance Italy | Art History |
| 1:30 | Faherty, Katherine; Mitchell, Katie and Rioux, Kelsey | Addressing the Gender Gap: The HWS Economics | Economics |
| 2:10 | Orton, Celeste | Language and the Understanding of Intercultural Identities | Education |
| 2:25 | Art, Alison | Increasing Stamina to Combat Cognitive Depletion in Interracial Interactions | Psychology |
| 2:40 | Carpinella, Colleen | What Comes to Mind When You Think of Affirmative Action | Psychology |

| Time | Presenters | Abstract Title | Department |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 2:55 | Mohamed, Rafeek | Being an Immigrant and a First Generation College Student at HWS | American Studies |
| | | | |
| 3:20 | Poon, Chi and Hopke, Leslie | How Much Fat is Excess Fat in Migrant Songbirds?: Maximum Distance Predictions of Migrants at a Great Lakes Stopover Sight | Biology |
| 3:35 | Steiner, Michael and Riggi, Richard | Do Intercontinental and Temperate Migrant Songbirds Vary in Their Fat Stores and Energetic Condition?: A Test of the Insurance Hypothesis for Excess Fat Stores | Biology |
| 3:50 | Schara, Quinn and Virgilio, Maria | Do Meteorological Variables and Resource Predictability Explain Yearly Variation of Fat Stores and Energetic Condition of Spring Migrant Songbirds at a Great Lakes Stopover Sight?: A Test of the Insurance Hypothesis for Excess Fat Stores | Biology |
| 4:05 | Jones, Rebecca and Bashaw, Bethany | Sex and Age Variation in the Fat Stores and Energetic Condition of Spring Migrating Songbirds at a Great Lakes Stopover Sight: A Test of the Breeding Performance Hypothesis for Excess Fat Stores | Biology |

VANDERVORT ROOM 2

| Time | Presenters | Abstract Title | Department |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 9:00 | Sands, Jacquelyn | My Journey from Bonner Leader to Bonner Senior Intern | CCESL |
| 9:15 | Klutts, Katie and Athas, Marisa | Building the Learn To Lead Program | WS Deans |
| 10:10 | Miller, Samantha | William Smith Women, Alcohol, and Sexual Behavior | Sociology |
| 10:25 | Wolfe, Yanina | Get Lost: The Gift of Fear | CGE |
| 10:40 | Gentile, Tara | Individual Relationships in Empathic Accuracy: Personality and Romantic Relationships | Psychology |
| 10:55 | Gibson, Julia | The Possibility of Sentient Machine Minds | Philosophy |
| 11:20 | Sheehan, Emily | Copper Stars | English |
| 11:35 | Wickenden, Andy | American Friction | English |
| 11:50 | Gregory, Alicia | With: Elegies | English |
| 12:05 | Mukomolova, Galina | Prayers to the God of Love Dogs | English |
| 1:00 | Meeker, Oliver | One Vietnam--Post War Memories and Future Aspirations | Sociology |
| 1:15 | Samuelson, Lauren | Examining the Ability of Plan Colombia to Eradicate Coca Cultivation in Colombia and Proposals for New Initiatives to Curtail Cocaine Production | Public Policy |
| 1:30 | McIntyre, Garrett | Policy Implications of Financial Crisis | Public Policy |
| 1:45 | Van Dellon, Peter | How the Bush Administration Sought to Systematically Undermine American Democracy | Political Science |
| 2:10 | Allen, Sarah | A Florule from the Base of Hell Creek Formation in the Type Area of Eastern Montana: Implications for Diversity, Climate, and Environment | Geoscience |
| 2:25 | Alton, Zachary | Comparative Legal Approaches to Limiting Risks to Water Resources Posed by Natural Gas Resource Development in the Marcellus Shale Play | Environmental Studies |
| 2:40 | Fisher, Stephanie | Using Zooplankton Size to Investigate Trophic Cascades in Handley Pond 7 and 11 at Hobart and William Smith Colleges Nature Preserve | Biology |

| Time | Presenters | Abstract Title | Department |
|-------------|---------------------|--|-------------------|
| 3:35 | Nihart, Heather | The Cellular Reprogramming Factor: Will iPS Technology Affect Federal Funding of Human Embryonic Stem Cells? | Biology |
| 3:50 | Cannon, Virginia | Universal Action Now: How the International AIDS Society is Shaping HIV/AIDS Education and Policy | Public Policy |
| 4:05 | Kinnevey, Christina | Understanding Public Health by Involvement in a Diabetes Education Pilot Project | Biology |

SENIOR SYMPOSIUM 2009 SCHEDULE

CREEDON ROOM

| Time | Presenters | Abstract Titles | Department |
|-------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 9:00 | Prue, Keegan | The Sound of Silence: The Current Status of Music Education in America | Education |
| 9:15 | Ryan, Danielle | Reading to Learn, Learning to Read | Writing and Rhetoric |
| 9:30 | Robinson, Phylcia | The War on Education: Most Children Left Behind | Public Policy |
| 9:45 | James, Deja | What Class Do You Sit In?: The Sociological Affects of Education | Sociology |
| | | | |
| 10:10 | Bloom, Michael | Using Plant Miospore Diversity to Locate Devonian Extinction in the Stratiographic Section Exposed at Watkins Glen State Park New York | Geoscience |
| 10:25 | Gallagher, Corey | "Living Fossils"--Zooplankton Ecology of the Last 100 Years in Owasco and Seneca Lakes | Biology |
| 10:40 | Gaydos, Melissa | Determination of Age and Population Structure in Largemouth Bass, <i>Micropterus Salmoids</i> , at the Henry H. Hanley Biological Field Preserve | Biology |
| | | | |
| 11:20 | Evans, Caitlin | Evaluating Recidivism Trends: A Semester with the Probation Department | Sociology |
| 11:35 | Carlock, Kaitlyn | What about the Children? What to do with Children Whose Mothers Are Incarcerated | Public Policy |
| 11:50 | DeKraker, Katie | A Second Chance: The Value of Education in Prison | Education |
| | | | |
| 1:00 | Stern, Amanda | Inclusion on a College Campus: "We're Still Here" | Education |
| 1:15 | Mancuso, Katie | A Comparison of the Importance of Physical Attractiveness and Personality Between Hobart First-Years and Seniors | Sociology |
| 1:30 | Csapos, Brendan | Constructions of Asian Masculinity in the Colonial Mind | American Studies |
| | | | |
| 2:10 | Abbott, April | Inferring Regional and Local Sources of Mercury to the Sediments of Seneca Lake, New York | Geoscience |
| 2:25 | Kinnevey, Christina and Daley, Emma | Updating the "Success for Geneva's Children" 2009 Report | Sociology |
| 2:55 | Marshall, Katherine | The Kindergarten Literacy Initiative Project | Psychology |

SENIOR SYMPOSIUM 2009 SCHEDULE

| Time | Presenters | Abstract Title | Department |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 3:20 | D'Urso, Michael | Star Wars: A Philosophical Journey Through Popular Culture | Philosophy |
| 3:35 | Styer, Charlotte | Exposing a Deeper Meaning | Art |
| 3:50 | Reuter, Tyson | Friendship and Adjustment in College Students | Psychology |
| 4:05 | Ramsey, Ben and Kahn, Alex | The Homoaffective Quest | English |

WINN-SEELEY GYMNASIUM

| Time | Presenters | Abstract Title | Department |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 7:00 | Berger, Alexandra | The Dreams You Have Woven | Dance |
| 7:00 | George, Karen | Human Interactions in Movement | Dance |

Senior
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Abstracts

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INFERRING REGIONAL AND LOCAL SOURCES OF MERCURY TO THE SEDIMENTS OF SENECA LAKE, NEW YORK

April Abbott

Mercury contamination is pervasive in aquatic ecosystems, and its bioaccumulation may lead to severe health concerns for both wildlife and humans. Both local point sources and regional atmospheric fallout are historically important. Here we present mercury concentrations within the top two centimeters of sediment in Seneca Lake in central New York State to investigate the concentration of mercury in the sediments and to assess the relative significance of local and regional atmospheric fallout. Coal combustion is one of the top known anthropogenic sources of atmospheric mercury. AES Greenidge, a coal-fired electrical generation station, is located along the western shore of the lake and has been in operation since 1939.

To examine the current impact of the power plant, eleven sediment grab samples were collected in September and October 2008 along a ~20-km transect extending from just south of the coal plant northward. The mercury concentrations reveal no gradient with distance from the power plant within Seneca Lake. The mercury concentrations range from 0.034 to 0.150 ppm (average = 0.127 ppm, dry sediment) in Seneca Lake. In other central NY lakes, concentrations up to 0.09 ppm were reported where the only expected source of mercury is regional atmospheric fallout (Glacial Lake) and up to 0.16 ppm where additional local sources were suspected (Cross, Otisco, and Skaneateles Lake). The average concentration in Seneca Lake is at the high end of this range, suggesting both regional and local sources.

Mercury concentrations increased with decreased sediment grain size and with deeper water depths in Seneca Lake. This trend was observed in neighboring Finger Lakes and was explained by sediment focused of fine-grained sediment and adsorbed mercury to deeper sections of the lake (Bookman et al, 2008). Calculated mercury fluxes within Seneca Lake based on an estimated porosity of 0.78, estimated linear sedimentation rate of .21cm/yr, and an assumed sediment density of 2.0 g/cm³ indicate Seneca Lake has a significantly larger mercury flux than surrounding lakes, with a flux of 117μgm⁻²yr⁻¹. Further refinement of the flux assumptions are needed to substantiate these conclusions and determine if local sources are contributing appreciably to apparent elevated flux levels.

A FLORULE FROM THE BASE OF THE HELL CREEK FORMATION IN THE
TYPE AREA OF EASTERN MONTANA: IMPLICATIONS FOR DIVERSITY,
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Sarah E. Allen

The Late Cretaceous Hell Creek Formation in Garfield County, northeastern Montana has yielded numerous well-preserved leaf macrofossil localities that provide insight into the climate, ecology and vegetation structure of the latest Cretaceous landscape. The most basal locality so far reported in the Hell Creek type area occurs in large channel sandstones approximately 10 m above the contact with the underlying Fox Hills sandstone. The locality represents a fluvial/estuarine environment. Leaf macrofossils occur as impressions in clay drapes within channels of fine to very fine-grained sandstone, probably produced when the incoming tidal bore balanced stream discharge in this reach, permitting deposition of fines.

In this fossil collection, angiosperms are dominant (approximately 44 morphotypes). Gymnosperms including *Metasequoia* and *Ginkgo* are present but rare; ferns are absent. Leaf Margin Analysis produced a mean annual temperature estimate between 6-7°C. This is considerably below the approximately 13°C MAT reconstructed from floras at the base of the Hell Creek Formation in North Dakota. However, it is commensurate with a single MAT reconstruction of 7°C from approximately 66.3 Ma in North Dakota. Leaf size analysis suggested a mean annual precipitation (MAP) of 47.8 cm. In this collection, partial specimens are more common among larger morphotypes, potentially biasing the result toward low MAP. These estimates will be compared to results from Climate Leaf Analysis Multivariate Program (CLAMP), which is more robust to partial specimens. While some morphotypes in this collection are familiar from the well-documented Hell Creek I zone from southwestern North Dakota, many others are not, suggesting greater spatial and/or temporal heterogeneity in the Hell Creek flora than has been previously appreciated.

COMPARATIVE LEGAL APPROACHES TO LIMITING RISKS TO WATER
RESOURCES POSED BY NATURAL GAS RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE
MARCELLUS SHALE PLAY

Zachary Alton

The exploration of the Marcellus Shale for natural gas has been described as a “modern day gold rush in your own backyard.”¹ The Marcellus Shale is an organic-rich rock formation located below the surface of large sections of New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. Locked deep within this 380 million year old black shale is an estimated 50 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas, motivating oil and gas companies to approach land owners to enter into leases for the development of the natural gas play located underneath their lands.² However, many landowners involved in contracting with oil and gas companies are unaware of the potential for environmental degradation and financial exploitation as a result of the invasive hydraulic fracture drilling processes. The vast quantities of water used and effluent created through the drilling process pose a potential environmental risk to all those living in the drilling area. Furthermore, the leases that are being presented to landowners by oil and gas companies often do not account for the risks to water resources, and statutory protection for landowners is limited.

This project is a comparative study of the existing legal environment and proposed legal responses to the increased oil and gas development pressures in states overlying the Marcellus Shale play. Through comparing and contrasting existing and proposed state laws affecting oil and gas development in states overlying the Marcellus Shale, this project will lead to a better understanding of the options already available to landowners and municipalities to protect water resources from damage due to drilling activities, and suggestions for needed law and policy initiatives.

¹ Krauss, C. *There's Gas in Those Hills*, New York Times (April 8, 2008), available at <http://www.nytimes.com>.

² Arthur, J. Daniel, Brian Bohm, P.G., and Mark Layne, Ph.D., P.E., ALL Consulting, *Hydraulic Fracturing Considerations for Natural Gas Wells of the Marcellus Shale*, The Ground Water Protection Council 2008 Annual Forum (2008). Available at http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/materials_minerals_pdf/GWPCMarcellus.pdf.

INCREASING STAMINA TO COMBAT COGNITIVE DEPLETION IN INTERRACIAL INTERACTIONS

Alison Art

Past research has established that interracial interactions are associated with anxiety and cognitive depletion. For example, Richeson and Trawalter (2005) found that those who engaged in self-monitoring during an interracial interaction performed worse on a test of cognitive impairment than did those who interacted with someone of the same race.¹ The vast amount of research on interracial interactions has focused on negative implications and consequences. Shelton (2000) proposed that since our society is growing increasingly culturally diverse, social psychological research on these issues should move in a new direction.²

The present research is intended to examine the ways in which stamina against cognitive depletion can be enhanced, therefore making interracial interactions more positive experiences. In the first of two sessions, participants completed the Implicit Association Test (IAT), the Color-Blind Racial Attitudes Scale (CoBRAS), the Interethnic Anxiety Toward African Americans Scale (IATAA), and a demographic measure. At the second session several days later, participants were randomly assigned to a condition that either aimed to enhance their self-efficacy (participants wrote about a past positive interracial interaction), deplete self-efficacy (participants wrote about a past negative interracial interaction), or a control condition (participants wrote about the ten items they would want if they were stranded on a desert island). Participants then interacted with a same-sex Black confederate or same-sex White confederate (i.e., accomplice of the experimenter). Following the interaction, participants completed the Stroop Task. Suboptimal performance on this task is an indicator of cognitive depletion.

After an interracial interaction, I hypothesize that participants in the positive essay condition will be less cognitively depleted than those in the negative or control conditions.

¹ Richeson, J. A., & Trawalter, S. (2005). Why do interracial interactions impair executive function? A resource depletion account. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 88, 934-947.

² Shelton, J. N. (2000). A reconceptualization of how we study issues of racial prejudice. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 4, 374-390.

THE DREAMS YOU HAVE WOVEN

Alexandra Berger

Despite the swarms of people around us, it is easy to feel alone in the world. Then, sometimes unexpectedly, we make a connection with someone who makes a difference in our lives. *The Dreams You Have Woven* is a dance I have choreographed which explores these relationships among people who, at least briefly, become important to one another. The inspiration for the project came from a dream I had while in India; it is therefore influenced by my time there and my search for meaning among the many interactions I witnessed and experienced.

In the process of creating the dance, I began with some of the images from my dream, and then created a few core movement phrases inspired by the sense of isolation, yearning, and eventual joy that I extracted from the dream. When I began working with my cast of five dancers, I started to consider the roles each of them would play, how they might embody different personalities through their movement, and how that would create interesting duet/trio interactions. I wanted to develop the relationship of group to individual so that it gradually progresses from where each inhabits the same space unaware of the others, to tentative interaction, to building more trusting relationships, to finally re-forming the group as a community. The dancers also collaborated with me by composing some of their own solos and duets, as well as discussing ideas. This project has been important in integrating my recent experiences with many of the ideas I have explored as a dance major over the past four years.

USING PLANT MIOSPORE DIVERSITY TO LOCATE DEVONIAN EXTINCTION
EVENTS IN THE STRATIGRAPHIC SECTION EXPOSED AT
WATKINS GLEN STATE PARK, NEW YORK

Michael Bloom

The Late Devonian Period—377.5 Ma to 362.5 Ma—was characterized by marine anoxic and extinction events with complex causes. Sedimentary rocks deposited in the Devonian Catskill Basin encompass the Kellwasser Event, a global marine anoxic event marked by mass extinctions, which has been dated to approximately 367 Ma. There are several competing hypotheses regarding the deposition of the organic rich black shales. Evaluating these will aid in the potential development of a substantial fractured gas resource in these shales.

The smallest scale hypothesis of the three evaluated in this project proposes that black shale deposition was controlled by regional tectonics and basin activation. A second hypothesis links global climate models, predominantly largescale temperature change, to the deposition of black shales. The third hypothesis links the evolution of deep root systems in land plants to increased weathering and corresponding nutrient flux into the oceans and to episodes of marine anoxia and the deposition of black shales.

To distinguish between these hypotheses, a continuous 95 m stratigraphic section, which includes at least two episodes of black shale deposition, exposed in the ravine at Watkins Glen State Park, New York has been measured and extensively sampled. Shale samples are being processed for palynology. The observed miospore diversity will be used to interpret the potential causal relationship between black shale deposition and the evolution of climate vegetation systems, as well as to determine the stratigraphic location of the Kellwasser event.

After seeing the size of the stratigraphic section exposed at Watkins Glen, I wanted to combine paleobiostratigraphy with sedimentology to try to eliminate background influence and determine which of the three aforementioned hypotheses was responsible for the occurrence of the Kellwasser mass extinction event, so that visitors to the park could appreciate the geological significance of the sedimentary layers exposed in the ravine wall.

This work has been supported by the Summer Science Program at Hobart & William Smith Colleges and the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund.

UNIVERSAL ACTION NOW: HOW THE INTERNATIONAL AIDS SOCIETY IS SHAPING HIV/AIDS EDUCATION AND POLICY

Virginia M. Cannon

Today, millions of people are unable to seek treatment and prevention services for HIV due to overwhelming costs. In 2010, the global target on universal access to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support will undoubtedly fall short. This topic was the theme for the 17th International AIDS Conference, an event planned and organized by the International AIDS Society.

My study explored the following questions: In what ways is the International AIDS Society shaping the HIV/AIDS movement and, subsequently, what public policy implications stem from their conferences?

The motivation behind my study originated during my public policy internship in Geneva, Switzerland, at the International AIDS Society. This eight-month internship gave me the opportunity to contribute to the planning of the world's largest conference on HIV/AIDS. My previous coursework in healthcare policy laid the foundation for examining the policy implications.

This study examined the mission of the International AIDS Society, the findings that were presented at the conference by leading professionals in the field of HIV/AIDS, and what I believe will be the primary focus of the 18th International AIDS Conference. I argue that the work being done at the International AIDS Society through the planning of the International AIDS Conferences will have a direct and meaningful impact on the future of the HIV/AIDS epidemic because of their commitment to support all endeavors in education and research.

WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN? WHAT TO DO WITH CHILDREN WHOSE MOTHERS ARE INCARCERATED

Kaitlyn Carlock

My project focuses on children whose mothers have been incarcerated and what should be done with these children. Special attention in this project is being paid to mothers because “A recent survey indicates that while [ninety] percent of male inmates' children were living with the child's mother, only a quarter of the female inmates reported that the child lived with his or her father.”¹ This put an alarming number of children into the states' care. The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), which was signed into law in 1997, requires that parents whose children have spent at least 15 of the last 22 months out of their home, in the care of a state facility, must have their parental rights terminated and the children be put up for adoption unless it can be proven that this is not in the best interest of the child. Is the prospect of state custody until the age of 18 ever truly in the best interest of the child? The large majority of older children are never adopted and spend the rest of their childhood in a state facility. This is punishing the children for the crimes of their parents.

Aside from the surface legal issues, there are several other interesting questions raised by this topic, which my paper examines through research and personal stories: what is the effectiveness of in-prison daycare centers in women's prisons? In the interest of equality, should those daycare centers also be present in men's prisons? Additionally, are there forms of temporary care which are able to deal with the multitude of problems from which young children who have become separated from their parents suffer, including but not limited to, behavioral problems, separation anxiety, poor performance in school and gang activity?² Not all of these questions will be answered in this project, but they will be addressed in hopes of sparking a debate.

¹ Flanagan, LaMont J.D.. “The Female Offender: A Victim of Neglect.” *Margins Law Journal* Copyright © 2002 University of Maryland School of Law

² Levy-Pounds, Nekima. “Children of Incarcerated Mothers and the Struggle for Stability.” *The Modern American*. © 2006 American University Washington College of Law

WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION?

Colleen M. Carpinella

This study investigated the impact of policy labels on people's perceptions of political policies. Participants were randomly assigned to either the "affirmative action policy" (AAP) or "diversity policy" (DP) condition. College students and community members from four different geographic locations completed a questionnaire assessing their perceptions of either the AAP or DP.

The open-ended portion of the questionnaire contained a free response exercise where participants were asked to write the first five words that came to mind when they heard the label of the policy. Responses to this free response showed that the AAP was associated with discrimination, racism, unfairness, and African Americans, whereas the DP was associated with racial/ethnic background, diversity, gender, and equality. When asked to list positive and negative associations with the policy, participants in the AAP condition listed more negative words associated with the policy while participants in the DP condition listed more positive words. Additionally, when asked to choose between the two policies, participants overwhelmingly favored the DP.

In the close-ended portion of the questionnaire, participants rated the potential components of the policy (e.g., quotas, training, etc.). Results revealed that participants did not differ in their responses based on their policy condition.

Regardless of participant conditions, disregarding minority/majority status and forbidding discrimination were viewed more favorably, while quotas, reverse discrimination, favoring less qualified minority applicants, and training minority applicants were all viewed more negatively. Implications of this research for education on social policies will be discussed.

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WOMEN AND PHILOSOPHY: UNDERSTANDING THE PAST TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

Anna Dailey

In my paper, I conduct a bifurcated investigation of the professional field of philosophy. I begin by examining the treatment of women in philosophy, historically and currently. Then I investigate the future of the field of philosophy, exploring the potential for transforming philosophy into a more inclusive endeavor.

My paper begins with a simple, observable fact: Philosophy is a male-dominated profession. This is evident by the uneven ratio of professional male philosophers to women philosophers, the disproportionate publication rates of men to women in top philosophical journals, and the tradition of the strictly male philosophical canon. I examine the reasons for this inequity, focusing on an ingrained bias about the maleness of rationality, born out of a scarce and inaccurate history of women philosophers.

The second part of my paper will focus on the plausibility and optimality of solutions for the gendered nature of the philosophy profession. Along with questions of revising the traditional philosophical canon, I also examine potential transformations of the spirit of the philosophical endeavor. I propose traditional conceptions of what philosophy is and what it takes to participate in scholastic philosophy are predominantly male-gendered and gravely mistaken, implicitly perpetuating the inequitable prevalence and supremacy of men in the professional field.

CONSTRUCTIONS OF ASIAN MASCULINITY IN THE COLONIAL MIND

Brendan Csaposs

My project explored European constructions of Asians and their culture in the Age of Empire by investigating two questions: “What are the fundamental differences in constructions of Asian cultures across different colonizing nations and Asian cultures?” and “How do these differences affect colonial constructions of Asian gender within those cultures?”

My desire to investigate this area springs from my previous coursework in LGB Studies and, in particular, studies of masculinity, coursework on European constructions of gender and race undertaken during my semester in the Netherlands, and my own experience of the ways in which racial stereotypes and the gender constructions associated with them are so often lived out in our country, especially within the homosexual male community.

In my investigation of my core questions, I first examined and compared the interactions of British colonials and Indians with those of French colonists and the Indochinese (most specifically the Vietnamese). I then evaluated the ways in which these interactions influenced the sexual and gender constructions that these colonists projected onto the native people, but especially colonized males. In doing so, I found a very clear distinction between the two colonial powers on both accounts. The British, who championed a Victorian “myth of manhood,” constructed the colonized Indian male as grossly effeminate. This construction was used as a moral justification for the rule of India throughout the Victorian era.¹ By contrast, the French in Indochina constructed the entirety of the Vietnamese country, from the people to the forests, as a brutal landscape that was to be feared. The French constructed Vietnamese sexuality as something inherently dangerous to the colonial male, which accounts for the differences in approach to the colonized, when compared with the British.² Ultimately, I found that the clearest distinction between these two colonial powers was the feelings that native culture evoked in them, which led to the attitudes that colonials took in approaching colonized natives.

¹ Revathi Krishnaswamy, “The Economy of Colonial Desire,” *The Masculinity Studies Reader*, ed. Rachel Adams and David Savran (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 2002) 299.

² Milton Osborne, “Fear and Fascination in the Tropics: A Reader’s Guide to French Fiction on Indo-China,” *Asia in Western Fiction*, ed. Robin W. Winks and James R. Rush (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1990) 162-165.

UPDATING THE “SUCCESS FOR GENEVA’S CHILDREN” 2009 DATA REPORT

Emma Daley and Christina Kinnevey

The mission of Success for Geneva's Children is to mobilize the community to improve the health and well-being of Geneva’s children and their families. Success strives to build effective interventions and supports for children. Bi-annually, Success produces 20+ data points that reflect social and demographic characteristics of Geneva’s children, social support services, and comparisons with the larger county, region, and state. The data report provides vital information in areas like poverty, education, housing, and crime. This informs outreach efforts and is a key component to countless grant applications.

Our role is to update data for the 2009 report. This involves examining data from past reports and contacting local community leaders and agencies to get up-to-date statistics. We also collect and analyze county and state data for comparison. In addition to simply updating the report, we are conducting a needs-based assessment to see what other information would be useful to the city. After collecting the data, we analyze results for any trends and decide on the best way to present the information.

We chose to do this project because of our desire to improve children’s lives, as well as the opportunity to develop research skills utilizing our strong backgrounds in math. This project has helped us gain confidence in communicating with community leaders and has increased our knowledge of the services available in Geneva.

A SECOND CHANCE: THE VALUE OF EDUCATION IN PRISON

Katie DeKraker

The goal of this project was to determine the value of the GED for an incarcerated male. Ultimately, education is vital for reentering society; however, the prison culture often makes this a difficult goal for even the most driven to accomplish.

Using what I learned about the value of education in prison settings from a class with visiting Professor Jim Sutton, I developed an independent study examining the role education plays in an adult prison. Working with Professor Mary Kelly, I interned with the GED program at Five Points Correctional Facility, an all men's maximum security prison in Romulus, NY, to explore how adult male offenders take advantage of the education programs offered. The GED class comprised 18 men, predominately African-American, who were between 20-65 years old. Their sentences ranged from short-term incarceration to life.

Through observations, journaling, and personal interviews with inmates and the GED teacher, I found that although inmates were members of clashing gangs and subcultures, they could reach out in a classroom full of diverse inmates. I also found that challenging an inmate to respect himself and those around him makes obtaining an education feasible.

FROM RAGS TO RICHES: THE CASE FOR BUFFALO'S TRANSITION TO A "GREEN ECONOMY"

Ryan Dill

My project explored the questions: "What action should be taken at the local level to eradicate persistent poverty and unemployment in the City of Buffalo?" and "Can a shift toward environmentally friendly practices, by both businesses and households, lead to economic prosperity for the region?"

My interest in this project comes largely from my previous coursework in Public Policy, other coursework in Economics and Sociology, my work as an intern for New York State Assembly member Sam Hoyt, and my own experiences while living in my hometown of Buffalo.

The investigative portion of my project incorporated literature that makes the case for environmental reform at all levels of government, important U.S. Census figures for Buffalo, a comparative analysis that examines other local "green" projects, as well as my own knowledge drawn from working with various organizations during my internship with Assembly member Hoyt.

Through my analysis, which was largely qualitative and observational, I concluded that the City of Buffalo should make significant policy changes that provide incentives for businesses and households to take account of the environment in their everyday practices. Doing so would help revitalize an economy that has struggled in recent decades, bring interesting and stable jobs back to the city, and likely steer public opinion towards an attitude that is eco-friendly and resource conscious.

STAR WARS: A PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNEY THROUGH POPULAR CULTURE

Michael Adam D'Urso

Star Wars has been a popular culture icon for decades. I admire and revere these films because of the strength of storyline from technology and philosophical and Greek mythology. From the characters to the technology, Star Wars provides the viewer not only with aesthetic value but also philosophical understanding. I argue that the Star Wars saga, comprised of six films, provides a unique aesthetic experience which strikes at the heart of human nature and carries the viewer into philosophical dilemmas.

Within the Star Wars saga is the comparison of the philosophical values of the Sith Lords and storm troopers of the Galactic Empire on one hand, and the sacred Jedi of the galaxy on the other. The Galactic Empire is represented as unnatural and conformist, strongly negative features. The character of Darth Vader represents the negative views of humanity that are presented by many philosophers. The Jedi, conversely, embrace diversity and believe in a Taoist natural flow known as "The Force."

Star Wars is able to combine the philosophy of Taoism, Confucianism, Plato, Socrates, and others. Furthermore, it is able to significantly embrace ancient Greek mythology. Star Wars also contains feminist philosophical themes through its representation of Queen Padme Amadala, the wife of Anakin Skywalker and mother Luke and Leia.

Star Wars effectively combines the issues that speak to human dilemmas, such as personal identity and transformation, as well as good and evil. Star Wars themes are universal; the power of this saga comes from visuals, music, and moral messages.

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EVALUATING RECIDIVISM TRENDS: A SEMESTER WITH THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Caitlin Evans

This paper examines aspects of crime and recidivism using up-to-date cases to determine trends and patterns. There are a number of reasons and circumstances in which those who have been incarcerated commit further crimes, often stemming from socioeconomic disposition or the individual's position within the social hierarchy, that depend on variables such as education, income and location.

Using the case study method, specific cases were examined. This included investigating daily arrests and prior records of those arrested. At times, interviews were available with those accused. Using SPSS, this data was combined with the 98 cases and arranged according to gender, race, location, the nature of the crime committed, and whether a prior record of said perpetrator was found.

The results established that perpetrators responsible for specific types of crimes, such as drug possession, tended to have high rates of recidivism. However, those responsible for more violent crimes, such as assault and attempted murder, were less likely to have a previous record. Upon further investigation of the data, the results confirmed that perpetrators were more likely to have committed previous crimes, and continue to commit those specific crimes, when the crime adjusted their socioeconomic status.

ADDRESSING THE GENDER GAP: THE HWS ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Katherine Faherty, Katie Mitchell, and Kelsey Rioux

The department of Economics at Hobart and William Smith Colleges currently has a disproportionate ratio of male to female students. Mirroring and emphasizing this trend, most Economics classes have a low number of female students. This paper examines the structure of the gender gap in an attempt to explain the causes, with the goal of lessening the gap.

This study argues that the gender gap is a continuous cycle: more males and fewer females majoring in Economics creates the idea that it is a field for males, which entices more men and fewer women to enroll in Economics courses. This cycle is potentially perpetuated by teaching style, mainstream gender stereotypes, Neoclassical economic theory involving the idea of *homo economicus*, and the role of women in the unpaid sectors of the economy. Gender stereotypes are taught to children at a young age and their effects are still evident at the college level.

A proposed approach to alleviating the gender gap on the Hobart and William Smith campus is the creation of a Women in Economics Club that acts as a forum to bring people together to foster a greater involvement of women in Economics. The club can serve as an outlet for both females and males to address the problems relating to the gender gap using a feminist economic perspective, a forum for new ideas, and to stimulate interest in the student body. This paper documents the challenges and achievements of the first three months of this club. Both will be addressed in detail so that this club may be used as a guide for other colleges and universities to create a similar club. The authors conclude with a personal reflection on four years of majoring in a male-dominated field and hope to stimulate discussions on the problem.

USING ZOOPLANKTON SIZE TO INVESTIGATE TROPHIC CASCADES IN
HANLEY PONDS 7 AND 11 AT HOBART AND WILLIAM
SMITH COLLEGES NATURE PRESERVE

Stephanie Fisher

I examined how predators can influence food web structure by studying two ponds of similar size and location, but with different physical appearances. The ponds I studied are located on the Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Hanley Biological Preserve. Pond 7 is turbid and cloudy, whereas Pond 11 is very clear and blue-watered. The different food webs in these ponds can explain the variation in color. The motivation behind this study resulted from my interest in aquatic ecosystems and on-going work in Professor Meghan Brown's research laboratory.

Trophic cascades occur in many ecosystems but can be particularly apparent in aquatic systems containing a top predator (i.e., piscivorous fish, or fish-eating fish). Top-down influences can determine community composition, zooplankton (small, free-floating animals) biomass and size, as well as the level of primary productivity. I investigated the influence of fish predation on zooplankton size by studying two ponds, one with and one without a top predator. Zooplankton, including *Bosmina*, *Daphina* spp., *Cylopoid* copepod and *Calanoid* copepod, collected from Ponds 7 and 11 in June, July, and August of 2007 and 2008 were measured for total length. Pond 11, which contained a top predator, had significantly larger zooplankton than Pond 7, which contained no top predator. I hypothesize that in Pond 11, piscivorous Largemouth bass initiated a trophic cascade by consuming planktivorous fish (plankton-eating fish) decreased predation on herbivorous (plant-eating) plankton. This allows for a larger more efficient herbivorous zooplankton community that decreases algal biomass.

USING PALEOLIMNOLOGY TO STUDY THE LAST 100 YEARS OF OWASCO LAKE ZOOPLANKTON ECOLOGY

Corey Gallagher

The resting stages of zooplankton, also known as diapausing eggs, can remain viable and dormant in sediment for decades, making them “living fossils.” The study of resting eggs is a critical and powerful paleolimnological tool, serving as a window to observe environmental and evolutionary change. My research focuses on dormant eggs in the sediments of Seneca and Owasco Lakes. Eggs ranging from one to one hundred years old can be harvested and hatched today; through “resurrection ecology,” we can study live organisms that were created decades in the past. Sediments act as a historical record, storing fossilized remains; this is the basis for paleoecological studies. Paleolimnology is the study of lake sediment to learn about ecosystem composition and interactions of the past.

My research focuses particularly on the sediments in two of the Finger Lakes, Seneca and Owasco, and abundance trends in the resting stages of three zooplankton: *Cercopagis pengoi*, *Bosmina longirostris*, and *Daphnia* spp. Zooplankton are microscopic animals living in the water column, some of which use resting stages to survive harsh environmental conditions.

Bosmina and *Daphnia* are cladoceran native to both Seneca and Owasco Lakes, whereas *Cercopagis* is an invasive planktivore native to the Caspian Sea, thought to have invaded North America through the ballast water of ocean going vessels. My research seeks to identify correlations between the establishment of *Cercopagis* and changes in the abundance of both *Bosmina* and *Daphnia*. Furthermore, I hope to identify morphological changes amongst *Bosmina* in response to the *Cercopagis* invasion, as well as other environmental factors responsible for changes in the abundance of *Bosmina* and *Daphnia* in the last 100 years.

DETERMINATION OF AGE AND POPULATION STRUCTURE IN LARGEMOUTH BASS, *MICROPTERUS SALMOIDES*, AT THE HENRY H. HANLEY BIOLOGICAL FIELD PRESERVE

Melissa Gaydos

Last summer, Professors Meghan Brown and Susan Cushman initiated an ecosystem-level study at HWS's Henry H. Hanley Biological Field Preserve to test the role of large predatory fish in a trophic cascade ultimately affecting the bottom of the food web. Morphometric data on over 300 fish were obtained, specifically length and weight, as well as the collection of scale samples to later determine age.

The determination of age and growth rates of fish provides a useful analysis that is important to fish ecologists and hatchery professionals. Age and growth rates can supply insight into the abiotic and biotic conditions of the aquatic environment, such as habitat suitability, prey availability, and the effects of predation. The most frequently used method for addressing aging in fish is the examination of hard parts, such as otoliths, fin spines, and vertebrae. The examination of such parts often includes killing the fish; one non-lethal approach is the use of scales.

In pursuit of my degree in biology, I have garnered significant interest in ecosystems and ecological interactions from my coursework and have elected to participate in this study. In the last academic year, I developed and refined a technique that has allowed me to assess the age of largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) by analyzing annual growth marks (annuli) on each scale sample under a dissecting microscope. The resulting data allows me to evaluate population age structure in this species and compare it to length-weight linear models developed from morphometric data. At the ecosystem-level, such information will further support the study of largemouth bass and their impact as a top predator in controlling the abundance and diversity of organisms in the food web.

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INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES IN EMPATHIC ACCURACY: PERSONALITY AND ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

Tara Anne Gentile

The present research attempts to illuminate the role of personality and individual differences in the social psychological paradigm known as empathic accuracy. Developed by Ickes (1993), the concept of empathic accuracy is the extent to which partners in a relationship can accurately infer each other's thoughts and feelings during an interaction. Social interaction at every level of acquaintance utilizes empathic accuracy; from the most simplistic to the most complex of relational interaction, there is great benefit in the ability to read others' thoughts and feelings.

Although empathic accuracy has been established as an integral part of social interaction in romantic relationships, the literature has yet to produce research on the influence of individual differences (i.e., internal traits, needs) in these processes. To address this discrepancy in the literature, this study examines the relation between a variety of individual differences essential to the interpersonal processes of romantic relationships (e.g., personality traits, level of empathy, need and fear of intimacy, and attachment style) and each partner's level of accuracy on an empathic task.

Heterosexual romantic couples were asked to complete the Ten Item Personality Inventory (Gosling, Rentfrow, & Swann, 2003), the Multi-Dimensional Emotional Empathy Scale (Caruso & Mayer, 1998), the Intimacy Scale from the Triangular Theory of Love Scales (Sternberg, 1990), the Fear of Intimacy Scale (Descutner & Thelen, 1991), and a single item Attachment Questionnaire (Hazan & Shaver, 1987). The participants were also videotaped for ten minutes engaging in a discussion about a past disagreement. Following the discussion, each partner watched the video and reported what they were thinking and feeling at three points during the discussion. In addition, each partner was asked to infer the partner's thoughts and feelings at three specified points during the discussion. The responses were then compared to determine each partner's level of empathic accuracy.

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THE POSSIBILITY OF SENTIENT MACHINE MINDS

Julia Gibson

Three questions lie at the heart of my project: “What is the ontological nature of qualia?”¹ “How does the brain exist in relation to the mind?” and “Is sentience limited to biological beings or is it logical to conceive of machine consciousness?”

The topic of artificial intelligence has long captured the imagination of thinkers from across all disciplines. Despite the seemingly fantastical subject matter, an exploration of the possibility of inorganic minds provides a launching point for examining two crucial metaphysical themes—the nature of objective reality and subjective experience. Only by delving into the artificial can the natural be considered in its entirety.

Grounding my argument in a physicalist philosophical standpoint, I argue that psychophysical identity theory² and biological neutralism present an accurate depiction of the mind by proposing that experiences are identical to physical brain functions and that consciousness is an emergent property of the brain as a whole. This position forms the foundation of the claim for the possibility of machine minds (i.e., non-programmed artificial/non-biological intelligence) by proposing that if a machine had the causal powers of the brain, then it would possess consciousness.

My project rejects the notion that physicalist accounts of sentience need be reductionist or deterministic. Rather, I seek to liberate the conceptualizations of mind from the assumption of human uniqueness, whether based upon immaterial substance or biological primacy. As purely physical entities in possession of machine minds ourselves,³ human beings may no longer be as apt to dismiss the reality of non-human sentience or the possibility of non-organic minds in the future.

¹ Nagel, Thomas, “What Is It Like to Be a Bat,” *The Nature of Mind*, ed. David M. Rosenthal (NY, NY: Oxford University Press, 1991) 422-428.

² Lewis, David K, “An Argument for Identity Theory,” *The Way Things Are: Basic Readings in Metaphysics*, ed. W.R. Carter (NY, NY: McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 1998) 245-255.

³ Searle, John R, “Minds, Brains, and Programs,” *The Mind’s Eye: Fantasies and Reflections on Self and Soul*, eds. Daniel C. Dennett and Douglas R. Hofstadter (NY, NY: Basic Books, 2000) 353-383.

HUMAN INTERACTIONS IN MOVEMENT

Karen George

As a double major in dance and psychology, a particular topic of interest was the way in which individuals interact with each other. Drawing upon personal experiences, I created two works that explore various levels of human interaction in daily life.

The first piece, a duet entitled *Split* to music by Reid Willis, explored the tenuous balancing act of personal relationships on an intimate level. *Split* was created in conjunction with another choreographer whose movement style differs from my own. This allowed me to explore and emphasize, through movement, the differences people encounter in a relationship of any kind. The choreography begins with two dancers on opposite ends of the stage, one in a spotlight and the other in silhouette. They move toward each other, away from each other, and crash into each other. Their bodies tangle and they fall in and out of connection, on and off balance, bringing to life the struggle apparent in any relationship.

My second work was set to music by Robert Waechter. It features six dancers and begins with the idea of exploring the six universally recognized human emotions: happiness, sadness, fear, anger, surprise, and disgust. I then considered ways in which an individual may or may not express these emotions in daily life. I analyzed interactions between individuals, such as short conversations, brief meetings, and the ways in which these interactions take on different meanings at various points in one's life. The work explores a journey from beginning, into complete disconnection, through a period of change, and finally into individual moments of sincere care, interaction, and connection.

These dances utilize two very different methods of investigating and articulating human connections. One considers a personal relationship, while the other employs movement to make a statement on the interaction between groups of people as a whole. Both dances explore similar subject matter, but allow the audience to consider human connections from the inside out and the outside in.

WITH: ELEGIES

Alicia Gregory

My project is a meditation on memory, place, loss, and the self. Through poetry, and specifically, the elegy, I have explored these themes and their merging. The elegy is a poetic form in which mourning and reflection are expressed. In my writing, it has acted as a basis to investigate the aforementioned themes.

My interest in this project stemmed from my desire to explore the ways in which my mother's death seven years ago has impacted and infused itself in my life. I wanted to explore what it meant and what it continues to mean through my medium of choice: poetry.

In reading an assortment of poets who wrote of similar themes, I was able to garner a sense of how to process the experience in a variety of ways. That is, I have experimented with voice and perspective, been able to intertwine themes, and I have written not only the facts, but also the imagined—hitting a place beyond memory and time.

The final product is a chapbook of twenty poems and a little piece of history.

EXAMINING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN HOBART & WILLIAM SMITH STUDENTS AND GENEVA RESIDENTS

Sarah Gummo

This research, conducted along with four classmates, began as an inquiry in the relationship between Hobart and William Smith Students and residents of Geneva, NY. Data was collected through nine hours of field research at a local bar in downtown Geneva and was analyzed for the nature and type of interactions between the two groups.

Findings support the hypothesis that type of interaction (e.g., hostile, friendly, flirty, or rude) is strongly related to the gender of participants. The data suggest that relationships between Hobart and William Smith students and Geneva residents are characterized by gendered and sexualized power struggles. These power struggles can take various forms. For example, it seems that underage William Smith women gain access to the bar by flirting with Geneva men, but once inside, flirtation mainly occurs between William Smith women and Hobart men. We concluded that the bar is a unique type of social setting in which students take on the roles of performers, and residents are made their audience.

ANALYZING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH AND GENEVA COMMUNITIES THROUGH PUBLIC ART

Emily Hecklau

This project began as an objective attempt at content analysis of several pieces of public art on campus and in Geneva, but became an in-depth analysis of how the researchers' race, class, and gender influenced the interpretation of and feelings toward public art.

Content analysis is the study of social artifacts as examples of communication. We began by looking at each piece of art, trying to see clear evidence of a relationship between the two communities. As a group, we conducted various coding passes, coding specifically for the manifest content of each piece of art. We progressed from solely analyzing the piece of artwork, to analyzing the background surrounding each piece of art, then to analyzing our research group, and finally to analyzing ourselves.

Our group was composed of a White female, a White male, an African-American female, and an Hispanic female. We realized that we needed to use our diversity as individuals to fully understand the relationship between the two communities. To do this, we conducted more coding passes individually rather than as a group, and looked for latent content rather than manifest content. It was only once we did this that we saw ourselves as part of the analysis and relationship.

Throughout the course of this research project I learned that my race, class, and gender influence how I feel about a piece of art in a particular location and how I interpret that artwork. These aspects of one's identity reveal and perpetuate the relationship between the Hobart and William Smith and Geneva communities.

WHAT CLASS DO YOU SIT IN?

Deja James

My project intends to examine the sociological effects that social class and race have on education. Our educational system shows vast disparity in the way students learn and the content that they are learning. This all stems from the social class these students have been forced into and the race that they have been born into, which create great inequities between what types of students are learning what types of subject matter.

I first became interested in this topic my junior year when I decided to devise my own individual major entitled Social Justice and Education. Courses that I have taken here at the Colleges have opened my eyes to a world of inequity and inequality founded on unequal educational experiences.

I have come to understand that education does not aim to solely expand knowledge and broaden horizons; its underlying intent is to reinforce social class structure and produce citizens that will be trained to fulfill social roles already set in place. There are students who attend schools that prepare them to be professional executives who are taught to *give* orders; there are other students who attend schools that prepare them to be working class citizens who are taught to *take* orders. Education should not be used to perpetuate the social institution it has become. It should be implemented in a way that allows all people, no matter what social class or race, to learn in a way that is fair and equal, and that provides opportunities for everyone to advance themselves.

SEX AND AGE VARIATION IN THE FAT STORES AND ENERGETIC
CONDITION OF SPRING MIGRATING SONGBIRDS AT A GREAT LAKES
STOPOVER SITE: A TEST OF THE BREEDING PERFORMANCE HYPOTHESIS
FOR EXCESS FAT STORES

Bethany Bashaw and Rebecca Jones

Much of the limited knowledge that ornithologists have on passerine migration in North America comes from monitoring migration at stopover sites between the coast of the Gulf of Mexico and the northern breeding grounds. Migratory birds deposit extra fat stores (in some cases, up to 50% of their total body weight) to fuel migration. However, many birds arrive at their breeding grounds with excess fat stores. Excess fat may be an insurance mechanism for migrants against unpredictable environmental conditions on the breeding grounds or it may help migrants cope with the energetic challenges they face during breeding. Whether fat increases breeding performance or is an insurance mechanism for survival, northerly-breeding migratory birds should arrive with more fat near the end of migration in the spring than they leave with in the autumn (i.e., the “Spring-Fatter” hypothesis). However, if excess fat benefits are for breeding performance, female passerines should carry more fat upon arrival at the breeding grounds than males due to the energetic demands placed on females due to egg production. Sexual differences in the amount of stored fat are, therefore, a distinguishing prediction to discriminate between the breeding performance hypothesis and the insurance hypothesis.

Using nine years of spring and autumn data from the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, a known stopover site located on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, we will examine fat stores and energetic condition (i.e., mass/wing chord) of multiple species of long and short distance warblers for sex differences. We will analyze patterns in energetics using analysis of variance to determine whether sex and/or age influence the fuel stores within species of warblers. Strong patterns of sexual dimorphism in the fat stores and energetic condition of warblers, regardless of their distance of migration, would provide support for the breeding performance hypothesis for excess arrival fat in migrants. Age variation in fuel stores may be biologically significant because of age-dependent reproductive behaviors.

GREEN POLITICS:
AN ANALYSIS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN
CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS, AND NEW YORK STATE

Austin Kana

How green is your town? Or better yet, how much money is your town wasting by operating their municipal buildings? This project aimed to answer those specific questions, and the truth may be surprising to many people. Many municipalities want to go green but do not know how. Energy efficiency is one of the easiest ways for a town to go green while also saving taxpayers money.

There are many reasons towns and municipalities look towards energy efficiency to go green. The three most common are: energy efficiency reduces the amount of greenhouse gases that are emitted during the generation and consumption of such energy, and thus helps to reduce the town's impact of climate change; there is positive publicity associated with undertaking any green initiative; and finally, the financial savings associated with energy efficiency are substantial, and the pay-back usually occurs over a fairly short time period.

With the help of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Greater Research Opportunity (GRO) Fellowship, ENERGY STAR, and Hobart and William Smith Colleges, I was able to analyze the energy efficiency of over a dozen towns in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York state. By tracking the energy use for all the municipal buildings for these towns, I was able to point out which buildings were most in need of energy efficient improvements, and which buildings were performing well. This analysis compared the buildings in these towns to similar buildings across the country so these local officials could see how their performance related. This project also calculated the amount of financial and energy savings each town would see by implementing certain energy efficiency projects.

In order to have success in promoting energy efficiency, I had to discover why each town was interested in undertaking such a project and then tailor my presentations accordingly, with the hope that it will spur real change in the community.

UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC HEALTH BY INVOLVMENT IN A DIABETES EDUCATION PILOT PROJECT

Christina Kinnevey

Yates County Public Health is currently conducting a pilot project to assist individuals who are newly diagnosed with or have poorly controlled diabetes to better manage their disease through medical monitoring, support services, and lifestyle changes. Patients in the program are visited monthly in their home by a registered nurse who works with individuals to monitor their disease, set realistic goals to cope with their disease, and promote healthy life-style changes.

I am working with the head nurse conducting this project to help evaluate the program's effectiveness. In particular, we want to know whether patients attain their goals and are able to independently manage their disease. As part of my research, I have accompanied the head nurse during patient home visits, observed a diabetes support group, and attended a diabetes educational course. When patients have been discharged, I compiled a progress report to show how well they met target goals throughout the duration of the program. In addition, I am conducting research on the biology of the disease, its pathology, and current management options. By actively participating in patient care, my goal is to understand the challenges of public health awareness and wellness beyond simply knowing the textbook methods of healthcare and the biology of disease.

I was drawn to this project because of an interest in healthcare and my future goal of becoming a practicing physician. The "frontline" nature of this project has given me a unique glimpse into the field of public health. I have a greater understanding of the challenges of creating an all-encompassing, programmatic model for assisting patients with chronic diseases, while at the same time remaining true to individual needs of each patient.

BUILDING THE LEARN 2 LEAD PROGRAM

Katie Klutts and Marisa Athas

The Learn 2 Lead program began in 2006 with the intent of helping William Smith students learn from the leaders in the classes above them. As the program grew larger, it became more difficult for the members to communicate with each other and understand the expectations of the program. With the help of Dean Gunter, our faculty mentor, we established structured guidelines to create a firm foundation for the growing program.

In order to accomplish this goal, we discussed the purpose of the program and appropriate expectations of its members. We concluded that it was essential for first-years and sophomores to become involved on campus and set goals for their college careers. Juniors and seniors in the program should assume leadership positions both as mentors within the L2L program and throughout the campus and community. We created a series of documents formalizing these ideas to provide a strong foundation for the mission of the program.

Through a collaborative effort with junior and senior L2L members and faculty mentors, we are currently in the process of adopting the new program. Over the semester, we hope to invigorate interest in the program, reinstate student-run leadership workshops, and build an internet resource for L2L members to share their activities and accomplishments.

A COMPARISON OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL ATTRACTIVENESS AND PERSONALITY BETWEEN HOBART FIRST-YEARS AND SENIORS

Katie Mancuso

This study was created to determine whether there is a difference in the importance placed on physical attractiveness and personality of females between Hobart seniors and first-years. The main motivation was to satisfy a personal curiosity as to what males in college find attractive from a psychological viewpoint.

We administered surveys to both first-year (N = 35) and senior (N = 48) Hobart students in the Scandling Center. These surveys were given out in 2 phases: a descriptive phase and a questionnaire phase. The descriptive phase had 3 parts. The first provided 6 physical descriptions of females, the second followed with 6 personality descriptions of females, and the third combined both sections to give a combined physical and personality description of 6 females. Our participants were asked to rate how attractive they believed these 18 females were on a scale of 1-7. The second phase included some demographic questions as well as some personal questions, such as favorite activities or relationship status. Here, participants were asked how important personality and physical attractiveness were on a scale of 1-7 for sexual, dating, and marriage relationships.

Results of several t-tests showed significant differences between the classes. First-year Hobart students rated personality as significantly more important overall and for sex than senior participants. Additionally, those who reported being in a relationship rated personality for marriage significantly higher than those who reported being single. Further studies should be conducted on different college campuses as well as longitudinally to help explain and validate this data.

This project was completed in collaboration with Cassandra Carnright, Haili Elwood, and Victoria Irvine.

THE KINDERGARTEN LITERACY INITIATIVE PROJECT

Katherine Marshall

This project was developed in response to a request from members of an upstate New York community for a better understanding of how literacy levels of incoming kindergarten students relate to the home reading environment.

One hundred and twenty-one kindergarten students and their parents participated in this study. Parents were asked various questions about the home literacy environment and baseline literacy scores were collected from each student's file.

Results showed that a number of different variables, including number of books in the home, parental and child reading habits, parental education and household income level had an impact on children's baseline literacy skills. Future research is needed to determine which aspects of the home literacy environment are most important to address in intervention programs for families in the community.

DRAGONS IN ANCIENT GREEK AND NORSE (INDO-EUROPEAN) MYTHOLOGY

Karen Mattes

Dragons are found in almost every culture around the world. As mythical constructs, they are a most powerful and ubiquitous cultural symbol. Greek and Norse manifestations of this symbol are the focus of my research: How did these two ancient cultures construct the myths related to dragons? A comparative analysis can uncover the hidden assumptions and values of two cultures that continue to shape modern world views.

While dragons function in both cultures as guardians with connections to the cosmologic underpinnings of the universe, the Greek conception of the universe consistently creates a gendered narrative that closely relates the dragon to the feminine and Norse mythology depicts dragons as ungendered forces of chaos. In Greek mythology, Typhaon and Python are directly aligned with female forces that threaten the patriarchal rule of Zeus. In Norse narratives, the Midgard Serpent and Nidhogg represent the underworld and the fated condition of the universe.

With this analysis, I intend to discover some of the primary differences between two cultures that have often been held to be extremely similar, despite their great distance physically and temporally. Research is on-going as I complete my senior seminar for my Individual Major in Mythology and Folklore.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF FINANCIAL CRISIS

Garrett McIntyre

My project explores one question: “What are the implications of our current economic crisis for the role of government in the economy?”

I am interested in exploring this subject because it poses a problem of both an economic and philosophic nature. In order to explore the policy implications of our current financial crisis, I will draw on the history of financial crises, the history of reactionary and preemptive policies aimed at financial stability, and the philosophy on human nature and government.

The current popular and political consensus is that the government will need to take a larger role regulating economic activity in order to ensure future financial stability. The question that people often pose is: “Where was the government when all this was going on?” I believe the question people should be asking is: “Where were *we* when all this was going on?” A history of government intervention in the United States has alienated individuals from their full responsibilities as economic actors. The best solution for ensuring future economic stability is putting this task back in the hands of citizens.

ONE VIỆT NAM—POST WAR MEMORIES AND FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Oliver H. Meeker

What is the future of Vietnam? How has the past shaped Vietnam to be a leader tomorrow? This paper seeks to understand those important issues by researching the historical and cultural patterns as well as the social and economic policies that have put Vietnam on the global scene.

To understand Vietnam post-1975, one must understand a pattern of social changes that went unnoticed after April of 1975. These societal changes came in three different clusters of historical events. The first cluster began with the collectivization of farms in the south. The second began with a war in Cambodia that resulted in a war with China and a second exodus of “Boat People.” Finally, the third cluster was the end of the Soviet planned economy and the beginning of “Doi Moi (*renovation*).” This resulted in Vietnam’s joining the World Trade Organization twenty years later in 2006. These historical events have all played a definitive roll in Vietnamese policy making and shaped the Vietnam we know today, as a major competitor in the global markets and a strategic ally to the United States.

Seeing Vietnam through the lens of these societal transformations provides a framework to understand Vietnam’s contemporary dynamics. Based on my research and extensive experience in-country, this paper provides an unvarnished vision of what lies ahead for Vietnam. It is intended to be useful for policy makers, potential business partners, and travelers looking to understand the dynamics of Vietnamese society today.

WILLIAM SMITH WOMEN, ALCOHOL, AND SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

Samantha Miller

This project seeks to explore the complex gender dynamics that give rise to double standards regarding female intoxication and sexual promiscuity by asking: Is there a relationship between college women, alcohol use, and engaging in risky sexual behavior?

I wanted to determine whether or not women use alcohol as a means to legitimize their sexual behavior. One of the most pervasive power relationships woven throughout any society is the one between men and women. But there is a fundamental contradiction between the gender stereotypes we are expected to comply with and reality. A sexual double standard continues to guide heterosexual interactions—being sexually promiscuous remains acceptable behavior for men, but not for women.¹

Based on the assumption that women *are* negatively stereotyped for being promiscuous, I hypothesized that women may use becoming intoxicated as an excuse for engaging in sexual behaviors. I also wanted to determine if a double standard exists for female intoxication and sexual activity. Based on the pervasiveness of traditional gender roles in western culture, I hypothesized the following:

- (a) William Smith students are stigmatized for drinking excessively.
- (b) William Smith students are stigmatized for drinking excessively and then engaging in casual sex.
- (c) William Smith students use alcohol as a means to excuse their sexual behaviors.

In the investigative portion of my project, I invited the entire William Smith population to participate in a web-based survey. Five hundred and sixty-five students responded, representing a 52% response rate.

In an effort to battle misperceived norms regarding alcohol use and sexual behavior, the findings will be published in a mini magazine to be distributed throughout campus.

¹ Jerslid, Devon. *Happy Hours: Alcohol in a Woman's Life*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers (2001).

BEING AN IMMIGRANT AND A FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT AT HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

Rafeek Mohamed

Through my presentation I will provide a qualitative analysis of the challenges of being a first generation college student and an immigrant at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. This project developed from a set of interviews I conducted last semester as an independent study.

My findings indicate that students who carry these identities deal with increased family expectations that instill in them a solid sense of independence. These students also play an integral role in the economic and social status of their families' current and past generations. Additionally, these individuals live with a struggling duality of cultural understanding illustrated by the separate lives they live at home and at school.

PRAYERS TO THE GOD OF LOVE DOGS

Galina Mukomolova

When I first came out to myself, I found most of my solace in the words of Adrienne Rich, June Jordan, and later Michelle Tea, Eli Cippola, and Staceyann Chin. These poetic voices taught me about the power of sound, tone, metaphor, and the undersides of the beautiful. They gave me a tongue with which to speak to the world.

As an immigrant queer poet, I have endeavored to create relatable images and writings for those who have often found their cultural identities canceled out by their sexualities. As a writer who believes in the power of words to grow and transform language, I have strived to go beyond identity politics and the generic images associated with queer sexuality. Instead, I have challenged myself to use the personal/political in order to inspire the technical, auditory and aesthetic of poetry.

For a long time, I have been interested in the lives of those who negotiate who they are and when, walking a line between community and acceptance. I have spent most of my four years at HWS writing poetry from the liminal space where to be a Russian female meant to be hetero-normative and “womanly” and to be queer meant to be American-born and privileged (despite what we know about the inaccuracy of these ideologies, they persist).

Prayers to the God of Love Dogs is a small poetry chapbook growing into a larger manuscript, an amalgamation of poems from my four years as a creative writing student at HWS and from my honors project. It is a collection of small truths strung together across stories, images, memories, and sounds. They are a trail of development from my adventures of faith and my growth as a lover, an activist, a daughter and mostly, a writer.

THE CELLULAR REPROGRAMMING FACTOR: WILL iPS TECHNOLOGY AFFECT FEDERAL FUNDING OF HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS?

Heather Nihart

Federal funding of hES cells has been a topic of heated debate. In the last eight years, the federal funding policy for embryonic stem cell research has been greatly restricted. However, the new Obama administration will certainly bring change to the current policy regarding hES cell research. The purpose of this project was to critically review the biological background of iPS technology and to evaluate the current federal policy of hES cell research. Policy recommendations for shaping federal funding guidelines are discussed, with an emphasis on the inclusion of iPS cells in stem cell research initiatives.

Human embryonic stem (hES) cells were first isolated in 1998.¹ Since then it has been suggested that hES cells will provide cures for a multitude of human diseases and injuries. To date, clinical applications involving hES cells have remained elusive, yet a number of studies using animal models have indicated that stem cell treatments hold great promise. Late in 2007, the stem cell field was revolutionized when adult somatic human cells were reprogrammed through retrovirus injection and returned to an embryonic-like state. These cells are known as induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. Both *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies have shown that iPS cells have similar characteristics to hES cells.² Induced pluripotent cells hold two major advantages over hES cells. The first is that an embryo is not destroyed in their creation, thus removing one ethical concern associated with hES cells. Second, studies have found that iPS cells can be created from individuals suffering from chronic diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The ability to generate patient-specific stem cells offers new opportunities for understanding disease progression and developing new treatments.³

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 2. Takahashi, Kazutoshi *et al.* "Induction of Pluripotent Stem Cells from Adult Human Fibroblasts by Defined Factors." *Cell*, (2007): 861-872.
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 3. Dimos, John *et al.* "Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells Generated from Patients with ALS can be Differentiated into Motor Neurons." *Science*, 321(2008): 1218-1221.

THE MADONNAS OF CARAVAGGIO

Meghan O'Loughlin

My project focuses on Caravaggio's innovative portrayal of the Virgin Mary in two of his late Roman works, *Madonna di Loreto* (1603-6) and *Madonna dei Palafrenieri* (1605-6). Analysis and comparison of these works grant insight into the progressiveness of Caravaggio and his lasting impact on art.

My project began as an examination of Mary's evolution as a prominent figure in the church and the history of Mary through images. These concepts must be understood to grasp the genius and novelty of Caravaggio's depictions. By tracing portrayals of Mary through the Byzantine era, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the Counter Reformation, it is possible to understand the church's changing position toward Mary and the social repercussions of those ideas. This history having been established, it is possible to analyze and compare Caravaggio's two pieces within the context of Counter Reformation Rome. As staggering as are the comparisons among Caravaggio and his predecessors, even more incredible is the departure he takes from his own contemporaries.

Caravaggio's innate ability to overwhelm the emotions and sting the heart of the viewer while simultaneously depicting great humanity continues to render him popular among modern audiences. His renewed popularity is a great source of pride for the Roman people and a sentiment which is strongly felt throughout the city.

Academic interest in Caravaggio, however, has only recently been revived after several hundred years of disregard and neglect. My interest and fascination with Caravaggio has derived from my studies in art history and my study abroad experience in Rome. I hope that my research in this area will begin to answer a few of the many questions left by Caravaggio's life and works.

LANGUAGE AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF INTERCULTURAL IDENTITIES

Celeste Orton

My project explores how we use and understand intercultural identities. In this project, I will focus on the following themes: the meaning of intercultural identities, language and culture, the understanding of difference, power and privilege, and possible solutions to issues related to power.

In this paper, I will discuss some of the ways humans use language in a way that is related to identity. Language, both oral and written, has power and is connected to culture in that it can define identities and reflect and shape communities. There are links between identity and culture that we understand through language. Identity is defined as a sense of self that denotes a person's characteristics. At times, we purposely call attention to identity through how we dress, walk and use language, with whom we choose to associate, perhaps even where we live.¹ Intercultural identity can be viewed as a linkage between a person and more than a community.² Intercultural identities function as a linkage between language, as sense of self, values and multiple communities.

Through researching and studying this topic, I have learned that there are multiple identities such as race, gender, age, ethnic, and class. These identities affect the way we use and perceive language. Discovering why my use of language and the way I speak is different from others and is one of the key reasons I chose this topic.

¹ Newman, David M. (2007). *Identities and Inequalities: exploring the Intersections of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

² Kim, Young Yun (1995). *Beyond Cultural Identity*. University of Oklahoma.

WHEN SCHILLER MEETS SOCCER

Mariza Pereira

In my paper, I explore the idea of “soccer as art form” from three major definitional perspectives: moral art, refined/unique art, and popular art.

Three foundational academic and personal interests led to this paper: commitment to social justice, a culture of “football fever” in my native Portugal, and the discipline of semiotics, which is the study of symbols and the meanings with which we charge them.

If we can conscientiously imbue human experience with positive or negative meaning, I argue that “soccer as art” becomes a potentially inexhaustible source of positive meaning for human beings in terms of creativity and permeating social barriers.

When soccer is truly aesthetic, it is also exemplary in morality, capable even of pioneering social justice. My goal is to show that at its best, soccer embodies Schiller’s ideal Aesthetic State.¹

¹ Lamarque, Peter & Sartwell, Crispin (1997). *Aesthetics The Classic Readings. On the Aesthetic Education of Man* by Friedrich Schiller.

HOW MUCH FAT IS EXCESS FAT IN MIGRANT SONGBIRDS?:
MAXIMUM DISTANCE PREDICTIONS OF MIGRANTS
AT A GREAT LAKES STOPOVER SITE

Leslie Hopke and Chi Kong Poon

According to the “spring fatter” hypothesis, migrating birds will have greater fat stores when arriving on a breeding grounds in the spring than when they depart the breeding grounds in autumn. Excess fat during spring migration has been proposed to be advantageous for breeding (i.e., the breeding performance hypothesis) and/or to prepare migrants for unexpected or unpredictable conditions at northern latitude breeding sites (i.e., the insurance hypothesis). To test these hypotheses at stopover sites, especially penultimate locations, along a species migratory route, it is important to determine exactly how much fat is in excess of what is needed to complete migration for a particular species. The goal of this project is to provide a quantitative value of excess fat for several species of North American passerines at a northerly stopover site on the Great Lakes. Based on visually-estimated fat stores and energetic condition, we will predict (1) the distance an individual bird can fly, (2) its “restricted” destination using remaining fat stores, and (3) the probability that the bird will have excess fat when it arrives on its breeding territory.

Fat stores and energetic condition have previously been determined for several species of migrants during the last 9 years at a migratory stopover-site on the southern shore of Lake Ontario (the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory). Fat score was determined visually by using a scale of 0 to 5. Energetic condition was determined by dividing the mass of the bird by its wing chord. Using a regression analysis, we will determine the average increase in mass due to fat deposition for each fat score. We will then determine the average remaining flight distance by utilizing a flight simulation model.¹ By combining our data with known breeding ranges for each species, we will determine which fat scores represent excess fat (i.e., more than is needed to complete migration and reach the breeding territory). For example, lower fat scores may be insufficient to allow migrants to get to their breeding grounds or migrants may use all their fat stores by the time they arrive on their breeding ground. Therefore, fat that may appear excessive at the stopover site may not, in fact, be excessive at their destination. By predicting how much excess fat each species may have when arriving at a stopover site, we can provide insight into how much of their fat stores will be available when they arrive on their breeding grounds. Our data will provide a basis to test hypotheses related to the value of excess fat stores for breeding performance and for insurance against unpredictable conditions.

¹ Pennycuik, C.J. (2008) Modeling the Flying Bird. Elsevier.

THE SOUND OF SILENCE: THE CURRENT STATUS OF MUSIC EDUCATION IN AMERICA

Keegan Prue

Music education has been an integral and important part of primary and secondary education for generations of American students. The central question of my project is: how have recent public policies, especially No Child Left Behind (NCLB), affected the presence of music in the curricula of public schools? Important corollary questions are also explored, including the effects of sociological trends, the effects of the rise of the conservative movement in the 1980s through today, and the impact of rhetoric around education in recent political events.

Evidence suggests that a complex mixture of the factors mentioned above have contributed to a decline in the prominence of music education. The No Child Left Behind Act was certainly a major culprit, as its regulations and emphasis on standardized testing have placed enormous pressure on school districts to redirect resources toward tested subjects, with non-tested subjects generally on the losing side.

However, sociological trends toward more solitary activities, along with political rhetoric that tends to exclude music (and the arts in general) as important to education, also contribute to the decline of music education. In addition, the role of socioeconomic status frequently determines which students have schools with a sufficient tax base to support music programs.

I will be conducting ongoing interviews with music educators and administrators from public primary and secondary schools. Preliminary interviews offer valuable insight into the new pressures and models of achievement and can elicit the actual experiences and challenges faced by educators every day.

Though evidence generally suggests a negative situation, there does seem to be hope for restoring the importance of music education. By encouraging federal restructuring of NCLB, moving towards more stringent inquiry by states into the status of music education in order to see the actual needs of teachers, and strengthening local grassroots organizations that are dedicated to including and expanding music education, we can return music education to a more prominent role in American education.

THE HOMOAFFFECTIVE QUEST

Ben Ramsey and Alex Kahn

Medieval heroes were confronted with two conflicting ideals. In the early epics such as *Beowulf* and *The Song of Roland*, warriors typically proved their valor on the battlefield among men or in a single combat against monsters. Their relationship to the heterosexual realm remained secondary or was used to strengthen their alliances to other warriors, as between Roland and Oliver. With the rise of courtly love in the 12th century and the birth of romance as a literary genre, heroes had to adjust to the new culture of courtly love. They had to define themselves in a complex affective panorama that involved conflicting ideals: on the one hand, they had to remain the brave heroes of the male world; on the other hand, they were expected to be perfect lovers and serve the interests of their ladies; Additionally, their heterosexual interests were often complicated by homo-affective relationships.

In order to creatively represent those three issues, we decided to create an original eight-minute film, entitled *Male Heroism in the Middle Ages*. We based the film on two medieval texts: the Anglo Saxon epic poem *Beowulf* and the old French romance, *Ami and Amile*. We chose contemporary imagery and placed the drama at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Our story tells how the two heroes, Ami and Amile, search for Grendel and finally vanquish him. We used the format of story recitation by a *scop* (Anglo-Saxon poet) and we combined elements and quotes taken from both texts, such as Grendel's anger against the music and friendship of men; his life into the hidden, distant and underwater places; his constant hunger; and the most moving moments of the homo-affective relationship between Ami and Amile.

Our presentation will explain our use of the texts and their interpretations. It will also show how a creative project can be a pedagogical strategy to bring to life and elicit understanding of texts written many centuries ago.

FRIENDSHIP AND ADJUSTMENT IN COLLEGE STUDENTS

Tyson Reuter

Previous research has demonstrated that children's and adolescents' peer relationships play an integral role in their positive development. In addition to satisfying specific interpersonal needs, which include stimulating companionship, help, intimacy, reliable alliance, self-validation, and emotional security (Mendelson & Aboud, 1999). Friendships serve as templates for developing interpersonal competencies (Buhrmester, 1990), such as initiating conversations effectively and managing conflicts maturely.

Research exploring friendship among college samples, however, is lacking. The present study considered the role of college students' friendship quality and quantity on their adjustment. Two-hundred and eleven 18 to 22-year-old college students completed questionnaires measuring their total number of close friendships (quantity) and the extent to which various friendship functions were fulfilled (quality). Outcomes variables including loneliness, social anxiety, activity involvement, and academic achievement were also assessed using self-report methods similar to previous research. The role of online social networking variables (Facebook) was explored.

It is predicted that participants who report more friendships and higher quality friendships will have better adjustment across social, academic, and emotional dimensions. Specifically, friendship quantity and quality will be positively correlated with intensity and breadth in organized activity involvement and grade point average, and negatively correlated with loneliness and social anxiety. Differences in friendship features by class year will also be explored in terms of location of friends and overall adjustment.

Buhrmester, D. (1990). Intimacy of friendship, interpersonal competence, and adjustment during preadolescence and adolescence. *Child Development*, 61(4), 1101-1111.

Mendelson, M. J., & Aboud, F. E. (1999). Measuring friendship quality in late adolescents and young adults: McGill Friendship Questionnaires. *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science/Revue Canadienne Des Sciences Du Comportement*, 31(2), 130-132.

THE WAR ON EDUCATION: MOST CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

Phylicia Natalie Robinson

The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think, than what to think - rather to improve our minds, so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with thoughts of other men. ~Bill Beattie

The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.

~Sydney J. Harris

When I entered in the 10th grade, President George Bush enacted the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). At the young age of 13, I was unaware of what this meant for me and my education. I remember thinking “no one gets left back? Great!” In my inner-city public high school located in Brooklyn, New York, I was well aware that my peers and I were seen as delinquents; due to home circumstances, many of us were. As I progressed and luckily finished on time with an Advanced Regents diploma, I was sorry to see that many of my friends were being detained as junior or seniors due to their poor performance on exams. What were these tests and who gave them authority to dictate how good or intelligent we were? Tests knew nothing of our daily struggles or realities. It was as though education had been devalued; I was learning only to perform on a standardized exam. Overall, education costs have been heavy since the signing of the NCLB Act.

Writer Leighann Lord once asked the question about education in America, “Did you know America ranks the lowest in education but the highest in drug use? It's nice to be number one, but we can fix that.” This essay explores the realm of the No Child Left Behind Act and which groups are disadvantaged through its implementation. This essay will examine how students attempt to negotiate their identities when forced to adhere to tests that in many ways predict their failures and futures. Major facets within a child’s immediate surroundings (societal and class structures, poor teaching, lack of resources and facilities) handicap their performance. It also suggests alternative ways of meeting students’ individual needs in education. These methods may not immediately remedy the negative effects of the NCLB Act; however, they can ensure that we don’t leave any more children behind.

READING TO LEARN, LEARNING TO READ

Danielle Ryan

My project explored two questions: “What are effective approaches to building a love of reading among adolescent girls?” and “How can such approaches help to compensate for curriculum gaps left by the No Child Left Behind Act?”

This project is a culmination of my coursework in Writing and Rhetoric and Public Policy as well as my experience as a Writing Colleague and journalist at the *Times of Ti* and Rochester’s *insider*. My interest in and experience with children has also guided these endeavors.

To explore early readership, I studied media including books, magazines, audiobooks, websites and book clubs for my target audience. I also modeled the multimedia approach to literacy used by the publishing industry to inform the structure of the product line I created.

In creating the line, I incorporated historical and scientific material within reading material to meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. I created a cohesive brand using the five media mentioned above and included a marketing plan. The line provides an entertaining approach to the material that could be used in the classroom or the home. In addition, it mimics the traditional approach to adolescent girls’ literature while incorporating academic subjects that have been stereotyped as masculine.

EXAMINING THE ABILITY OF 'PLAN COLOMBIA' TO ERADICATE COCA
CULTIVATION AND PROPOSALS FOR NEW INITIATIVES TO CURTAIL
COCAINE PRODUCTION

Lauren Samuelson

This project seeks to address the problems of coca cultivation in Colombia. This project also examines the possibility of adapting U.S. trade policy to both address U.S. foreign policy initiatives, including the U.S.-led War on Drugs, and to promote political stability and development within Colombia. Given the goals of U.S. drug policy to reduce the supply of illicit narcotics flowing into the United States and to reduce the amount of illicit drugs cultivated, processed, and consumed worldwide, it was important to my project to examine both issues of supply and demand in the international trade of cocaine.

My interest in this project stemmed from an internship I held in with the United States' Trade Representatives' Office (USTR). During the fall semester of 2006, I interned with USTR while participating in the HWS Washington, D.C. semester. I have revised my paper for this presentation to better reflect my coursework on international development and political economy.

This project is structured as a policy brief: I outline "Plan Colombia" – the current approach to curbing coca production in Colombia – and will attempt to demonstrate how a new approach, one that is multi-faceted and that addresses both issues of supply and demand, can more effectively aid in the eradication of coca in Colombia. I conclude my paper with recommendations for the most appropriate ways to shift US policy in Colombia towards a more comprehensive approach. Included in my proposal is a draft joint resolution to implement the proposed changes.

MY JOURNEY FROM BONNER LEADER TO BONNER SENIOR INTERN

Jacquelyn Sands

My interest in working for the Bonner Foundation began after being selected as a Bonner Leader in order to tackle issues of Political and Civic Engagement at HWS through the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning. My goals were to reinvigorate the HWS Votes non-partisan student organization at HWS and to establish a team of HWS Responds volunteers to do advocacy work for the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project.

This position involved recruiting and managing volunteers, planning events, fundraising, and more. I created and lead workshops designed to address both areas. The workshops were: "From Rock the Vote to Vote or Else: How to Implement Civic and Political Engagement on Your Campus" and "Making the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project a Reality." After being selected to be the Senior Intern, I began to piece together resources and best practices in order to pass along the position for future Bonner Leaders in the same issue-areas.

I believe understanding how to effectively be a leader as a Bonner is imperative; therefore, I have worked with a variety of multimedia sources as the Senior Intern in order to convey these messages to the Bonner Leaders. I have designed templates for the Bonner Leader Wiki webpage, both creating and managing the site. Additionally, I have developed articles in order to assist the Bonner Leaders, including: "Are You a Professional or an Amateur? Tips that Address the Importance of Presenting Yourself in a Professional Manner" and "Facebook and You: How to Effectively Use Various Features of Facebook as a Bonner Leader." As the current Bonner Senior Intern I am also focusing on establishing the parameters of the position in order to allow for a smooth transition upon my graduation.

BREAKING NEW GROUND: MY YEAR AS THE BONNER LEADER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH

Rayza Santiago

As the pioneer in the Bonner Leader for Environmental Outreach position at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, I have had the opportunity to take on projects of my own interest and work with campus administrators, faculty, and staff. Two main projects that I have worked on this past year have been the local foods initiative and improving recycling in area schools.

The local foods projects I have worked to implement are based on the attempt to educate the public about the resources offered and available to residents in the Finger Lakes region. This includes bringing in local speakers like farmers Elizabeth Henderson and Andy Fellenz, creating a local foods business directory for students, and working with Campus Greens on the annual Earth Week Sustainability Picnic.

My second project focused on increasing recycling information available in and to local schools. I worked with two HWS seniors¹ last semester to create a lesson plan that would allow teachers to present the ideas of recycling to their students in a fun and interesting way. This lesson plan was transformed into a “teacher’s guide” for teachers who wanted to present the information to their students and create a base for a recycling program in their schools. To supplement this, the Finger Lakes Institute will be running a workshop for area teachers who wish to learn more about the lesson plan and also about bringing a cell phone recycling program to their school.

The overarching goal of my Bonner position is to bring eco-oriented programs and events to our campus and community with the goal of raising awareness and education about our area and the environmental issues facing our area. My hope is that future Bonners in this position will be able to continue on from where I leave off and contribute positive changes to our campus and community.

¹ These students were Ryan Aruck '09 and Alison Rodman '09.

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL: IS IT REFUTABLE? IS IT USEFUL?

Michael Sauter

The problem of evil is one of the most thoroughly and frequently debated theological questions in the history of philosophy. The thought experiment seeks to prove that the Judeo-Christian conception of god as an omnipotent, omnibenevolent, and existing being is not compatible with the fact that there is evil in this world. Throughout the rich history of this debate, philosophers and theologians have attempted to solve this problem.

The first section of this paper will briefly review the history of the problem and discuss, in detail, the most significant theodicies and defenses against it, including the necessity of evil as a component of free will and as a progenitor of good through contrast. The main section of this paper will then provide refutations of each of these as viable solutions. Once the problem of evil is shown irrefutable, the question then arises: what are the conclusion's implications on religious discussion and our conception of evil? The final portion of this presentation will seek to answer these questions. It will show that the problem of evil is not merely a valid though pragmatically useless logical proof, but rather a valuable tool which atheists, agnostics, and full believers alike can draw from and apply to their own philosophies about free will, evil, and religion.

DO METEOROLOGICAL VARIABLES AND RESOURCE PREDICTABILITY
EXPLAIN YEARLY VARIATION OF FAT STORES AND ENERGETIC
CONDITION OF SPRING MIGRANT SONGBIRDS
AT A GREAT LAKES STOPOVER SITE?:
A TEST OF THE INSURANCE HYPOTHESIS FOR EXCESS FAT STORES

Maria Virgilio and Quinn Schara

Studies have shown that some species of passerines arrive on their breeding grounds with excess fat (i.e., more fat than is necessary for fueling migration). The “insurance hypothesis” suggests that fat stores help sustain birds when environmental conditions on or near their breeding grounds are poor or unpredictable. In years when weather and environmental conditions are less favorable (i.e., negatively impact available resources), birds should arrive with higher excess fuel stores than in years when environmental conditions are more favorable. Based on this hypothesis we predict (1) the yearly meteorological variation will correlate with varying fat stores (e.g., in years with lower temperatures birds should arrive with higher fat stores than in years with higher temperatures) and (2) birds that rely on less predictable food resources will arrive with greater fat stores than those that consume more predictable food sources.

Data on migrant passerines for our study were collected during nine years (1999-2008) of spring constant-effort migration monitoring at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. Two estimates of fat score (visually determined using a scale of 0-5) and energetic condition (total mass divided by wing cord length) will be used to describe fuel loads. Meteorological variables (i.e., temperature, pressure, rainfall) for the area will be collected from the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). To determine the possible effects of meteorological variables on fuel stores, regressions will be performed for the yearly average of each variable and the average fat score and energetic condition over nine years; for example, testing for a significant inverse correlation between average spring temperatures and fat stores. Moreover, a variety of species that rely on different food stores will be examined to determine if the predictability of resources a species utilizes influences the yearly variation in fuel stores.

THE STEWARDS OF EDEN

Elizabeth Sessions

The waters of Mesopotamia are often credited with birthing and nurturing civilization as we know it. It is here that we find the remains of ancient cities and settlements, many of biblical and historical importance. It is also here that we find the marshlands of Southern Iraq, which are said to have been the model for the Garden of Eden.

However, the historical and cultural significance of this region has not saved it from the ravages of modern human conflict nor has it protected the Marsh Arabs, or Ma'dan, who call the marshes their home.¹ The story of the destruction of Eden begins during the aftermath of the Iraqi invasions of Kuwait in 1991. In order to punish those responsible for the following rebellion, Saddam Hussein began intentionally and systematically destroying the marshes, draining and poisoning the water and burning the reed beds.² The Ma'dan fled into Iran or further into Iraq as their homes and livelihoods were destroyed. More than any other initiative of Saddam's Regime, this program scarred the land and its people, and will have ecological and economic consequences for decades to come.

But this is not the end of the story. Immediately after the bombing of Operation Iraqi Freedom ceased, the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources, in conjunction with the remaining Marsh Arabs, began to re-flood the marshes. While the damage is momentous, the marshes are slowly reclaiming the desert left by Saddam's tactics. The ecosystems are regenerating, and many of the Ma'dan are returning to continue their lives as before.³ My presentation of qualitative research findings explores the consequences of Saddam's actions for the Ma'dan and for Iraq and will address the ability of the ecosystem to recover from what has been called the worst natural disaster in the 20th century.

¹ Thesigner, Wilfred

1954 The Marshmen of Southern Iraq. *The Geographical Journal* 3(120): 272-281.

² Hiltermann, Joost R.

1993 Diverting Water, Displacing Iraq's Marsh People. *Middle East Report*, March-April: 36.

³ Richardson, Curtis and Najah A. Hussain

2006 Restoring the Garden of Eden: An Ecological Assessment of the Marshes of Iraq. *Bioscience* 6(56): 477-488.

COPPER STARS, A POETRY COLLECTION

Emily Sheehan

My Honors project has been a year long creation of a poetry collection. I began drafting pieces for the book in the spring of 2008, in a poetry workshop with Karl Parker. Those first seven pieces, along with a varied list of readings by poets who have become relevant influences for me, aided me in the creation of a large number of drafts that I later edited down into a far cleaner, more concise collection.

The aim of my work has been to remove the “I” (the personal) from my writing in various ways that allow me to become less of a confessional writer, thus strengthening my poetic voice and learning to self-edit more effectively. While this type of work will be an ongoing process for me long after this collection is published, my larger aim within this period has been to create a manuscript that would teach me the habits I will need to continue writing effectively and challenging myself as a poet throughout the rest of my life. The collection is, ultimately, a grouping of my current findings and work in their most polished form.

DO INTERCONTINENTAL AND TEMPERATE MIGRANT SONGBIRDS VARY IN THEIR FAT STORES AND ENERGETIC CONDITION?: A TEST OF THE INSURANCE HYPOTHESIS FOR EXCESS FAT STORES

Michael Steiner and Richard Riggi

It has been well documented that many migrating passerines arrive on their breeding sites with excess fat (i.e., more fat than is necessary for fueling migration). This can lead to migrants being fatter upon arrival in the spring than prior to departure in the fall. Many advantages related to breeding and survivorship have been proposed to account for excess spring fat. Among other hypotheses, Sandberg and Moore (1993) suggested that excess fat serves as an energetic insurance that will help sustain individuals when environmental conditions are unpredictable and more likely to deteriorate. Fat stores provide migrants with energy for retreat movements, awaiting environmental condition improvements on the breeding grounds, and energy to search for other breeding or stopover sites. Because breeding grounds early in the spring are harsher climatically, the insurance hypothesis predicts that fat stores should be inversely correlated with arrival date within a species. More strikingly, because intercontinental migrants would likely not be able to predict the local environmental conditions on or near their breeding grounds as well as temperate, short-distance migrants, intercontinental migrants should carry more fat upon arrival.

To test the insurance hypothesis for arrival fat, we will examine the fuel stores of several closely related species of migrant passerines at a penultimate stopover site on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory. Over a span of nine years, during daily migration-monitoring each spring and fall, mist nets were open for 6-8 hours. Captured birds were banded, identified, weighed, measured for wing chord, and their fat content was visually scored on a 0 to 5 fat class scale. Using analysis of variance on arrival fat scores and energetic condition (mass/wing chord), we will determine whether variation of fat stores at this stopover site differ significantly between closely-related species (e.g., warblers) of intercontinental and temperate migrants and whether species are indeed fatter in the spring than in the fall. We will also perform regression analyses to determine if arrival date is inversely correlated with fuel stores. We expect that intercontinental species will arrive with greater fat scores (and with more fat the earlier they arrive in the spring), and in better energetic condition than temperate species because temperate species should be able to more closely track environmental conditions at the breeding grounds. A lack of difference between long-distance and short-distance migrants would suggest that fat is not used as insurance against unpredictable conditions, and that there may other reasons for excess fat upon arrival. One alternative explanation proposed by Sandburg and Moore (1996) is that migrants will arrive with excess fat in the spring for better gamete production (i.e., the breeding performance hypothesis), which would mean that excess fat would be equally advantageous to species regardless of the distance of migration.

EXPOSING A DEEPER MEANING

Charlotte Styer

As an athlete, I wanted to work with sports images but on a more expressive level than just a “pretty” composition of an image. Through the process of screenprinting, my work seeks to not only break a composition into layers, but also to break apart a stereotype of male athletes.

The stereotype usually associated with the male athlete is the “super-male.” I take images of these males in typical athletic stances and create visual comparisons to questionable or suggestive poses in order to open the door to interpretive thought about the athletic male stereotype. If people look beyond the initial beauty of a composition they see that it exposes a hidden meaning, thus encouraging questions and supporting individual interpretation. Once the process of questioning and interpreting is enabled through my compositions, it is my goal to inspire others to use the same technique in discovering the real person behind the athletic stereotype and break into an individual’s personality.

A piece of art should not be evaluated superficially. By the same token, a stereotype is a superficial evaluation of a person based on visual stimulation of how a person appears or acts. By isolating typical sports poses and regrouping those images into a series of six, my collection encourages awareness of the sexualized athletic image that might not have been as apparent in a single work. My work asks viewers to take this critical eye with them and understand that, although we all receive the same visual stimuli, we each perceive things in a different way. I hope this lesson can not only be applied to critiquing other works of art but also stereotypes applied in everyday life.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Michelle Ernst, Orlando Patterson, Jillian Petrella, Joshua Strenger, Amanda Townsend

This study addressed two questions: “What do Hobart and William Smith (HWS) students wish they had in Geneva that they do not currently have access to?” and “What do they miss from their hometowns?” The city of Geneva would like to improve its Downtown District by drawing businesses that would tap the HWS student market. One of the beliefs that drive this idea is that HWS students are all very wealthy and come from places that are much more sophisticated and entertaining than Geneva. The reality is that HWS students come from a variety of backgrounds, many native to the small towns and cities in the surrounding area, not unlike Geneva in their access to goods and services and their limited entertainment options.

We designed this project both to discover what the current consumption pattern is for HWS students relative to downtown Geneva, and also to ascertain what they would like to see available to them in Geneva in terms of entertainment, goods and services.

We will analyze these patterns at HWS by gathering data through the use of surveys and small focus groups. The sample will be collected using aggregate data available through the HWS Office of the Registrar for all current classes. We will take a random sample of 200 students from the HWS population, stratifying for race and ethnicity, in order to ensure our sample is representative of the total population.

The result should be informative statistics and anecdotal information that will assist the Geneva Office of Economic Development and Planning to draw businesses to the Downtown District that will appeal to the HWS population.

INCLUSION ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS: "WE'RE STILL HERE"

Amanda Stern

My Master of Arts in Teaching thesis reports on a program for adults with developmental disabilities that provides students with the opportunity to get a college campus experience. One goal is for these adults to interact with college students and develop friendships. This study addressed three broad questions. First, what does inclusion look like on this campus? Second, how do college students and ABS students view the program? And finally, how are they impacted by the program?

This qualitative research study involved open-ended interviews with nine participants, including three college students who are aware of the program, three that are not, and three students with developmental disabilities that are currently enrolled in the program. The interviews sought to understand views of people with and without disabilities about the program itself and inclusion on a college campus.

Data analysis demonstrated that exposure to people with disabilities impacts overall comfort with disability and the language that a person uses surrounding issues of disability. Comments were made by the subjects that suggest there is work to be done to increase the presence and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities on a college campus. These comments will help to develop implications for the future and push toward a more inclusive college community.

HOW THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION SYSTEMATICALLY SOUGHT TO UNDERMINE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Peter Van Dellon

The Bush Administration was criticized for numerous policies: the unnecessary war in Iraq, the subsequent mishandling of the same war, and their economic policies toward the end of Bush's presidency all aroused thorough displeasure among American voters, a sentiment the American people expressed with the Democratic Party's sweeping victory in the 2008 elections. What is much less noticed, however, are the claims the Bush Administration has made concerning presidential power. These claims represent a systematic expansion of the power of the presidency, a stated policy goal by former Vice President Dick Cheney.¹ With the expansion, the Bush-Cheney presidency blatantly undermined the system of checks and balances and separation of powers, and they destroyed the hallmarks of American democracy.

My interest in this project began in a seminar class that discussed the theory of emergency powers in government; we explored several of the Bush Administration's claims to such power and analyzed their legal claims to the powers of the presidency. Through subsequent courses on constitutional law and my desire to attend law school next fall, my interest in these legal claims and the American constitutional system grew into an interest in political theory.

My project specifically focuses on the claims the Bush Administration made regarding torture, warrantless electronic surveillance, and the indefinite detainment of "enemy combatants." Analysis of these three areas clearly shows that if the claims made by the Bush Administration go unchallenged under the young Obama Administration, a structural shift of power to the presidency will occur. Such a shift will surely continue to lead to the subversion of American democracy, as did the Bush Administration's policies on torture, detainment, and warrantless surveillance.

¹ "Vice President's Remarks at the Gerald R. Ford Journalism Prize Luncheon, Followed by Q&A," cited in Charlie Savage's Takeover: The Return of the Imperial Presidency and the Subversion of American Democracy (Little, Brown and Company: New York, NY, 2007) p. 9.

“HOPE AND LOVE KEEP US HAPPILY IN PRISON”: NUNS, WIDOWS, AND ART PATRONAGE IN RENAISSANCE ITALY

Anna Wager

My goal in this project is two-fold: to consider the intersections between women and art patronage in sixteenth and seventeenth century Italy and to examine the cross-currents between religious and societal ideas about women and the actualities of their experience. In doing this I focus on two groups of women, nuns and widows, in Venice and Rome respectively. Female artists and patrons are also an integral part of this discussion, as are the works of Arcangela Tarabotti, a nun and author/critic of Renaissance convent life. Through these myriad examples, I explore not only what women said, but also what they did, and the artwork that resulted.

I hope to link nuns and widows as patrons of the arts in Renaissance Italy, and observe how these women were able to maneuver in a particularly hostile social environment, facing significant boundaries. It is impossible to consider these various scenarios and their relationships without also considering the vast influence of Saint Jerome, Church Father and contradictory advocate and adversary of women, both in the fourth century and in the Counter-Reformation. I examine his writings and teachings regarding women and relate them to the assorted case studies. Saint Jerome's various depictions in art are also taken into account.

Ultimately, my intentions are to relate women, Catholicism, Renaissance culture, and artistic patronage and expression. By examining nuns' and widows' lives and actions through the writings of Tarabotti and Jerome, I seek to explore the scope of these women's impact, particularly artistically, both as creators and patrons. I would like to discover who these women were, what motivated them, and why religion and art were so intertwined in their lives and within a wider cultural context.

AMERICAN FRICTION

Andrew Wickenden

For almost two years I have been working on a novel, provisionally entitled AMERICAN FRICTION. It is a picaresque tale of misadventures with conmen, prostitutes, fools, and oracles while the hero follows Bonnie and Clyde's spree across the Midwest. Among the themes addressed are identity, transgression, sexuality, memory, the creation and incarnations of the many forms fiction, and the transition between childhood and adulthood in America.

This idea germinated while researching Depression-era crime, including the exploits of Baby Face Nelson, John Dillinger, and Bonnie and Clyde. I have always had a fascination with American outlaws, particularly those who arose in the wake of the industrial revolution, with the mechanical innovations of the modern era—notably firearms and cars—easily accessible and the will to obey the law diminished because of economic struggle. I wanted to explore this violent, wayward segment of American history through a comic, quixotic narrative of a young man's coming of age while on the trail of two of the most notorious criminals of the twentieth century.

I undertook significant research, reading novels, periodicals, and correspondences from the period to get a sense of how 1930s Midwesterners spoke and behaved and how the crimes of the time were perceived by the general populous. From there, I attempted to create vivid, realistic characters and a believable milieu in which to situate them. I use both historical personalities (augmented for my narrative purposes) and characters of my own devising and, I hope, use them to mold a cohesive, well-wrought *bildungsroman*.

GET LOST: THE GIFT OF FEAR

Yanina Wolfe

My project focuses on two questions: “What are the stories that you didn’t tell when you come back from abroad?” and “What are the stories that you didn’t get to make because your path was well-travelled?”

To explore these questions, I have created a DVD case study of my own study abroad experience. This project explores the way we frequently travel abroad: we stick to our comfort zones. We refuse to experience what the world has to offer and teach. We lose too much by following guidebooks and not questioning ourselves. In short, we let our fears order us.

One common fear of going abroad is having something lost or stolen. But what if whatever was stolen from you that you only thought you needed? With this project I want to share my personal trials, challenges, and ideas with all of our global scholars, to encourage and excite them to experience being abroad in a different way. At the same time, the digital narratives aim to stimulate students to see their return home as an arrival to a new place. This is a tale of crossing borders, of risking what we know for what we could know.

This is an honest story of a girl who embraced fear and discomfort, realizing that they were gifts from the world. A girl who travelled alone despite the odds. A girl who became a traveler rather than a tourist. A girl who became a global citizen. A girl who became an adult because she was no longer afraid of fear.