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Discovery and Creativity

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Original Research
A Cross-Cultural Perspective of Cohabitation in Young Adults

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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Alexandru Cuc**

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine different perceptions, attitudes and values about cohabitation as present in male and female college students in two culturally different settings: South Florida and Bolivia. Cohabitation is defined as a couple living together in an intimate heterosexual union without being married. Most of the extant research examines attitudes toward cohabitation in middle-aged or elder adults after they have been in a cohabitating relationship for a few years. The present study investigates how young adults perceive cohabitation prior to entering a long-term relationship. The data was collected in both Florida and La Paz, Bolivia. The sample consisted of 306 respondents (200 participants from South Florida and 106 from Bolivia). The mean age of the participants was 25 years. The participants completed a 65-item survey. Some statements in the survey described cohabitation as a convenient relationship (“I believe a couple can cohabit to share living expenses,” “I believe a cohabitation is about fun.”); others described cohabitation as a step prior to marriage (“I believe cohabitation is a trial marriage,” “I believe one must be faithful in a cohabitating relationship.”) We hypothesized that young adults’ opinions about cohabitation will differ depending on the gender of the participant. More specifically, young men are more likely to view cohabitation as a convenient relationship whereas young women are more likely to view cohabitation as a step prior to marriage. All data has already been collected and is currently being analyzed.

Original Research
Adhesion of Transferrin to FDA
Group I and Group IV Contact Lenses

Kaliopé Tsirogiannis, Andre Graves, Vicky Kosakowski,
Viviana Sumi Lee, Graham Rasanen, Areege Afaneh, Urbano Zamora
Department of Math, Science, and Technology
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Edward O. Keith**

Abstract

The adhesion of tear proteins to contact lenses contributes to lens deterioration and ocular pathology. Tears contain a number of proteins, among them being lysozyme, albumin, transferrin, lactoferrin, immunoglobulins and tear lipocalin. Here we examine the adhesion of transferrin to FDA group I (low water non-ionic) and group IV (high water ionic) contact lenses. Lenses were incubated in a solution of transferrin for 1, 2, 3, and 4 days, and transferrin adhesion was determined using the bicinchoninic acid assay. Transferrin adsorbed to Group I lenses in a steadily increasing pattern, resembling the pattern seen with albumin but not with lysozyme. In contrast, transferrin adsorbed to the Group IV lenses to a significant degree after one day, and then remained elevated, resembling the pattern seen with both albumin and lysozyme. Average transferrin adhesion to all Group I lenses was 96 ug/lens (± 10), compared to 70 (± 13) for lysozyme and 60 (± 24) for albumin. Average transferrin adhesion to all Group IV lenses was 116 ug/lens (± 43), compared to 92 (± 6) for lysozyme and 49 (± 4) for albumin.

Original Research
**All about Obesity: A Cost/Benefit Analysis of the
Growth, Causes, and Effects of Obesity**

Stephanie Repaci
H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

Faculty Advisor: **Mr. Charles Harrington**

Abstract

The topic of this paper is obesity and the numerous surgeries used to “cure” it. Because obesity is an ever-increasing problem in the United States, physicians have developed many different ways for people to lose excess weight. As cases of obesity escalate annually, surgery is becoming the number one way to correct it. Since weight-loss surgery is increasing just as much as obesity is, problems associated with obesity continually skyrocket.

The purpose of this paper is to explain how obesity is affecting the economy of the United States. By looking into the past and present of obesity, it is easy to foresee how serious the future of it will become. It is becoming more evident that the bodies of Americans have evolved along with the definition of obesity. With the overall health conditions of Americans decreasing as their waists expand, the costs for keeping weight on and off have taken a serious toll on the pocketbooks of Americans.

The goal of this paper is to show the cost/benefit analysis of obesity and weight-loss methods and procedures. Because cases of obesity rise continually, diets, exercise programs, and surgeries have played a major role in correcting obesity. However, nothing is free and as such; the money it takes for people to maintain their obese lifestyles or be rid of them is extremely expensive. The costs involved with obesity and the methods used to correct it are heavily affecting the American economy.

Original Research
**An Investigative Study Using Computer Games as a
Method for Creating Friendships**

Thomas Brown
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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Lena Hall**

Abstract

This research projects examines, if any, the relationship between establishing friendships and computer games. As more people start to play Massive Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games or MMORPG, the chance to interact with multitudes of other people arises. The question that this research examines is whether computer games, in particular MMORPG, can be used as a basis to establish friendships. It seems only natural that friendships could be formed from playing these types of games considering the fact that on a daily basis people are interacting with one another. Unfortunately, most of the current research involving computer games is about computer games and violence. The goal of this research is to examine a new psychological area of video games. The goal of this presentation is to inspire future psychologists to think about the research that can be done with computer games in a new light. The researcher wants to inspire, if at all possible, other future psychologists to investigate new psychological areas of computer games.

Original Research
**Application of Culture Manipulation to Investigate Life Histories,
Diversity and Ubiquity of Naked Amoebae from Mangroves**

Justine Ben-Hain, Sophie Buzgon, Tatianna Vassilopoulos
University School High School Seniors

Faculty Sponsors: **Dr. Andrew Rogerson and Christina Gwaltney**

Abstract

Three high school students from the University School of NSU manipulated cultures of mangrove amoebae to investigate the hypothesis that naked filose amoebae are actually stages in the life cycle of dinoflagellates. As these protists have been implicated in harmful algal blooms, any new information concerning their life histories would help to develop successful models for predicting bloom events. Additional objectives of the culture manipulation trials include the identification of emerging species, naming and describing of novel species, and enumeration of the diversity of species found under a variety of culture conditions. This final aspect addresses the hypothesis that most, if not all, protists enjoy worldwide distribution as a result of their small size, which facilitates their dispersal. If this is the case, their absence in samples may be due to undersampling of habitats and inadequate methods for detection of rare species. Sufficient manipulation of cultures should reveal the 'emergence' of species previously undetected. If found to be distributed ubiquitously, then microorganisms cannot be considered invaders and concern about their presence, at least with respect to invasion biology, is misguided. In these trials, cultures of naked amoebae isolated from South Florida mangroves were established and subjected to weekly changes in nutrient source or salinity. Morphotypes of protists (amoebae, flagellates, ciliates) were recorded following each change and datasets were analyzed for correlation between naked filose amoebae and dinoflagellates, as well as general changes in species composition when compared with a control not subjected to culture manipulation.

Original Work
Cosmic Ray Telescope

**Andrew Barry, Rezwan Alam, Adriana Ardeljan, Moataz Behairy,
Fahd Sattar, Sally Gaertner, Shweta Shah**
Math, Science and Technology
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. David Simon**

Abstract

The purpose of this project was to construct an apparatus known as a “Cosmic Ray Telescope” and use it to detect cosmic ray activity by detecting the frequency and intensity of muon emittance by these cosmic rays. Muons are subatomic particles that travel at relativistic speeds and contribute to a harmless amount of “background radiation” originating from outer space. The presence of this radiation was first recorded in 1911 by Austrian physicist Victor Hess during a series of experiments with a Geiger counter in a hot air balloon to detect the radiation at that elevation level. This project has similar objectives except that detection will be done roughly at ground level with a hand-constructed Muon Particle Detector. It consists of two photoelectric tubes connected to a circuit board with a counter on it. The circuit board was hand soldered with all necessary parts. The tubes themselves, responsible for transforming incident muon particles to an electric signal detected by the counter, are physically attached to two light-insulated Lucite scintillation paddles which served as antennas to aid in gathering muon particles. All of this became encased in a hand-crafted plywood case. Due to initial tribulations with the soldering of parts on the circuit board, the research phase was delayed, and as a consequence, data is still being taken and results are being noted. As such, no conclusion has yet been made about the appearance and activity of cosmic rays, but one will be made before this project’s submission into the Research Symposium.

Original Research
Critique of President Bush's 2004 Presidential Nomination
Acceptance Speech

Marissa S. Dass
Division of Humanities
Faculty Advisor: **Jennifer Reem**

Abstract

After having done extensive and comprehensive research into a variety of President George W. Bush speeches, I was intrigued by Bush's Presidential Nomination Acceptance speech that he gave during the Republican National Convention in New York City. The speech marked Bush's acceptance as the 2004 Republican Party's presidential candidate. Bush gave his speech on Thursday September 2nd 2004 to an immediate audience of well over twelve thousand people in Madison Square Garden. However, other audiences were targeted, including all of the American public, more specifically the undecided American voters, and the rest of the world.

My research included first examining a variety of Bush's speeches over the years. In addition, I studied essential characteristics of effective persuasive speaking. Then based on my research of what constitutes a great speech, I analyzed and critiqued Bush's acceptance speech based on the content of the speech, which I analyzed on the principles of Aristotle's Artistic Proofs. Aristotle's Artistic Proofs are ethos, which is the "sociology of good character"ⁱ, pathos, which refers to "the psychology of emotion",ⁱⁱ and logos, which is "the logic of sound arguments."ⁱⁱⁱ Furthermore, based on my research, I examined the organization of the speech, especially the layout of the introduction and then the reinforcement of the organization throughout the body of the speech. Finally, I critiqued the use of language, vocabulary and grammar and also the way in which the President delivered the speech, with particular attention to the President's physical appearance and presence.

Original Research
Cultural Perceptions of Alcohol Use in Children and Adolescents

Dujon Chang

Behavioral Sciences

Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Alexandru Cuc**

Abstract

The proposed project investigates how people's attitudes toward alcohol consumption vary across ethnic groups. Previous research has clearly shown that patterns of alcohol use are influenced by a group's norms and attitudes regarding alcohol use. Groups with more liberal attitudes toward alcohol consumption are more likely to have frequent heavy drinkers than groups with more conservative norms and attitudes (Caetano & Clark, 1999). The current study investigates how a group's norms toward alcohol use extend and apply to the use of alcohol in children and adolescents. We designed a 30-item questionnaire on various eating and drinking habits in adults, adolescents and children. We included some questions on the use of spicy food in various cultures since we did not want the participants to feel that the research was based on any ethnic stereotypes regarding the use of alcohol. The participants rated each question on a 5-point Likert-type scale. For instance, the participants rated a statement like "Children as young as age 12-16 can have one sip of beer with food, with adult supervision" on a scale from 1 to 5 where 1 meant that they completely disagreed with it and 5 meant that they completely agreed. So far we collected data from 120 participants from four different groups: Hispanic, Caucasian, African-American, Asian, and Caribbean. Approximately 30 more participants are needed. The data will be entered in the SPSS program and analyzed for statistical differences between the groups.

Original Research
**Do Cells Grown in the Same Environment at the Same
Time Express the Same Genes: Got cDNA?**

Maria Farrell

Department of Math, Science, and Technology
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Emily Schmitt**

Abstract

An innovative and powerful tool for analyzing gene expression is the microarray. In this experiment, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (yeast cells) were examined to determine whether gene expression would be similar for two samples grown in the same environment. RNA was extracted and its quality and quantity was assessed. cDNA was made from the mRNA (taken from the total RNA sample) and its subsequent presence was verified by amplifying a known gene that should always be expressed, TDH1, and visualizing it on an agarose gel. The cDNA samples were labeled with the appropriate fluorescent dyes and hybridized to the array. The slide was rinsed, dried, and scanned by a computer and found to contain uniform dye incorporation on each spot. The results indicate that indeed, cells grown in the same environment at the same time do express the same genes. Valuable information was obtained from this experiment regarding reliable protocols that can be used to consistently isolate good quality total RNA, make labeled cDNA from the mRNA, and hybridize the cDNA on to a microarray slide for analysis. Future applications include using the microarray tool to determine the difference in gene expression with yeast exposed to various conditions and during different life stages of the cell.

Original Research
**Exploration of Personality Preferences Between College
Students and College Student Athletes**

Taylor Liput
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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Michael Reiter**

Abstract

The goal of this research study was to explore whether there existed differences in personality preferences between college non-student-athletes and college student-athletes. Participants were given the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), which is a personality survey with questions relating to general perceptions about oneself. The researchers handed out surveys to students in their school environment and asked them to fill out the questionnaire. The 93-question survey took around 10 to 20 minutes for each person to fill out. 90 undergraduate students at Nova Southeastern University completed the MBTI, 41 of which were student-athletes and 49 of which were non-student-athletes. t-tests were used to calculate significance on each of the main areas of personality dimension. No statistically significant differences were found.

Original Research
**Further Studies to Determine Subspecies Identity of Panthers by
Examining the NADH-5 Gene Obtained Originally From
Clotted Blood and Hair for Conservation Applications**

Marta Hubert and Marimer Gonzalez
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Emily Schmitt**

Abstract

The goal of this project to further research done previously to determine the subspecies identity of a panther (named Sasha) currently living in a zoo in Ecuador. Although Sasha is thought to be a South American puma (*Puma concolor concolor*). This is primarily due to local belief and she is likely to actually be a Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) brought to Ecuador from south Florida in the early 1980s. The mitochondrial gene NADH-5 (ND5) has been used as a genetic marker in several large-scale studies establishing genomic ancestry and subspecies identity of pumas. As a result, the ND5 gene has been found to exhibit characteristic single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) according to subspecies. Thus, samples of this gene were collected from Sasha and some other pumas (of known ancestry) as well as from domestic cat for comparisons. Previously, the ND5 gene was isolated from hair samples obtained from Sasha's cub as well as a known Florida panther (Joey) and these sequences were compared to published variations in this gene, which represent the various subspecies. We further extracted DNA from samples of Sasha's clotted blood and also clotted blood from domestic cat. The ND5 gene was isolated from these samples as well and compared to the ND5 sequences obtained from hair samples of panthers of known ancestry. By obtaining evidence of Sasha's origin, it will be possible to aid in conservation of the endangered Florida Panther to which we suspect Sasha belongs.

Original Work
Getting Into the Video Game Industry

Thomas Brown
Department of Math, Science and Technology
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Mary Muldoon**

Abstract

This research project was made to give high school students, or any one interested, information about getting into the Video Games Industry. The project is composed in website format and translated into three languages, to make it easy for high school students to access the information. While today we know more about the Video Game Industry, what it takes to make games, and what some of the jobs are in the gaming industry, there is still a lot of mystery about what it takes to get into the Video Game Industry. The researcher website reveals the mystery and shows high school students exactly what they need to get into this industry. The goal of this project is to give detailed, easy to understand information to high school students about how to get into the Video Game Industry. The goal of this presentation is to inform the audience about jobs in the gaming industry and to discuss the business side of the Video Game Industry.

Literature Review
Gleevec and the New Generation of Molecular-Targeting Therapy

Nancy Philippe

Department of Math, Science, and Technology
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Emily Schmitt**

Abstract

The purpose of this literature research project is to investigate the therapeutic roles of Gleevec applied to the treatment of various cancers as a tyrosine-kinase inhibitor. In the 1970s it was shown that Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML), a blood cancer, was the byproduct of translocation of the chromosome 9 q-arm (*abl* gene) with the chromosome 22 q-arm (*bcr* gene). The new gene that formed, *bcr-abl*, was referred to as the Philadelphia gene (Ph). The abnormal protein that forms from Ph gene, BCR-ABL, is what causes CML. BCR-ABL was shown to be a tyrosine kinase. With this knowledge, much research was done to discover a way to interrupt and/or stop the activities of BCR-ABL. The new drug that came out of this research was STI-571, also referred to as imatinib mesylate and more popularly as Gleevec. Gleevec has an amazing ability to stop BCR-ABL activities, by binding to its inactive form as a competitive inhibitor, with little to no side effects while causing an increase in hematological responses. It was soon discovered that Gleevec inhibition abilities affected other tyrosine kinases such as PDGF, c-kit, and β -catenin. New studies are being done to discover if Gleevec can be used as frontline therapy for other cancers such as osteosarcoma, lung, and colon on its own or in combination with other drugs. Research is also being done to strengthen Gleevec's inhibition abilities and discover new drugs that can stop cancer mutations for which Gleevec has previously had little or no effect.

Original Research
Information Technology Outsourcing: An Overview

Gisella Garcia

H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

Faculty Advisor: **Mr. Charles Harrington**

Abstract

This research project is to understand the different aspects about Information Technology (IT) Outsourcing and to become informed about the engine that drives the modern organization. The information technology outsourcing trend has become increasingly popular and heavily documented and studied in Europe and the US. The goal of this review is to address the different determinants of this issue, which are business competence causing major controversy during the past years. In addition, this paper provides with future visions on where IT outsourcing is heading.

Literature Review Lung Cancer and Angiogenesis

Ruzeen Patwa

Department of Math, Science and Technology
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Emily Schmitt**

Abstract

Lung cancer usually forms from cells that line the airways and nearby glands since these cells come into contact with the air we breathe which may contain carcinogens (such as tobacco smoke, asbestos, and benzene). Specifically lung cancer can be divided into two major groups: Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) and Non Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC). The purpose of this literature review project is to discuss how angiogenic activators such as vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and platelet derived endothelial cell growth factor (PD-ECGF) have a prognostic significance in the development of lung cancer. Lung cancer occurs over a period of time where normal cells grow into cancerous cells eventually forming a tumor. A tumor cannot grow larger than the head of a pin without a blood supply. For the tumor to get a blood supply it must secrete activators such as: VEGF, platelet derived endothelial growth factor, or basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF), signaling the surrounding normal host tissue to make new blood vessels, bringing oxygen and nutrients to the tumor and taking the waste products out. The process of forming new blood vessels is known as angiogenesis. The concept of angiogenesis was first popularized by Dr. Judah Folkman in 1971. Before the 1960s, cancer researchers thought that the blood supply reached the tumor through the dilation of the pre-existing blood vessels. Presently researchers are trying to find various inhibitors that can stop angiogenesis from taking place and cure lung cancer and many other types of cancers.

Original Research
National or Private Health Care – What is Best for the U.S.

Stephanie Blair

H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

Faculty Sponsor: **Mr. Charles Harrington**

Abstract

This paper discusses the differences between public and private health care and the outcomes each would have and has on the U.S. This paper also discusses the United States current health insurance system as well as the trends and where we may be headed in the future of health insurance. It observes the past, present and future of health insurance in the U.S. Currently the U.S. has a private healthcare system in which its citizens purchase insurance through a provider or if they cannot afford it or choose to not purchase it then they are uninsured. This paper also includes numbers and figures of citizens insured and uninsured.

The purpose of this paper is to make citizens aware of the different types of insurance available and how our current health insurance system is affecting the U.S. The ultimate goal of this paper is to inform U.S. citizens of the debate between private and public healthcare as well as the current situation in the United States regarding health insurance. This way they can decide which type of health insurance plan they feel is best for the U.S. and hopefully take a role in fighting for their opinion, whether it is by voting for candidates into government office who have the same opinion or actively pursuing the maintenance or change of the health insurance system.

Literature Review Neurocardiogenic Syncope

Alisha Van Hoose

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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Mark Jaffe**

Abstract

This research was conducted by reviewing studies conducted on neurocardiogenic syncope, primarily in the United States and India, in an attempt to better understand the causes of the condition.

Neurocardiogenic syncope, also referred to as vasovagal syncope vasodepressive syncope, neurally mediated syncope, and neurally mediated hypotension, is the most commonly diagnosed form of syncope, accounting for 3-5% of emergency room visits and from 1-6% of hospital admittances yearly.

The condition is incompletely understood and quite often difficult to diagnose: the most common diagnostic tool, the Head-Up Tilt Table Test, results in false positives 2-6% of the time through passive testing, and 13-26% of the time during active testing where intravenous isoproterenol or adenosine, or sublingual nitroglycerine are used to stimulate responses during the test.

Prolonged periods of standing, a sudden rise to the upright position, or a number of triggers that include coughing and swallowing can stimulate an episode, which generally involves dizziness, lightheadedness, and a sudden loss of both consciousness and postural tone. These symptoms are sometimes preceded by nausea, headache, blurred vision, or a radical change in heart rate.

While most common in adolescents, neurocardiogenic syncope affects those ranging from small children to the elderly. Research does not agree on the actual cause of the condition, although depleted blood volume, blood pooling in the lower extremities during sudden or prolonged standing, or inhibition of the sympathetic nervous system have all been designated as contributing factors.

Treatment varies; pharmaceuticals which have been beneficial in some patients include Beta-blockers, serotonin uptake inhibitors and midorine. Other treatments include the new practice of tilt training, although the most effective and widely-used treatment is simple volume repletion.

Original Research
Obesity and the U.S. Health Care System

Stephanie Rapaci

H. Wayne Huzienga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

Faculty Sponsor: **Mr. Charles Harrington**

Abstract

Awareness of the impact of obesity on the individual as well as on the health care system has become a major topic of debate in recent years. Nearly two thirds of all American adults are overweight and over 30% are considered obese according to data from the 1999-2000 National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey. This same survey has estimated that the total costs of obesity are as high \$117 billion with direct costs of \$61 billion and indirect costs of \$56 billion. Recent studies (2002) indicate that the direct costs of obesity have risen to \$92.5 billion, which represents 9.1% of total U.S. health care spending.

The objective of this paper is to review the various treatments available to treat obesity ranging from dieting and life style changes to the increase today of various types of surgery. A cost/benefit analysis will be applied to these different approaches to ascertain the most cost effective treatment for this national epidemic.

Literature Review
Primary Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

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Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Robin L. Sherman**

Abstract

Primary Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PPAH) is a rare and progressive intrinsic disease of the pulmonary vascular smooth muscle and endothelial cells. PPAH is generated from a combination of abnormalities interacting at the cellular and molecular level. Since the ability of blood circulating through the lungs to pick up oxygen decreases, the patient experiences shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain, dizzy spells, fainting, and even death if undiagnosed or untreated. Common abnormalities that can trigger PPAH involve endothelial cell dysfunction that disrupt a balance between vasoconstrictors and vasodilators, mutations in BMP/TGF- β protein structure that lead to cellular dysfunctions, and the interaction of Serotonin molecules with transmembrane proteins that generate cell signaling to constrict and divide cells. All molecular abnormalities result in the enhancement of Ca²⁺ and K⁺ concentration in the cytosol of the cell. The elevated concentration of both ions is the main reason why the pulmonary arterial smooth muscle cells constrict and continuously divide. Consequently, the lumen of the Pulmonary Artery decreases in size and increases in resistance, causing blood pressure to rise. Recent clinical trials have made progress in identifying treatment through oral, inhaled, subcutaneous, and intravenous medication that attacks the different abnormalities involved in the development of the disease.

Literature Review
RNA Analysis Prior to Use in Microarrays

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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Emily Schmitt**

Abstract

Extracting RNA from an organism and isolation of mRNA is an intermediate step done prior to its use in further applications. Therefore, assessment of RNA presence, including its quality is important. There are many techniques that are currently available; however, they can be time consuming or sample consuming. The purpose of this experiment was to determine an efficient way to assess RNA prior to using the sample in a microarray-based study. Twenty hours after *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* was plated on YEPD media, RNA was extracted using Ambion's RiboPure Yeast Kit. Different protocols were examined to determine an efficient way to analyze the RNA. First, absorbance readings at 260nm and 280nm were obtained. NEBioLabs' Protoscript First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit was used to synthesize cDNA from mRNA via Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction. PCR was also used to amplify TDH1, a housekeeping gene present in mRNA. These products were subsequently analyzed for RNA presence using different electrophoresis gel protocols, including the use of denaturing buffers and prepackaged gels. The presence of bands at 18s and 28s confirmed original RNA presence. In addition to spectrophotometry for qualitative analysis, it was determined that electrophoresis of the extracted RNA, treated with Superload, a denaturing buffer, was efficient in verifying the actual presence of RNA.

Literature Review
Should the Consumer Population Purchase *Juvenon*
To Slow Down the Aging Process?

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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Emily Schmitt**

Abstract

Scientists at the University of California, Berkeley have conducted a clinical study which claims to slow down the aging process of cells, by restoring proper carnitine acetyltransferase (CAT) function via combining the substrate acetyl L-carnitine (ALCAR) with alpha lipoic acid (LA). CAT is an enzyme involved in the breakdown of food molecules in the mitochondria. One result from this study is the commercially-available health supplement, *Juvenon*. This "award winning team of scientists" claim that *Juvenon*, as advertised in *Popular Science* magazine promotes healthy brain cell functioning, slows down the clock on your aging cells, sustains energy levels and increases metabolic efficiency. They hypothesize that CAT, becomes damaged due to byproducts of lipid peroxidation which decrease binding affinity (K_m) of ALCAR and acetyl CoA in aging cells. This was tested by exposing the CAT to Malondialdehyde (MDA) and 4-hydroxy-nonenal (HNE) which are byproducts of lipid peroxidation. The subjects used during this study were 344 laboratory rats. The methodology of this experiment used two techniques which include Ex Vivo Oxidation and In Vitro Oxidation. The results from both the In vitro and Ex vivo oxidation methods demonstrated that ALCAR alone did not lower the K_m , but when it interacted with LA, a decrease in lipid peroxidation did occur. The product, *Juvenon* as represented in the advertisement was somewhat misleading to the consumer population in that it persuades consumers to believe that the purchase of this product will slow down their own aging process, while the experimental results presented do not support this claim.

Original Research
Social Perceptions of Cohabitation in Undergraduate College Students

Lela Rogers-Whitson, Natasha Romero, Sivan Shammay, Ana M. Rodriguez

Psi Chi Honor Society
Farquhar College of Arts and Science

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Marcia Silver**

Abstract

The present study investigated undergraduate college students' perceptions, attitudes, and values about cohabitation. Cohabitation is operationally defined as a couple living together in an intimate, heterosexual union, without being legally married (Sassler, 2004). Current research demonstrates that cohabitation is becoming a transitional stage between singlehood and marriage in the United States (Seltzer, 2000). This study was designed to examine differences between individuals who never cohabitated versus those who would. Participants were from a private southeastern college campus. Recruited college students (N = 195) completed a Likert-test scale consisting of 50 questions about their attitudes toward cohabitation and 10 demographic questions. The sample consisted of 57 males (29.2%) and 137 females (70.3%). The mean age of the respondents was 20.4 years (range: 17-45 years, SD = 3.15). The sample was composed of Caucasians (39.5%), Black and African Americans (24.6%), and 31.8 percent of the participants were of Hispanic, Spanish or Latin origin (N = 62). Significant differences were found using 2-way ANOVAs and T-tests. Results showed that pressure from one's partner, level of commitment to the relationship, and perceptions of cohabitation as a trial marriage varied significantly among the student groups. Future research is needed to investigate the impact of cohabitation on today's young adult population who are marrying later and are already in the work force.

Original Research
Social Perceptions of Jealousy in Relationships over Time

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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Alexandru Cuc**

Abstract

The proposed research investigates people's opinions regarding emotional aspects of jealousy in a relationship over time. Previous research has established that young men are more focused on the sexual aspects of a relationship than young women (Buss & Kanrick, 1998; Eagly & Wood, 1999). More specifically, men tend to be more jealous when their spouses have sexual affairs with other men, whereas women tend to be more jealous when their spouses have emotional affairs with other women. The present study extends these initial findings by looking at how elderly people experience jealousy in a relationship. We surveyed 206 people on topics such as love, sex, cheating and jealousy in a relationship. The younger adults were asked to answer these questions based on their present opinions and to estimate their opinions on the same topics 25-30 years in the future. The elder adults were asked to answer the same questions based on their present opinions and also estimate their opinions 25-30 years ago. All the data has already been collected and entered in SPSS for statistical comparison. We found that elder adults are more likely to believe that it is important to be 'in love' than younger adults independent of gender. We also found that older males responses are statistically closer to the responses of young and elderly females than to their younger male counterparts when asked whether they would be jealous if their partners would have a emotional and sexual affair with someone else.

Original Research
Social Security and Social Contract

**Lauren Adamczyk, Jessica Alabastro, Gisella Garcia,
Stephanie Rapaci and Jahmila Williams**
H. Wayne Huzienga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

Faculty Sponsor: **Mr. Charles Harrington**

Abstract

During the Great Depression President Franklin Roosevelt forged a Social Contract between the U.S. Government and the American people with his New Deal legislation. Social Security legislation was the cornerstone of the emerging social contract which also included unemployment insurance and work place safety laws. Over the next 40 years this concept of social contract was strengthened, particularly in the area of civil rights and with efforts to reduce income inequality.

During the past 35 years, however, there have been consistent efforts to erode the concept of social contract as we know it. Today the final vestige of social contract, the Social Security system, is under attack. While it is true that the future of Social Security is at risk, the question arises as to whether the system as we know it needs to be dramatically altered with future benefits reduced, or whether there are alternative methods to finance future financial needs.

This paper seeks to analyze the current state of social security and to evaluate the alternative types of social security reform that are being proposed by elected officials as well as various other interest groups. Special attention will be given to alternative forms of funding social security to insure its solvency in future years as well as to additional efforts that would encourage additional savings by the general public for their retirement years.

Literature Review
**Telomerase Inhibitors as a Developing Therapeutic
Drug for Cancer Cells**

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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Emily Schmitt**

Abstract

The objective of this literature review project is to investigate current therapeutics involved in the treatment of cancer, particularly telomerase inhibitors. One current hypothesis regarding cancer growth is that it requires activation of telomerase to replicate. One way that cancer cell growth may be controlled is by inhibiting telomerase, an enzyme involved in shortening the DNA telomeres. This project reviews several clinical trials which show a promising telomerase inhibitor that is specific to cancer cells: 2'-*O*-methoxyethyl oligonucleotide (MOE), which binds to the telomerase RNA template, hTR. Certain telomerase inhibitors are more specific towards the telomerases that extend the telomere oligonucleotides on the oncogenes that control the cell cycle, such as the Ras and p53 genes. Currently, the amount of chemotherapy that is given to a cancer patient is limited by the toxic side effects of the chemotherapy. The current research being reviewed is aimed at inhibiting telomerase which is specific to cancer cells. This in effect will kill the cancer cells while having little or no effect on the normal surrounding cells. Because telomerase inhibitors specifically kill cancerous cells and not the normal surrounding cells, they are a new promising class of chemotherapeutic agents.

Literature Review
Tetrahydrobiopterin: Potential Role in Treatment of
Phenylketonuria

Brianna Woods

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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Emily Schmitt**

Abstract

Phenylketonuria (PKU) is an autosomal recessive metabolic disease caused by a genetic mutation that inhibits the conversion of the amino acid phenylalanine (Phe) into tyrosine. PKU diagnosis is based on detection of high concentrations of Phe in the blood serum. When blood levels of Phe are too high (hyperphenylalaninemia), the condition is toxic and could lead to mental retardation, epilepsy or other neurological abnormalities. Some patients diagnosed with PKU are also defective in the production of or lack the ability to produce tetrahydrobiopterin (BH4) due to a genetic defect. BH4 is the cofactor for the enzyme phenylalanine hydroxylase (PAH), which catalyzes Phe into tyrosine. Previously, the preferred treatment of PKU was a strict diet limiting Phe. The purpose of this literature research project is to investigate an alternative therapy for the regulation of Phe levels for patients with PKU by investigating the clinical relevance of BH4 administration. This project summarizes the effects and benefits of administering BH4 to patients with PKU to initiate the break down of Phe into tyrosine. Many patients find it extremely difficult to follow such strict diets to eliminate Phe, so the option of BH4 administration is very appealing. If patients are permitted a moderate amount Phe in their diet and given medication (BH4) to regulate blood Phe levels, they are more likely to follow a therapy regimen when compared to strictly limiting or completely omitting Phe from their diet. Compliance with therapy will increase the overall health of a PKU patient.

Literature Review
TGF- β Signaling and Oncogenesis

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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Emily Schmitt**

Abstract

The objective of this literature-based investigation is to review the current model used to describe how TGF- β signaling is involved in the oncogenic process. The transforming growth factors- β are a group of signaling polypeptides that control cell growth, differentiation and apoptosis. TGF- β s and their receptors are expressed in virtually all tissues. TGF- β works as tumor suppressor in pre and early oncogenic stages. However, as tumor growth progresses, TGF- β switches to pro-oncogenic activities. TGF- β type proteins work via a signal transduction pathway that involves the activation of key proteins known as Smads. Smads are directly involved in transcription by entering the nucleus and binding to specific genes, including those involved in cell cycle regulation such as p21. As new information is discovered about this pathway and the players involved new insights are being gained about the oncogenic process, which may lead to new therapeutic approaches.

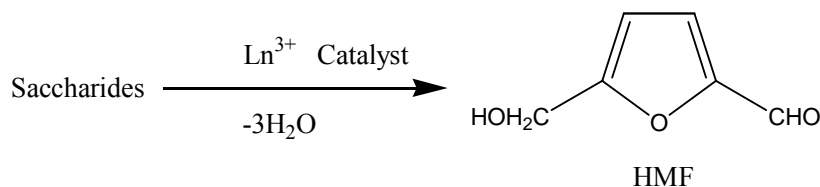
Original Research
The Catalytic Conversion of Saccharides to 5-Hydroxymethyl-2-Furaldehyde (HMF) – A Petroleum Source: A Comprehensive Study into Understanding the Binding of Model Saccharides with Lanthanum and Yttrium Complexes

Raquel Appa, Elaine Hammil
Division of Math, Science and Technology
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Dimitrios Giarikos**

Abstract

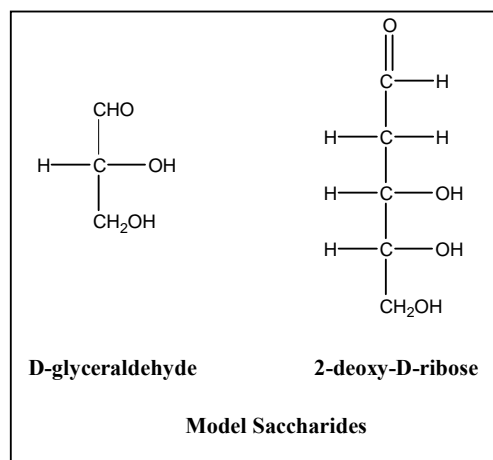
There is a burgeoning interest to find new sources of petroleum, as this can alleviate oil prices and fossil fuel shortage concerns. Innovation can be focused on possibly converting wood to fuels, or chemical and industrial products. Saccharides have acquired significance industrially as a promising, suitable, and versatile carbon source for substituting petroleum; particularly, the catalytic conversion of saccharides to 5-hydroxymethyl-2-furaldehyde (HMF). Lanthanide (III) ions, (strong Lewis acids), are active catalysts for converting saccharides to HMF:



Proficient lanthanide-catalysts that convert saccharides to HMF have potential impacts on energy and the environment. Consequently, the primary goal of this project is to understand the binding of model monosaccharide molecules, principally 2-deoxy D ribose and D-glyceraldehyde, to yttrium, europium, and lanthanum ions.

By understanding saccharide-metal ion coordination, more important details can be elucidated, providing insights into the lanthanide-based catalysis of saccharides. Air and water stable yttrium, europium and lanthanide compounds were synthesized and reacted with saccharides to form new metal-saccharide complexes. Only a small number of lanthanide-saccharide complexes have previously been isolated. However, the complexes isolated in this experiment are new; these are $\text{Ln}(\text{hfac})_3(\text{saccharide})$ and $\text{Ln}(\text{acac})_3(\text{saccharide})$. The starting materials

1,1,1,5,5,5-hexafluoroacetylacetone (Hhfac) and acetylacetone (Hacac) were used because they allow limited space for coordination of the saccharides to the metal ion. Preliminary results are shared, but further characterization of the new complexes will be performed using percent metal complexometric titration, elemental analysis and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy.



Original Research
The Effects of Media in Times of War

Alana Trombetta, Diane Kedzierski, Monique Mendez, Jane Fray
Psi Chi Honor Society

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Marcia E. Silver**

Abstract

Throughout time and most recently, the media has been presumed to have a great impact on the way the general population forms opinions about a wide range of topics. Research shows that the media may not affect people directly, but can change their attitudes about someone or something because of the manner in which it is presented, especially highly controversial topics (Gunther & Storey, 2003; Reedy, 2003). The purpose of this study is to determine whether the media has an effect on subjects' views on a hotly debated topic such as the Iraq War. A fifteen item questionnaire was designed to gage subject's views about war. The first step in the research investigation was to distribute surveys to ninety undergraduate and graduate students at Nova Southeastern University. During this time, no form of intervention was conducted. In the second step, subjects were then asked to view a video clip, listen to an audio tape or read a transcript that consisted of three informational pieces about the soldiers fighting in the Iraq War. Three groups of students were separated into groups to explore the effects of the media such as the newspaper, etc. and how the effects differed according to the medium in which the information was presented. The subjects were then asked to complete the initial rearranged fifteen item questionnaire in order to gage if the subjects' opinions had changed. Although the study is still in progress, preliminary results show that the media does not influence people's opinions.

Original Research
**The Effects of Various Factors on the Prevalence of Obsessive
Compulsive Disorder Behaviors in Undergraduate College Students**

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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **R. Todd Coy**

Abstract

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) is an anxiety disorder characterized by intrusive and distressing thoughts, urges, and images, as well as repetitive behaviors aimed at decreasing the discomfort caused by these obsessive thoughts. (Anthony, Rachman, Richter, & Swinson, 1998). OCD is estimated to be the second most common psychiatric disorder in both children and adults. (Dell-Osso, Marazziti, Planner, & Presta, et al. 2003). The age of onset is within the college years, yet not many studies have focused on college age students. The study looks at the characteristics of OCD in undergraduate college students. We break the study down into four areas of interest; gender and college level, athletic ability, ethnicity and school performance and birth order. A survey is to be handed out to obtain our data. We would like to know the effects of OCD characteristics in undergraduate students in regards to the four subsets.

Anthony, Martin M., & Rachman, S., & Richter, Margaret A., & Swinson, Richard P. (Ed.). (1998). *Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder; theory, research, and treatment*. New York. The Guilford Press.

Dell-Osso, L., & Marazziti, D., & Pfanner, C., Presta, S., & et al. (2003). Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder in childhood and adolescence. *Psychopathology*, 36 (2). Retrieved January 27, 2005 from ProQuest.

Original Research
The Relationship between Body Image and Culture

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Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Michael Reiter**

Abstract

The purpose of this research is to determine how individuals rate body image based on shape of the body and ethnicity of the person being evaluated. Further, this research explores whether culture of the participant is a variable that impacts individuals' sense of body image. By discovering whether culture plays a role in how individuals view body image, people and organizations may be better able to work with individuals who have body image issues. The participants were asked to fill out a questionnaire. The questionnaire is composed of 5 questions which are used when looking at 15 pictures. The pictures are of fifteen different female celebrities. These celebrities were chosen so that Hispanic, African-American, and Caucasian women would represent the following body shape categories: very thin, thin, normal, slightly overweight, and overweight. The same five questions were given per category. In total, the survey consists of 75 questions. Participants answer by filling out a likert-type survey. Preliminary results will be given.

Original Research
The Road Ahead

Edward Byer

H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

Faculty Sponsor: **Mr. Charles Harrington**

Abstract

Numerous authors have raised alarms regarding both the increase in demand for fossil fuels by a growing global economy and the emergence of underdeveloped nations, such as China and India, and the adverse impacts this use has on our environment. World consumption of oil stands at approximately 84 million barrels per day. The United States, with only 5% of the world's population, consumes almost one fourth of total world production. With the world's most accessible energy fields seeing declining production levels, the current price of over \$50 per barrel may seem low in years to come, as less accessible sources of supply are brought in to play.

The United States currently imports well over 50% of its oil. Most experts agree that if the status quo is maintained we will import over 70% of our oil by the year 2020. Clearly the current price of gasoline just above \$2.00 per gallon will seem extremely low in the future.

What options do we have that may lessen our dependence on foreign produced fossil fuels? One might be the renewed emphasis on more fuel efficient automobiles and automobiles that use alternative sources of energy. Hybrid automobiles produced by Toyota and Honda have been well received by the general public and both automakers plan on expanding production of current models and are reviewing the possibility of producing additional models that average in excess of 50 miles per gallon. Daimler-Chrysler and other manufactures have recently announced a renewed focus on hydrogen powered systems; however, this, and other technologies are years away from practical implementation.

The focus of this paper is on evaluating the practicality and potential of various types of alternative power systems for automobiles including fossil fuels, hybrid technologies, hydrogen and bio-fuels, as potential alternatives to solving our energy crisis.

Literature Review
The Role of Cyclin-Dependent Kinase 5 (Cdk5) in Neurodegeneration

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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Emily Schmitt**

Abstract

The purpose of this literature research project is to investigate the role of Cyclin-dependent kinase 5 (Cdk5) in neurodegenerative diseases by summarizing its function in brain development, learning and memory. Cdk5 is a proline directed protein kinase that phosphorylates serine and threonine residues. Additionally the role of Cdk5 in the regulation of NMDA receptor, N-cadherin-mediated adhesion as well as the drugs that inhibit their normal functions will be examined. Recent studies regarding neurodegenerative pathology of diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis revealed a crucial role of this kinase in central nervous system development, particularly in the normal positioning of neurons, axonal guidance, synaptic plasticity, dopamine signaling, cell adhesion and vesicle trafficking as well as neurodegenerative and neurofibrillary tangle diseases. Cdk5 is regulated by the binding of either p35 or p39, which serve as activators of Cdk5 which proteolytically cleave the two regulatory subunits into p25 and p29 respectively. Accumulation of the p25 subunit has been specifically identified in the neurons of Alzheimer's as well as other neurodegenerative diseases where the accumulation of p25 serves as a competitive activator of Cdk5 altering the normal substrate specificity of Cdk5 which then causes a hyperphosphorylation of tau protein thus reducing its ability to associate with microtubules inducing cytoskeletal disruption, morphological degeneration and apoptosis indicating that the aberrant activation of tau is neurotoxic.

Original Research
The Role of *Porphyromonas Gingivalis* in Atherosclerosis

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Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Emily Schmitt**

Abstract

Porphyromonas ginigivalis is one of the major pathogens primarily responsible for several periodontal diseases such as adult and juvenile periodontitis. Recent studies have found that a form of *P. gingivalis* has been recognized within the buildup of fatty material and cholesterol of atherosclerotic plaque located in blood vessels. This strongly suggests that *P. gingivalis* may also be linked to the origin and development of coronary heart disease. The purpose of this literature review project is to elucidate the possible roles that *P. gingivalis* has in cardiovascular disease by interpreting the procedures and conclusions of several studies on how the invasion of this periodontal pathogen can influence the initiation and progression of atherosclerosis. One study exhibited that the initial adherence between *P. gingivalis* and platelets may be assisted by the pathogen's fimbriae and that the bacterium's vesicles may contain platelet aggregation-inducing activity. Another study focused on the bacterium's fimbriae and how it can activate the expression of endothelial surface-associated cell adhesion molecules through the analysis of fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) and confocal microscopy. A further study tested and illustrated the role that periodontitis exhibited in the accumulation of lipid deposition in New Zealand White rabbits by supplying a cholesterol-rich diet inducing periodontitis. This provided direct evidence that periodontitis can be an agent in the development of atherosclerosis.

Literature Review
The Targeting of Women in the Advertising and Weight-Loss Industries

Lauren Adamczyk

H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship

Faculty Advisor: **Mr. Charles Harrington**

Abstract

“The most powerful diet pill ever discovered! No diet or workout required. The secret weight-loss pill behind Fitness models, Show Biz and Entertainment professionals! No prescription required to order” (USFTC 14).

There is an ever-increasing desire to be thin among women in the United States. Why is this? Advertising is one of the primary reasons pencil thin women have become the ideal. Previous to the depiction of women as extremely thin, full figured women were the sign of health, beauty, and status. Now that the advertising industry has chosen these images to portray success and attractiveness, the weight loss industry reaps the benefits. According to the United States Federal Trade Commission, Americans invest over \$30 billion a year in weight loss products and services. The pressure to be thin also leads to psychological problems and eating disorders, which can be deadly. The advertising and weight loss industries need to be reformed by policies that will enforce truth about the products and programs they are selling and consider the consequences of portraying unhealthily thin models.

Literature Review
The Use of Biomarkers in Diagnosis and Treatment of
Traumatic Brain Injury

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Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Emily Schmitt**

Abstract

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a major central nervous system (CNS) disorder. The most frequent indicators of TBI are magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computerized tomography (CT) scans, which are highly expensive, and their sensitivity is limited to the first 24 hours after injury. There is a substantial need for finding other reliable methods including the development of biomarkers to assess the condition of brain cells after presumed injury. Biomarkers are correlated with disease severity, time course of disease progression and drug response. This literature review focuses on four different types of biomarkers –Serum S100B, II-spectrin Breakdown Products, Serum T^c, and Neuronal Specific Enolase (NSE) which have been designed to assist in the determination of the severity of human brain injury and to monitor the effects of various therapies.

Literature Review
Transmission, Symptoms and Complications of
Sexually Transmitted Diseases

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Department of Math, Science and Technology
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Mark Jaffe**

Abstract

A sexually transmitted disease is an infection acquired through direct sexual contact. This poster explores the symptoms and portals of entry for transmission of different STD's. Many sexually transmitted diseases may lead to severe infections such as Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), perihepatitis and infertility. These complications will be explored as well as the methods to diagnose and treat sexually transmitted diseases. The STD's to be covered include gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes, HIV/AIDS, bacterial vaginosis, chlamydia, genital warts, granuloma, lymphogranuloma, trichomoniasis, hepatitis, chancroid, and molluscum.

Original Research
Wage Discrimination in the Workplace
1963 - 2005

Latisha Gaither

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Faculty Sponsor: **Mr. Charles Harrington**

Abstract

The Equal Pay Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Right's Act of 1964 and other pieces of legislation have established that "equal pay for equal work" is the law of the land. Recent studies suggest that while wage differentials are narrowing they remain significant. A 2004 study by the Department of Labor revealed that while there has been steady and significant progress in education and skill development over the past several decades, women who work full time still earn only 75 cents for every dollar that a man earns. More importantly, fully one third, or eleven cents of this differential, can be explained solely on the basis of wage discrimination.

An important predictor of wage differentials is the difference between occupations that women choose as opposed to men. Approximately half of all women work in occupations dominated by female workers while the typical male is employed in an occupation that is dominated by male workers. Over 9 million women work in fields that are highly segregated. Comparing the top occupations of men with the top occupations of women we find that with very few exceptions that male dominated occupations pay wages higher than female dominated occupations.

In addition, females employed in the same jobs as men with the same experience and skill levels earn approximately 10 cents an hour less than their male counterparts with no apparent reason for the discrepancy other than discrimination.

The importance of discrimination in earnings becomes apparent when one considers that over 50% off all households are headed by a female. Family income often determines where a family lives, the education of its children, and the level of health care the family receives as well as the family's general standard of living.

The focus of this paper is on alternatives that would lead to an elimination of occupational segregation and pay segregation.

Student Research Symposium 2005: Humanities Abstracts

A Critique of the Vatican's "Instruction of Respect for Human Life In Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation"

Andrew Barry

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. David McNaron**

Philosophical Analysis Abstract

This paper critiques a piece written by the Vatican regarding the usage of artificial procreation techniques by various couples and decrees its opinion of such usages as morally permissible or not. The majority of their "instruction" is consistent and validated; however, the Vatican holds overly extreme opinions on many situations, and in those opinions they fail to see exceptions where by their own rules, such acts become morally permissible. Also, one fatal flaw in their view is their absolute association of love and sex in order for a successful marriage to remain consummated. This is preposterous. The Vatican also claims that those children created by artificially procreative methods become less dignified than those created naturally. This, too, is preposterous. For one, God loves all his children equally. So teaches the Vatican. Finally, the Vatican tries to claim infertility is a cross that burden people must bear. They fail to account for people's free will to bear that burden or not, which is curious since the Vatican teaches free will as part of the Catechism. In short, the extreme and sometimes blind views of the Vatican weaken them throughout their "instruction," but they are morally validated for the bulk of their "instruction." Their main fault lies in their self-implied requirement for complete moral validation.

A Life-Altering Moment

Earl Tinsley

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Excerpt

Off the coast of Maui stands Weston College, 300,000 square feet and 4 stories tall, surrounded by tons of green acre to the right and to the left, the hot sandy beach of Hawaii. One of Weston College's most known residents is athletic scholar Cody Dallas – tall, dark, and blond – all the natural qualities for Maui's local playboy. He is a man with a mission, a man who will break all the rules to bed his next mark. There isn't a day that goes by that the entire student body is not talking about Cody and his latest conquests. Infamous stories involve the gym stadium, the woods during a camping trip and the principal's car. This time Cody has his eye on Ally Carter, dark-haired beauty with emerald green eyes. She is president of the Student Government and very independent, not feeling she has to be fulfilled by the love of a man.

A Life-Altering Moment

Earl Tinsley

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Excerpt

This creative piece is about two college students, Ally and Cody. Ally is president of SGA and all-around good girl, who holds a major disfavor towards Weston College' all-star athlete and resident playboy, Cody Dallas. Cody has been around with the ladies of Weston College, many of the infamous flings making the cover of the *Spectator* (the official newspaper for the college). However, Cody is getting bored with chasing after cheerleaders and sorority girls, and decides to set his aims a little higher, setting his eyes on Ally. His friends, Nick and Jesse, don't believe he will be as successful with Ally as he has been with the other ladies and place a bet (\$100) that Ally will turn down his advances. As the story shifts into the turning point, Cody decides to tip the odds in his favor and spikes Ally's drink, which she is now vulnerable and susceptible to drinking at this point after getting in an argument with one of her best friends. Ultimately, Ally ends up consuming the laced drink and becoming prey to Cody's advances as he leads her away from the club and into the muddy and damp woods encompassing the area. As Cody prepares to have his way with Ally, she tries to fight the drugs and tell him that she doesn't want to have sex. However, Cody caught in his own satisfaction is deaf to her cries and moans of displeasure. In the end, a life-altering choice is made.

A Mission into Horvitz Hell

Earl Tinsley

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Creative Writing Excerpt

This editorial piece discusses my memorable experience in the Horvitz Administration Building while surveying staff and students on behalf of the Dean of Student Affairs. During this studious mission, I was met with support and opposition from staff personnel in Horvitz. The opposition started in the most unlikely of places for me, right in the Human Resources Department, a place I have been known to frequent when payroll time came around. While in HR, a staff member didn't take kindly to my questioning surveys and asked for me to present a valid NSU ID. When I explained I didn't have one, I had to endure a long wait before my identity could be verified. In order to avoid any more issues with staff personnel and their security procedures, I grabbed hold of my NSU ID and tackled the executive wing. My visit there was brief and courteous, a nice breath of fresh air compared to HR. Unfortunately, this breath of fresh air turned out to be short-lived. The final straw of this mission came when I approached the Purchasing Dept and let's just say by the end of this merry go around, Horvitz forever became bestowed in my mind as the place from hell.

A Month for All to Celebrate

Rafia Chodhry
Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Journalism Abstract

This journalistic piece of writing is about Black History Month. Its purpose is to encourage readers to participate, celebrate and embrace black history. It also describes how the world would be if there were not any contributions from black inventors.

A Possibility

Angela Cuyugan

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Excerpt

She's only seventeen, naïve little thing.
Big dreams with positive motivation, as far as it seems,
 destiny confirms doubtful obligations.
She's only a princess, praying for her prince.
What is it she strives for? What is it she lives and breathes for?
Look at her, sitting there—just waiting.
The way she smiles—there is only one.
The way she laughs—there are so many.

A Siren of the Sea Clutching My Pearls

Marie Cuneo

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Excerpt

What is this thing inside me . . .
aching
breaking
rejuvenating
 again and again
Incessant nagging at the mind
and wrenching of the heart
my strand of pearls slapping against the skin

Almost

Marie Cuneo

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Excerpt

I've been slayed
by subtle
intricate
daring
things
that you do
or wish you could
not suppositions,
but the longing
I see lurking
behind your eyes

American History Between the Civil War and World War II

Marco Meier

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Gary Gershman**

Historical Analysis Abstract

This historical analysis will describe historical events between the end of the Civil War in 1865 and the beginning of World War II. Social as well as economic changes revolutionized America significantly. This paper is a journey from the end of slavery and domestic Reconstruction to a country that enters major wars in order to fight for freedom throughout the entire world.

An Opinion on Small Children and Gender Roles

Alisha Van Hoose
Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Journalism Excerpt

In this article, examples of small children (i.e. between the ages of 4 and 6) who express a “men are in charge of women” attitude that goes beyond the usual playground “boys are better than girls” sort of competition are presented. Examining this, possible sources for the development of such attitudes are brought up, and the conclusion is reached that without the likelihood of prominent gender roles being observed in adults in preschools and playgroups, such attitudes are most likely learned at home. Families are cautioned to examine the expressions of decision-making and other facets of their relationships which may be contributing to this disturbing trend, and it is suggested that they evaluate the kind of messages being sent to their children.

Animal Experimentation: Unnecessary and Unacceptable

Marissa S. Dass

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Persuasive Speech Abstract

Each year millions of innocent animals are mutilated, burned, poisoned and gassed in unnecessary experiments. Although many argue that animal experimentation is necessary for the progression of society, more specifically the medical advancement of mankind, the fact is that human and animals are different in many way. So much so that today doctors are able to treat diseases on the very level that separates different species, the cellular level. Additionally, it can be argued that we in fact really do not know which animals will react like humans. For instance, humans are unique in getting AIDS from HIV, and suffering from lung cancer from smoking and getting heart disease from a high fat diet. Furthermore, animal testes are inadequate for predicting side effects of medications. In an article published in the Journal of the American Medical Association in April 1998, it was reported that adverse reactions to medications was the forth leading killer of Americans.

These predicaments however can be curbed by implementing Russell and Burch's 3 R's: replacement, reduction and refinement. The dilemma can also be quelled by speaking out against classroom dissection, by shopping with compassion, writing letters to companies that test on animals and by joining organizations that seek to protect the lives of innocent animals.

Sources:

National Anti- Vivisection Society

<http://www.navs.org>

The Journal of the American Medical Association

<http://www.jama.com>

Beautiful on the Inside

Angela Cuyugan

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Excerpt

It's warm in here she says...
It's soft in here she says...
It's deep in here she says...
And she's beckoning you to come inside...
It's hard in here she says...
It's tight in here she says...
It's wet in here she says...
And she's encouraging you to feel inside...

Besa Me/Kiss Me

Sheree Leger

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Demi Martinez**

Creative Writing Excerpt

Besa me mi amor
Just one more time before I go
Besa mis labios mi amor
So I only speak your name
Mis manos y sus manos

Black Brother

Angela Cuyugan

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Excerpt

Black brother, love me so tenderly.

 Feel you running thru my veins, pooling with joy.

I'm at natural state when I'm with you.

 Incomparable to those brighter shades of the rainbow.

Black brother, deep as the ocean runs, strong as a lion, swift like the cheetah, graceful as crane, witty like that of the feline, loyal to woman as her heart will allow, and beautifully structured in every way God's blessed you.

Christabel and the Stranger Within Herself

Heike Dosé

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Suzanne Ferriss and Dr. Demi Martinez**

Literary Analysis Abstract

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, one of the six most influential poets of the Romantic period in British literature, wrote his poem “Christabel” in two parts, each with its own conclusion. In this essay, I argue that “Christabel” Part One can be interpreted as a dream of a young adult whose oppressed feelings of sexual anxiety come to the surface. In Part Two of the poem, Christabel’s behavior can be seen a sign of a repressed fear of losing her father’s interest in her as well as the fear of losing lady Geraldine as a lover.

Both parts of Coleridge’s poem describe Christabel’s fight with the “Stranger within herself,” the uncontrollable desires and drives residing in the “id.” The conscious part of her mind, however, is losing the fight. Her behavior becomes neurotic and socially unacceptable.

Coming of Age

Angela Cuyugan

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Excerpt

...I still hold the last pieces of broken glass. I sit alone, wondering, all by myself, over the years trying to repair the shattered window; the only looking-glass that was to our future, our past, and even our present. God, how I pathetically still stare at the jagged fragments of sharp objects scattered on the floor like leaves blown off a tree. Staring blindly into an unknown realm, I try to peer out of the now unprotected hole in the wall. So secure, so untouched, and now it was judgment day. Time to finally accept time, time to finally accept things are different and I am no longer a child, to finally accept and move on.

Crisis in Haiti

Rafia Chodhry

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Journalism Abstract

Hurricane Jeanne impacted Haiti in the most devastating way. This journalistic piece of writing is the author's opinion about what our society is not doing to help aid Haiti in its crisis against poverty. The article also discusses Haiti's cry for help especially during the hurricane season where hurricane Jeanne caused much devastation to the already poverty stricken Haiti.

Day After the Storm

Vien Tran

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marci Bartolotta**

Creative Writing Abstract

“Day After the Storm” is an essay celebrating the wonders of life. The day after a storm hits his town, the author travels on a journey through a devastated park to visit a young oak tree he helps plant there. His anxiety and imagination personify the elements of nature such as rushing wind, quiet water or fallen branches as wishing him defeat in finding his tree in a good state of being. To his own amazement, the young oak tree survives the hardship of nature. In this experience, the author gains appreciation for the victory of life, as humble as it may seem, in the face of calamities.

Death Penalty: The Easy Way Out for Criminals

Rafia Chodhry

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Journalism Abstract

This journalistic piece of writing is an opinion about the death penalty. The author describes her opposing views regarding the death penalty and proposes life without parole as an alternative. Throughout the article there are several examples provided and in addition to statistical evidence.

Depth of a Darkened Soul

Earl Tinsley

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Abstract

This poetic piece describes the feelings and actions associated with one of the most challenging emotions in any human beings' life - loneliness. This selection goes into great detail about the epicenter of the author's loneliness and how it takes the joy out of commitments that are otherwise maintained to occupy time not spent wallowing in their own self despair. It also explains how this feeling of loneliness takes over your overall demeanor, distorting your eyes, your voice, your mind and your very soul. Like the selection reads, "Loneliness is a reality that grows and increases with age." In fact, loneliness is like a scar, it may heal over time, but its still there, forever etched in that designated area. So if you have ever been abandoned, lost or just sealed off from the outside world, this work of art is surely something you will be able to relate to.

Different Approaches to a Moral Dilemma

Nancy Philippe

Department of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Prof. Darren Hibbs**

Philosophical Analysis Abstract

The purpose of this philosophical analysis was to demonstrate some of the different viewpoints that can be used to evaluate a moral dilemma. The moral dilemma discussed in this paper involves keeping a promise. Jeffrey, best friend and cousin of Elijah, made a promise to Elijah to keep to a certain piece of information confidential, which went against his beliefs and values. Jeffrey was faced with a problem that seems to have only two options: breaking the promise and doing what was right, or keeping the promise and ultimately his cousin's friendship. In discussing these two options that Jeffrey had, four viewpoints were used to illustrate the pros and cons of each option. Finally, one analysis was chosen and argued for as being the superior of the four viewpoints presented.

Emilia

Marlon Villalobos

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Abstract

Fear was indeed the rule he used to measure people's worth, strength, and chances of success, a determining factor on judging whether people were below him or at his same level, but never above him since he did not believe people to exist above others. So he went through life thinking that no one nor anything could impose such a feeling on him; Marlon, however, would be unpleasantly surprised on the morning of November 29, 1987 when his friend Luciano and him were to attend a meeting in one of the small villages of the western region of the parish where Luciano was the past at the local Catholic church, the parish of St. Marcus.

Emily Dickinson's Essence of Renaissance

Stephen Deck

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Suzanne Ferriss and Dr. Demi Martinez**

Literary Analysis Abstract

This paper seeks to establish Emily Dickinson's abnormally isolated life and works as a microcosm of the American Renaissance movement. Emily Dickinson, though largely unread in her own time, is counted among the major forces in the American Renaissance, and in the Transcendentalist movement. Her abnormally isolated life and unique temperament make her life and work a microcosm of the American Renaissance. The paper focuses not on any biographies, or secondary sources, but an analysis of Dickinson's own letters to independently establish the facts of her life. A brief look is given to her literary relationship with Susannah Huntington Gilbert Dickinson, establishing her as an editor and confidant of Emily Dickinson. Poem 1129 ("Tell all the truth but tell it slant") is interpreted as an awareness of writing techniques of the time, namely the preface of the unreliable narrator to works of fiction. In short, Dickinson's poetry, way of life, and work, she is everything that the American Renaissance was, in miniature.

Feminine Construction and the Alien Series

Gianni Consiglio

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Suzanne Ferriss and Dr. Demi Martinez**

Literary Analysis Abstract

The main objective of this essay is to demonstrate the regressive construction of female characters in mainstream cinema through the use of psychoanalysis. According to Laura Mulvey, mainstream cinema constructs female characters to please the male gaze. "Woman" in film is shaped and molded in such a way that her castration threat to the male viewer is diminished. In both the film diegesis as well as the discourse, the female image is contained and reduced within the symbolic system of patriarchy. Her ideas can be applied to the blockbuster *Alien* Series. The main protagonist of all three films, Ripley, played by Sigourney Weaver, is shaped and molded in accordance with the male spectator. She is either formulated as a hyper-masculine character, thus removing her femininity, associated with weakness and failure, or she is fueled by maternity to put her back into her proper place as woman within the ruling patriarchal ideology.

Also in the *Alien* series, the male paranoia of the feminine threat of castration is depicted through the construction of the alien species who embody the weakness possessed by the feminine characters. The *Alien* series submerses the spectator in regressive images which link feminine attributes, such as maternity, with the evil protagonist central to the construction of horror films. This is made clear by observance of the alien creature's mouth, which is dark, moist and hollow, symbolic of the vagina. One also notices that the Queen Alien, the central evil protagonist of James Cameron's *Aliens*, is an embodiment of feminine attributes. It is through her maternity, her ability to lay eggs, that the second film of the series is fueled.

Final Exam

Stephen Deck

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Abstract

A lighthearted and nonsensical little poem about distraction during a final exam. Set in the form of an internal monologue, the poem uses stream of consciousness to convey the scattered mind of a test taker. To this end, the poem shifts from a serious musing on the nature of a final exam and what it means, into a recognition of life outside the classroom, though the speaker does not permit itself to pursue these tangents far enough for analysis.

GOD

Angela Cuyugan
Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Excerpt

Sunshine, how you dance upon my face, when you sneak
between the shadows of the tree leaves.
Breeze, enlighten me; when the ocean's still becomes a ripple,
walk upon the shore and rush up to my ear and whisper.
Earth, feel so healthy beneath my soles and lively in the
atmosphere, rise up, and rise up to the universal limit.

Governance by the Hope of Love

Alaina Siminovsky
Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Suzanne Ferriss and Dr. Demi Martinez**

Literary Analysis Abstract

Castiglione's *The Courtier* was the decorum book of its time. Everyone was trying to achieve the perfect courtier status so Castiglione used a series of conversations at the court of Urbino to tackle the issue. Through the course of the novel, many people speak of attainable characteristics that the courtier should have. They speak of skills at arms, reputation, breeding and courtier's dealings with others. Only one person's speech breaks the mold. Pietro Bembo speaks not of characteristics but of love, neoplatonic love. It can be questioned as to whether this atypical characterization is a necessity in the novel, and this analysis argues that it is. While the other conversations gave the courtier rules to follow, only Bembo gives him the will to live. Through dissecting his discourse and the new definition of love, it is found that Bembo is organic to the discussions in *The Courtier*.

Gracias Garcia

Danielle Garcia

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Demi Martinez**

Creative Writing Excerpt

I entered the room
and within minutes they hit me

“Hola”

“Cómo se llama”

“De donde eres”

“Cómo está”

“Y tú” “Bien” “Gracias” “Igualmente”

Unfamiliar words rolling off their tongues
I stood still trying not to attract any attention

“Hola niña, entra”

“Cómo se llama”

De donde eres”

“Cómo está”

Hay No!!!

Victoria Drescher
Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Demi Martinez**

Creative Writing Excerpt

Coming to Florida,
Yo no creo que almost
Todas las personas
Hablan espanol.

In my native country Austria,
Die mehrzahl der Leute spricht
Obviously deutsch.

Over here in southern florida,
Especialmente en Weston,
Donde I have muchos amigos,
It is almost impossible
To comprende something,
If you don't habla espanol.

Holy Cheese-Us!

Rafia Chodhry
Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Journalism Abstract

This journalistic piece of writing is the author's opinion about Diana Duyser who sold her holy grilled cheese sandwich for \$28,000. The author describes her disbelief about the price that the sandwich was sold for and contradicts the fact that there is actually a Virgin Mary inscribed on the sandwich.

The author also mentions how religion is a sacred thing and profiting from the sale of an ambiguous figure in a sandwich is wrong.

I Love Lucy

Rafia Chodhry

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Journalism Abstract

Cloning is a very controversial issue in our society today. This journalistic piece of writing is the author's opinion about the possibility of cloning her dog Lucy. The author first describes her love for Lucy and later discusses that because she loves her so much she might actually clone her.

Introspective Narcissist

Alaina Siminovsky
Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Abstract

Through the heavy use of descriptions this story traces the internal conflict of a concerned protagonist. Self-discovery and realization are themes throughout. Attempted withdrawal from society and the creation of a self pariah based on sever disillusionment strike the antagonist and the protagonist expressed concern. Resolution occurs in an unexpected fashion at the story's close.

Literary Performances

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Humanities

My Vagina Was My Village

Jaymie Brooks

Faculty Sponsor: **Mark Duncan and Dr. Edwin Stieve**

For literary performance presentations, I will be performing an excerpt from the *Vagina Monologues* called "My Vagina Was My Village." This monologue piece is about a Bohemian woman representing all the Bohemian women who were allowed to be sexually assaulted, or raped by the enemy soldiers as a tactic of war. This is one woman's story on her experience when she was interviewed by the author of the *Vagina Monologues* Eva Ensler.

Spanish Play

Medha Gandhi, Keith Dixon, Megan Chin

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Demi Martinez

Bilingual Presentation

Spanish Class Play

**Nika Ferdowski, Sheree Leger, Tatiana Fabricio, Danielle Garcia, Taylor Liput,
Diane Klein, Juliet Tamez, Keith Dixon**

A spanglish motivated play that will have a humorous as well as a critical taste to obesity. The setting of the play will be an exercise class, and the protagonists will be the obese.

Ego Tripping (There May Be a Reason Why)

By Nikki Giovanni

T-Neisha Tate

EgoTripping was written by Nikki Giovanni in 1973. The poem will be performed as a monolog.

Nova Southeastern University's Women's Basketball

Danielle Garcia
Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Written Journalism Submission

A newspaper article covering the performance of NSU's Women's Basketball team at their home tournament. Pictures included mirror the article as it explains the team's two performances and the selected All-Tournament team which included NSU's own Stacey Gaeth. The article allows the reader to envision the two games played by the Knights with play action and supportive statistics.

Nova Southeastern's Rowing Team

Danielle Garcia

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Written Journalism Submission

A newspaper article promoting the Spring season for Nova Southeastern University's amazing rowing team. The piece discusses the dedication of the team, the rigorous practice, and the numerous accomplishments the team achieved in a year of existence. Included is a detailed description of practices and director quotes from Coach John Gartin who is confident in the future success of his remarkable team. The team was named Breakout team of 2004 by a top rowing magazine and that is evident once the readers see the determination of the rowers' faces in the included photographs.

One Night in Mexico

Alaina Siminovsky
Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Abstract

Suspense is uniquely utilized in this short story. You may think one this is occurring, but the opposite may too be in the works. A man and a woman are both in Mexico for Halloween. Festivities surround them as he slowly moves toward where she is, plotting in his mind. She waits, unknowing what is about to unfold. What is? Don't be fooled by the unconventional use of words.

Passing on the Left

Alaina Siminovsky
Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Journalism Abstract

Small, everyday activities often reflect on subconscious thoughts. The world we live in grows more fast-paced by the day. There are not enough hours daily for all of the things that one wishes to do to be finished so people rush. People rush through work; they rush through life. Why? Because everyone wants to achieve and be the best. This is explored through the simple action of driving and being held up by a slow car in the left lane. The constant desire to pass people on the road is reflexive of our daily lives where we often seek to compete and displace others for the title of “best.”

Perpetuating Pre-Feminist Ideals

Alaina Siminovsky
Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Journalism Abstract

Society escapes the drudge of everyday through film. Young girls often attempt to emulate what they see on the big screen. Everyday films that are geared toward the younger female audience often champion pre-feminist ideals. Even films that are meant to empower women do so only by *reaffirming* a stereotypical feminine character or by allowing them to achieve something in the context of winning acceptance from a man, typically a father figure. This sort of story line reinforces the necessity of male acceptance and entirely disregards feminism. With the plethora of films being released on this subject, the writer sought to expose these films for what they are. Typically one may view the film and not see these anti-feminist ideals, but they are there and part of a subconscious conditioning that one should be aware of. Hidden suggestion and reaffirmation of stereotypical roles is of serious detriment to a society that is based on the idea of open expression and progress. To achieve progress we must forget the clichéd gender roles of the past and reject films that attempt to maintain those ideals.

Quien eres?

Emily Tolzien

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Demi Martinez**

Creative Writing Excerpt

Soy un estudiante
por diez y seis anos,
way too long!
I've stayed up
muchas noches
para tomar una nota Buena
en la clase de espanol,
but still I'm not bilingual.

Relieved

Angela Cuyugan

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marlisa Santos**

Creative Writing Excerpt

Emotionally drained, feeling insincere...
Crying tears in vain, wishing you were here.
Just not feelin' the vibe of today, my head's poundin'
Getting' sick of givin' sides in this game, I dread countin'
...The time tickin' away, in my insomniac world.

Rethinking Turner's Thesis

Vien Tran

Division of Humanities
Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Marci Bartolotta**

Historical Analysis Abstract

Turner's Thesis is a theory that explains various aspects of contemporary American society with respect to the development of the Western frontier. This paper highlights some major ideas in Turner's Thesis, such as how Americans evolved from their European ancestors, how some of them acquired their rugged individualism, and how democracy was preserved etc. within the context of life in the West. This paper also examines the challenges to Turner's Thesis posed by modern historians based on new interpretations of historical events.

Saving Cranes

Cheryl Clayton

Division of Humanities
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Faculty Sponsor: **Jennifer Reem**

Informative Public Speaking Powerpoint Presentation

I am the stuff magic is made of. I am as old as the hills. My home spans from the Arctic Tundra to the South African Veld and I, I am over sixty million years old. My whistles bring courage to the Crow and Cheyenne warriors of North America and my dance is the dance of the tribes of Australia and Siberia. I am the illustrious Crane whose size and looks have inspired humans for thousands of years. (*Crane Music*, Paul A. Johnsgard)

The Whooping Crane is the rarest of the world's 15 Crane species. As of August 1996 the adult Whooping Crane population numbered 205 birds in the wild and 91 in captivity. (*The Cranes*, Compiled by Curt D. Meine and George W. Archibald p. 172)

A brief history of the Whooping Crane:

1722 – English Naturalist Mark Catesby obtains the skin of a Whooping Crane from a South Carolina Native American

1940 – Only 1 self sustaining flock of Whooping Cranes left

“If any single bird species symbolizes the North American conservation movement of this century, and the closeness many wild life species came to extinction, it is the Whooping Crane.” (Johnsgard, 65) The Crane has made very interesting mythological contributions to society.

Crane Mythology and the Greek language

The language contributions of the Roman word for Crane – *Grues*

Christian Mythology and the Crane

The Whooping Crane occurs exclusively in N. America with a population of over 52 non-migratory birds in Florida.

Seppuku

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Creative Writing Abstract

A poem of self immolation and redemption. It is set in an extended metaphor of the Japanese samurai's ritual suicide, undertaken when no other option would allow the samurai's honor to survive. The poem attempts to capture the idea of discarding, violently, old identities when they are no longer viable, and the need for recreating a functional self afterwards.

Shock Collar: Love Hurts?

Vien Tran

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Persuasive Public Speaking Abstract

This is a persuasive policy speech aiming at reducing the usage of shock collar, an electronic device to stop dogs from barking. The problem with shock collar is that it produces undesirable results, such as instilling fear in the animals or increasing their aggressive behaviors. This speech calls for moderate intervention from the state government, like requiring a license for possessing shock collars, and attempts to persuade the audience to help by keeping the public informed about the ineffectiveness of shock collars.

Social Security, How Do We Make it Secure Now and for Generations to Come

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Persuasive Public Speaking Excerpt

What is the purpose of Social Security? According to the testimony of Robert Greenstein, Executive Director, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities before the Senate finance Committee on February 9, 1999, "...the Treasury takes the surplus payroll tax revenues the Social Security Trust Fund is receiving each year and provides the trust fund with Treasury bonds in return. The third problem threatening the future of Social Security, as the 2004 Social Security Administration Trustees report tells us, is that the interest return on these bonds, is a mere 6 percent. In his February 12, 2005 radio address, the President states that beginning in 2018, the Social Security Trust Fund will have to find additional revenue to pay beneficiaries. What he has failed to mention is that 2018 is the year when Social Security Trust Fund Surpluses will be needed to pay these benefits. If we let the government fix the Social Security Trust System so that the monies owed to it are not paid back, then our prior contributions were not borrowed, they were stolen."

The government must be barred from borrowing from the Social Security Trust Fund. The best way to institute Social Security Reform is to engage in overall fiscal responsibility. Educate yourself about the facts regarding the Social Security Trust Fund. Let your representatives know that you want the government to stop using the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for other government programs.

President FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, signed the Social Security Act into law in 1935.

Take Back the Night

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Journalism Abstract

A newspaper article covering the emotional Take Back The Night, an event from Unity Week, at Nova Southeastern University. Take Back The Night united students in an effort to educate each other about violent acts against humanity. The article covers all the important guest speakers and traditions that take place during Take Back The Night. The rally included an informatal session, an open mic piece, and a campus march where students were able to shout out their feelings. The article itself tries to capture the strength of the rally and uses photographs to promote the message.

Taking it Back

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Creative Writing Excerpt

You always thought you were right. You always thought you had the answer.
Well, here are some of the things you thought, that are wrong.
You thought that I went to the Police to spite you. Wrong.
You thought that I had you admitted to the Psych Ward, to make you sorry. Wrong again.
You thought that I left you to make you hurt. Absolutely wrong.

The Five Pillars of Islam

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Descriptive Speech

The five pillars of Islam are perhaps the most fundamental characteristics of Islam which frames every Muslim's life. Approximately 1.2 billion people in the world are Muslim, which is 22 percent of the world's population. The five pillars of Islam is the foundation that upholds all Muslims. The pillars are woven with faith, prayer, fasting, charity and a pilgrimage. These five, of perhaps the most fundamental characteristics of this dynamic religion is, Shahada or the Declaration of Faith, Salat or Prayer, Saum or Fasting, Zakat or Charity and finally Hajj or the Pilgrimage to Mecca. These five pillars provide not only a fundamental foundation for the religion of Islam but in essence it is the very character and soul of a Muslim's pious life.

**“The Glamorous Humanitarian” Ad
The First-Lady of Camelot Princess Diana and Jacqueline Kennedy
Onassis: Larger Than Life, Female Media Icons**

Alaina Siminovsky
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Journalism Abstract

Four journalism greats who were up and coming during the lives of the two 20th century great female media icons came to speak about how capturing them in print and on film captivated the world’s literate population. The evening was spent in regards to the definition of the icon that these women were and how they achieved iconographic status and the media role in that achievement. The panel furnished their knowledge of the inner workings of the media and their experiences with these women as a base for female use of the media.

The Library

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Creative Writing Abstract

A short story about a librarian who breaks his glasses on his way to work, and the day he spends without them. The focus is primarily on the visual aspects of being without glasses, the world as it appears to the myopic. Freed somewhat from a reliance on normal sight, the protagonist discovers a new clarity and freedom.

The Note: From a Child's Heart

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Creative Writing Excerpt

He passed her the note at recess. It took him a week just to write down exactly how he felt about her. How his knees weakened every time he saw her. How her mama knew exactly how much blue magic grease to put in her head without makin' her hair all nasty lookin'. To him, that was amazing. Everyone noticed that about her, she was the only girl in Mrs. Johnson's class not to have a head full of lint, or a face shining like fatback when the sun got hot. Dang she was pretty too. You can always tell a cocoa butter baby. Her skin was not only smooth and soft, it glowed. Kinda like a Hershey bar. She had a pretty walk too, she swaggered like a boy, but gave a lil' twist to it. He could watch her walk all day. Candy curls swaying back and forth, her starched plaid uniform didn't stand a chance up against her walk, when she dipped, and twisted, it went with her. And her shoes! While the others girls wore tore up, dull lookin' mary janes, her shoes were shiny, always. And on PE days she wore saddle locks. The white part stayed that way too.

The Power of the Written Word

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Faculty Advisor: **Dr. Suzanne Ferriss and Dr. Demi Martinez**

Literary Analysis Abstract

Two great American authors, John Steinbeck and Herman Melville, both wrote pieces regarding those with defective mental faculties. In addition, these characters were giants, strong and hard working. This compensation was to show society's treatment of these people. We often judge based on actions alone and not on person. These two giants committed crimes, but not of their own true doing. Either manipulation or the sheer failure to know one's own strength caused each to falter, committing the greatest crime: murder. How to treat these criminals was the central question of each tale. In *Of Mice and Men* you pity poor Lennie, but in *Billy Budd* you pity the captain who knows that Billy is innocent, but punishes him anyway. Literature is the largest mirror on society, teaching lessons by immortalizing the actions of society in the written word so that others may learn from it.

The Princess and the Dragon

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Creative Writing Abstract

Even if one kingdom was on friendly terms with Edinburg, King Farvew would have to relinquish his whole kingdom to the other. Then how could he face his ancestors who had been fighting for this land for generations. No, his daughter would have to marry a knight. The thought of a man not brought up in the royal ways taking his place humiliated Farvew, but not as much as passing over the kingdom. King Farvew was witnessed now and again pacing around the castle muttering, “a prince? No, it must be a knight. But a knight is so degrading. But at least he’d still fight for this land. Maybe the youngest prince? One who wouldn’t inherit anything and would jealously keep this kingdom for himself? But I don’t know who has such a son. A knight would be easier.” He would continue for hours.

The Roaring Twenties?

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Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Gary Gershman and Professor Timothy Dixon**

Historical Analysis Abstract

The “roaring twenties” is remembered as an era of good times and prosperity. While this is true, there were serious problems under the surface. Prohibition, an attempt to end vice in society, led to the rise of organized crime in America. The National Origins Act of 1924 sought to curb immigration trends and further Nativist attitudes. Both actions served as a contrast to the positive feeling of the 1920s.

The World is Spoiled with Oil

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Journalism Abstract

Alternative energy sources such as hydrogen and solar power are not feasible fuels for the automotive industry, or any industry. Despite their plausibility as energy sources, they have too many glaring drawbacks—such as cost effectiveness and compatibility—to act as primary fuel sources. As our nonrenewable oil supplies run low, many people believe that alternative fuels will serve as suitable replacements for oil. This article informs people about the serious flaws of alternative fuels—hydrogen and solar power—and the threat of oil depletion.

Untitled

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Creative Writing Excerpt

I stood there, not even knowing of his existence,
and he approached me with a cheap line.
Who woulda known he would throw me off, and
sweep me off my feet?
I shoulda known, from the bottom of what was
left of my needy heart,
He came, to say hello, and a possible talk.
How much I would give to return to the innocence
of adolescence.
To feel as confident, yet knowing my unsurpassing
naïveté.