

URSCI Expo 2011
Wednesday, April 6
Parmer Hall

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

	Bluhm Auditorium 108 Parmer Hall	CTLE 115 Parmer Hall	113 Parmer	107 Parmer	Posters on Display in Parmer Atrium
8:30	Fanny Martinez Honors Project <i>Sociology</i>	Apparel Design & Merchandising; and Psychology Papers	Southern Exposure: Mexican Drug Wars and Other Pleasant Topics PANEL	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations	Chemistry; Natural Sciences
9:30	Gabrielle Pryce Jamie Zwijack 2010 O'Hanlon Award Winners	Biology Papers	Problems & Power: Linguistic Imperialism, Women's Rights and Strained Relations in EurAsia PANEL	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations	Psychology
10:30	Ashley Gans Honors Project <i>Chemistry</i>	Art History Papers	A Tempestuous Education: Respon- ding to José Enrique Rodó's Challenge in Ariel Caritas Veritas Symposium Winners PANEL	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations	Biology
11:30	Kristine Bonnicks Honors Project <i>Biology</i>	Caritas Veritas Symposium Research Award Winner; Social Justice & Civic Engagement; and Sociology & Criminology Papers	Is Divine Justice Operative in Human Affairs? DEBATE	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations	Focus on Art Slide Show
12:30	Nicholas Mahoney Honors Project <i>Chemistry</i>	Rose Beausoleil 2010 USSP Award Winner <i>Psychology</i>	Literary Darwinism and Contemporary Critical Theory PANEL	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations	Apparel Design & Merchandising
1:30	Karl Rickert Honors Project <i>Chemistry</i>	Anne Liotine Degree with Distinction Project <i>Psychology</i>	New Perspectives in Art PANEL	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations	Brennan School of Business; Caritas Veritas; School of Educa- tion; Social Justice & Civic Engagement
2:30	Alison Wesolowski 2010 USSP Award Winner Jared-Beach Scholar Honors Project <i>Psychology</i>	Kimberly Plesnicar Honors Project <i>Mathematics</i>	Be It Resolved: The United States Does Not Take International Law Seriously, Nor Should It PANEL	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations	History/American Studies; and Sociology & Criminology
3:30 4:15	Reception and Announcement of 2011 URSCI Undergraduate Summer Scholars by RCAS Dean Jeff Carlson Expo Finale: The World Premiere of a Dominican University Degree with Distinction Project & 2010 USSP Winner <i>Americana: Searching for Cultural Identity</i> - a film and lecture by Angelica Diaz, Class of 2011 LEWIS SOCIAL HALL				

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Bluhm Lecture Hall -108 Parmer

8:30 a.m Fanny Martinez

Honors Project

Reproductive Health Care: The Experiences of Undocumented Latinas in the Chicago Metropolitan Area

First Reader: Christina Perez, Sociology

Second Reader: Janice Monti, Sociology

This qualitative study explores the reproductive health care experiences of undocumented Latinas. Twelve women who lived in the Chicago Metropolitan Area participated in open-ended, semi-structured interviews and shared their experience of immigration, family and intimate relationships, employment, education and reproductive health. Based on the theoretical framework of health inequality and using the concept of “biosocial” realities barriers and opportunities that undocumented Latinas face when interacting with reproductive health care and services were evaluated. Factors, such as behaviors, attitudes, beliefs, socio-demographic characteristics, and social networks, which are examples of “biosocial” realities were identified. Findings show that there are “biosocial” factors influencing undocumented Latinas’ access to reproductive health education and services. In some cases these factors served as obstacles, while in others they provided opportunities to improve the participants’ experiences with reproductive health care and services. Recommendations are made to policy makers, health care providers, and community-based organizations for the development of programs and services that address the current needs of undocumented Latinas.

9:30 a.m. 2010 O’Hanlon Essay Winners: Gabrielle Pryce and Jamie Zwijack

Sponsored by Jane Hseu, English

Gabrielle Pryce's essay, "In Search of Me: A Global Perspective on Race and Identity," examines how her external appearance provokes different responses as she moves from her home in Jamaica to Dominican University and she travels on a study abroad trip to China. While Pryce maintains a mixed race identity in Jamaica, she is categorized as black in Chicago and is viewed as a curiosity, though without the attendant racism she experiences in Chicago, during her visit to China.

Jamie Zwijack's essay, "A Personal Journey of Dominican's Lived Experience," discusses how Martin Luther King, Jr's principles of nonviolence inspired her to develop the four Dominican pillars of study, prayer, community and service in her own life. Zwijack's study of social issues in her Dominican classes invigorated her faith which in turn stimulated her activism in social justice issues.

10:30 a.m. Ashley Gans

Honors Project

Investigation of Charge Transfer Characteriscs of Distyryl Substituted Poly (Phenylene Ethynylenes)

First Reader: Robert Faltynek, Chemistry

Second Reader: Kathleen Schmidt-Nebril, Chemistry

This project focused on the charge transfer characteristics of distyryl substituted poly(phenylene ethynyls) (PPEs) in order to further understand their non-linear optical properties. Charge transfer was observed by studying the solvatochromic effect of different polarity solvents. By changing the polar environment the polymer was in, the dipole moment was effectively changed. The change in dipole was then observed using steady state spectroscopy techniques, such as UV-vis and fluorescence measurements, and calculated using the Lippert- Mataga equation. The shift seen in peak absorbance measurements was found to be less significant than the shift in peak fluorescence wavelengths. This was likely due to the fact that the excited state of the polymer is more easily polarized. The background, theory, procedure, effects and usefulness of the research will be explained in depth in the presentation.

11:30 a.m. Kristine Bonnick

Honors Project

Quantitative Analysis of Changes in Immediate Early Gene Expression Following Long-term Sensitization of the Aplysia Tail-elicited Siphon Withdrawal Reflex

First Reader: Irina Calin-Jageman, Biology

Second Reader: Robert Calin-Jageman, Psychology

Learning produces long-term changes in gene expression, but in most learning paradigms it is still unclear which genes are regulated and how these transcriptional events alter neural signaling. Here we have begun quantifying changes in mRNA expression that occur following long-term sensitization of the Aplysia tail-elicited siphon-withdrawal reflex (T-SWR). Animals (n = 6) were given standard long-term sensitization training to one side of the body and also trained using serotonin which produces a similar effect. After training, the pedal and pleural ganglia were isolated from both the trained and untrained sides of each animal. Animals were also treated in Serotonin baths to provide a comparison between methods of sensitization. mRNA for each sample was then isolated and reverse-transcribed for qPCR analysis. Initial results show that long-term sensitization alters immediate early gene transcripts in the pedal and pleural ganglia. These changes may relate to the alterations in sensory neuron excitability and synaptic strength, respectively, observed following long-term sensitization training.

12:30 p.m. Nicholas Mahoney

Honors Project

Investigation of Lipid Extract Methods from Used Coffee Grounds

First Reader: J. Brent Friesen, Chemistry

Second Reader: Margaret Jonah, Biology

Biodiesel fuel is made by extracting and processing vegetable oils (also known as lipids) from sources such as soybeans, corn and sunflower seeds. Used coffee grounds have great potential to be used as a source of biodiesel fuel. Currently, the most common way to extract lipids from vegetable sources is to use heated solvents such as hexane to extract the organic soluble compounds. Unfortunately, even if the solvents can be recycled, the process is very energy intensive and environmentally damaging. Therefore, the goal of this project was to find a more energy efficient and environmentally friendly method for the lipid extraction of used coffee grounds. Various combinations of three general methods that facilitate lipid extraction were explored: 1) chemical solvents, 2) thermal and 3) mechanical. The resulting extraction products were analyzed by infrared spectroscopy, ultra-violet & visible spectrophotometry and high pressure liquid chromatography to find the most effective, energy efficient and environmentally friendly method.

1:30 p.m. Karl Rickert

Honors Project

*Mechanistic Analysis of the Non-Classical Oxidation Reactions of a Molybdenum(VI)
Tris-Catecholate*

First Reader: Robert Faltynek, Chemistry

Second Reader: Sister Mary Woods OP, Chemistry

Oxidation, one of the most prevalent chemical processes, is particularly important in electrolytic cells. Insights into this type of reaction could be valuable in increasing energy efficiency or developing more environmentally benign chemical processes. Traditional oxidation reactions occur with electron loss taking place on the metal that mediates the process. In contrast, "non-classical" oxidation reactions are defined here as reactions where the electrons for oxidation are donated by a metal's ligands, rather than the metal itself. In 1986, Cass and Pierpont reported that molybdenum(VI) tris-(3,5-di-tert-butylcatecholate) reacted in such a non-classical way with molecular oxygen to produce a molybdenum(VI) oxo bis-(3,5-di-tert-butylcatecholate) dimer and 1,2-benzoquinone as a product of ligand oxidation. This project has expanded upon their work by fully characterizing the starting material in the reaction (which is a dimer in the solid state) and studying its reaction with oxygen in the presence of Lewis bases such as pyridine.

**2:30 p.m. Alison Wesolowski Undergraduate Summer Scholar Program
(USSP) 2010 Jared-Beach Scholar and Honors Project**

Variables That Predict Latino/a Students' Intent to Pursue a Graduate Degree

First Reader: Rebecca Pliske, Psychology

Second Reader: Robert Calin-Jageman, Psychology

The purpose of this study was to identify variables that predict Latino/a undergraduate students' intent to go to graduate school in order to better understand why a Latino/a student may or may not choose to pursue a graduate education. An extensive literature review of graduate intent research revealed variables shown to be associated with, or predictive of graduate intent. In this study, several of those variables were grouped into one of three categories (individual difference variables, cultural identity variables and theory of planned behavior variables) in order to determine which group of variables would predict graduate intent. Undergraduate students from Dominican University filled out an on-line survey that contained items about cultural identity, how much they valued a graduate education, various individual difference variables, and demographic characteristics. Multiple regression analyses determined that Azjen's theory of planned behavior (attitudes, family support and perceived barriers) explained more variance in graduate intent than either individual difference variables or cultural identity variables for both Latino/a and non-Latino/a students. The results of this research have implications for future research, policy and practice.

CTLE -115 Parmer

8:30 a.m. Apparel Design & Merchandising Papers; and Psychology Papers

Jane Arvis

A Cross-Disciplinary Exploration of Iconic Graphic Symbols

Sponsored by Susan M. Strawn

A semester spent studying abroad in London allowed for the accumulation of cultural and historical connections and inspired extensive research in the fields of fashion and graphic design. I concentrated my cross-disciplinary focus on the interrelatedness of the two areas of study and their associations with apparel. Access to primary sources in archives and museums allowed examination of artifacts from pre-history to present day. Such opportunities provided insightful information about the chronological history and cultural lifestyles related to dress from prehistory through the seventeenth century, studies that fulfilled requirements for a history of dress course. Specifically, the symbolism and iconography appearing on clothing and accessories was explored. This presentation details conclusions about the boundaries and significance of iconic graphic symbols represented through dress from ancient history to 1700. Additionally, the presentation includes a self-designed book that conveys and summarizes an illustrative survey of my research.

Stephanie Foley

Trade Influences Revealed through Dress and Textiles in Pre-Eighteenth-Century England

Sponsored by Susan M. Strawn

This presentation results from a London study abroad tutorial that explored British trade relationships through a study of dress and textiles. Methods included observation and examination of extant dress and textiles from the Victoria & Albert Museum, British Museum, Museum of London and National Portrait Gallery. Comparing pre-eighteenth-century dress and textiles side by side revealed vibrant cross-cultural and trans-national interactions. Further research at the British Library and the library at the London College of Fashion indicated various ways that textile prints, fibers and other elements of dress reflect trade relationships between Great Britain and Continental Europe, the West and South Asia. Contemporary fashion designers frequently reference other nationalities and cultures in their collections. This presentation concludes with a personally designed and illustrated fashion collection using Liberty of London classic fabrics, evidence for the continued influence of trade on designers.

Timothy Lazicki

Schizophrenia and Chain Smoking: How Nicotine Can Drown Out Auditory Hallucinations

Sponsored by Robert Calin-Jageman, Psychology

Auditory sensory gating (ASG) is the process by which the brain is capable of rapidly filtering out irrelevant auditory stimulation. Studies that examine the pathway of ASG report that a primary modulator likely exists somewhere in the limbic system. Numerous studies have shown that schizophrenics lack ASG, which could be related to pervasive auditory hallucinations (AH) found within

the afflicted population. Schizophrenics are also amongst the largest chain smokers when compared with the general population. This observation is explained by testimonial evidence from schizophrenics that smoking decreases AH. If ASG and AH have a relationship, cigarette smoking must first be shown to have an effect on ASG. This study consists of the analysis of magnetoencephalographic data from former long-term smokers and non-smoking controls during an ASG task. Results indicated that smoking does affect ASG and thus the pathway should be explored for therapeutic manipulation in the treatment of AH.

9:30 a.m. Biology Papers

Nathaniel Fondell

Shantytown Medicine in Rural Honduras

Sponsored by Louis Scannicchio

A presentation based around a nine day medical trip in Tegucigalpa, Honduras including interviews with medical personnel of varying levels and a focus on the medical environment of rural Honduras.

Raquel Robles

*Concentration-specific Olfactory Receptors Reveal Discriminatory Abilities in *Drosophila melanogaster* Larvae*

Sponsored by Scott Kreher

Across animal species, the sense of smell emerges via the interaction of odor receptor proteins and odor molecules. Previous research on the olfactory system of *Drosophila* larvae has shown that olfactory receptors function in combination to produce a behavioral response to odors. This study focuses on the concentration discriminatory abilities of olfactory receptors Or42a and Or42b as observed in behavioral assays. These receptors are known to be concentration-specific to the odorant ethyl acetate, both electrophysiologically and in behavior. Two chemicals structurally similar to ethyl acetate – methyl acetate and propyl acetate – have been chosen to investigate the specificity of these receptors. From our data, we conclude that in response to methyl acetate and propyl acetate, these receptors do not function in a concentration-specific manner similar to the ethyl acetate response. Also, the DNA sequences of the Or42a and Or42b genes in 19 fly subjects were analyzed to search for genetic mutations.

Michael Wesolowski

*Molecular Basis of Olfaction and Investigation of Transgenic Species in *Drosophila melanogaster**

Sponsored by Scott Kreher

The goal of this research is to investigate the molecular, genetic and cellular basis of olfaction in the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*. Fruit flies are an ideal model because they are one of the premiere genetic systems and they display easily measurable behaviors and physiological responses. Odors are detected in animals via the interaction of an odor molecule with a specific odor receptor protein. The specific goal

is to infer how these molecular interactions are affected in flies carrying mutated odor receptor genes. This will allow understanding of the difference between reception and perception in the sensory nervous system. In this research flies are genetically mutated to alter their olfactory receptor proteins, and are then exposed to chemical stimulants to elicit a behavioral response in the flies. The behaviors can then be categorized, so that conclusions can be made regarding the molecular basis of the olfactory system. Also, transgenic animals are investigated, where receptors are expressed in neurons in which they are not normally found. In separate experiments, a gene from the honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) was examined. The honey bee gene was PCR amplified from cDNA prepared from honey bee brain samples. Upon sequencing the amplified products, we have found at least two alternatively spliced products. The predicted gene product from both sequences shows strong similarity to a *Drosophila* gene product.

10:30 a.m. Art History Papers

Liliana De Loera

From "Los Tres Grandes" (The Three Great Ones) to Modern Muralism in the Latino Neighborhoods of Chicago

Sponsored by Kim Theriault

This thesis explores Mexican Muralism and shows that while muralism began in the 1900s and was important to the Mexican Revolution, it still continues to evolve and be a strong force in Latino neighborhoods mainly due to "Los Tres Grandes," the founding fathers of the movement (Diego Rivera, Jose Orozco, and David Siquieros). Also included is background about the movement, discussion of the great works of the founding founders, and finally, a focus on how muralism continues to play a vital role in Latino artistic expression, especially as a predominant force in Latino neighborhoods, such as Pilsen and Little Village in Chicago.

James Ortega

Michelangelo in Word and Image

Sponsored by Kim Theriault

This research examines the ingenuity and imagination behind Michelangelo Buonarroti's works in terms of their composition in relation to the theme of language. Embedded into these works are a complex combination of emotions, realism, symbolism and sometimes religious and/or mythic factors, which are communicated through the body's movement and gestures in his sculptures and painted works. In his works, Michelangelo uses language in many forms (translated, symbolic, spiritual), as a medium of self expression. This research also looks at four of Michelangelo's works of art that impart their own language, they include: *La Pietà*, *Il David*, *Il Doni Tondo*, and *Il Mosè*.

**11:30 a.m. Caritas Veritas Symposium Research Award Winner;
Social Justice & Civic Engagement; and
Sociology & Criminology Papers**

Ashley Arbogast

Giving your Life Away in Pursuit of the Common Good (Caritas Veritas Symposium Research Award Winner)

Sponsored by Mary Sadofsky, Welcome and Information Desk

The beauty of Caritas and Veritas is displayed everyday throughout the halls of our very own Dominican University. The college students display their pursuit towards the common good. Even as one of the most self-centered generations (gen-Y), we are still some of the best examples of agape love, a newer idea of how to be selfless. Caritas Veritas has joined the community of Dominican University together as a family. We are no longer just students, staff and faculty getting an education and doing our jobs. We are now on a mission to fulfill the common good and be examples of how to give your life away, all because we are united through Caritas and Veritas.

Nicolette Cisarik

Community Based Research for Circle Urban Ministries

Sponsored by MaDonna Thelen, Social Justice & Civic Engagement

The past two semesters Nicolette spent her free time doing research for Circle Urban Ministries. Circle Urban is both a school and an Enrichment Program for children living in the Austin Neighborhood. This project researched whether or not Enrichment Programs benefit the students it serves (specifically children in low income urban neighborhoods). Circle Urban believes that if a student participates in an Enrichment Program, they will be more likely to be focused in school thus improving their grades and the likelihood of continuing their education. The research supports this idea. Nicolette also discusses her experience working with Circle Urban and the challenges faced while trying to complete the project.

Emmanuel Izaquirre

Networking: A Concept that Changes Over Time

Sponsored by Michelle M. VanNatta, Sociology & Criminology

Networking has never been as important as it is in today's world. Some of us, if not all of us, have heard the phrase "it is not about what you know, it is about who you know." Usually this phrase is used when we seek help obtaining a job and obtain that job thanks to someone we know. The entire concept of networking used to be that there was a "big picture" which was made up of little pieces, and when those little pieces came together they represented the "big picture." Over the years the concept of networking has changed. Many of us think about Facebook or Twitter when we hear the word Networking. The question we should ask ourselves is, "If networking represents the 'big picture,' have

we as a society focused more on the importance of socializing and meeting the right people over the importance of actually educating ourselves?"

12:30 p.m. Rose Beausoleil

**Undergraduate Summer Scholar Program
(USSP) 2010 Award Winner**

The Effects of Gender Role Ideology, Self-Esteem and Relationship Context on Men's Perceptions of Role Incongruent Women

Sponsored by Tracy Caldwell, Psychology

What features of men influence their attraction to women who act outside of their gender role? The goal of the present study was to investigate the roles of self-esteem and dating context on men's perceptions of attractiveness of women who break gender norms. The first hypothesis was that men who believe in the traditional division of roles in society would find women who cross gender role barriers less attractive than those who do not have traditional beliefs. But I hypothesized that men with traditional gender role beliefs would be especially likely to find nontraditional women unattractive if the men were low in self-esteem. I expected that traditional men's ratings of nontraditional women would be less negative when they were evaluating them as friends, relative to potential long-term partners.

1:30 p.m. Anne Liotine

Degree with Distinction Project

The Role of Anxiety and Specificity in Predicting the Accuracy of Eyewitness Testimony

First Reader: Alisa Beyer, Psychology

Second Reader: Daniel Beach, Psychology

The present study investigates the relationship between state-trait anxiety, autobiographical memories and eyewitness accounts. The study involved an experimental manipulation of mood induction for state anxiety. Materials included a self-report anxiety scale and the standardized State Trait Anxiety Inventory. Participants watched an eyewitness video and completed a delay task. Accuracy and specificity in eyewitness memory recall were examined. Results show correlations between the self report measure of anxiety which asked how anxious participants were before, during and after the autobiographical event was recalled.

2:30 p.m. Kimberly Plesnicar

Honors Project

Optimal Stopping Strategy for 'Pass the Pigs'

First Reader: Marion Weedermann, Mathematics

Second Reader: Paul Coe, Mathematics

The optimal stopping strategy for a dice game called "Pass the Pigs" was investigated. After providing a brief history of probability and its applications, basic terminology using an example of flipping a coin was explained, and then a rule that appoints a point value for each time the coin lands face up, or "heads," and conversely, deducts all points when the coin lands face down, or "tails," was developed. Under such

circumstances, an optimal stopping rule for maximizing point values for repeatedly flipping the coin was discovered. Similar reasoning for a simple die game, where a specific point value is awarded for the die landing on 1 through 5, and all points are taken away if the die lands on 6 was applied. After developing a stopping rule for the simple die game, a stopping rule for a more complicated die game, in which various point values are awarded to each outcome but 6 continues to represent the loss of all points was discovered. Reasoning in the "Pass the Pigs" game was applied and a stopping strategy was developed.

113 Parmer Hall

8:30 a.m. Southern Exposure: Mexican Drug Wars and Other Pleasant Topics PANEL

Student Presenters: Evangelina Covarrubias, Sarahi Gerardo and Gabrielle Pryce

Faculty Moderator: David Dolence, Political Science/International Relations

As senior projects for International Relations & Diplomacy degree seeking students, these presentations deeply explore international relations theories as they relate to the world. One presentation looks at how the Mexican drug wars influence diplomacy and relationships in the region. Two other presentations examine power and problems in different forms in states located to the south of the United States.

9:30 a.m. Problems and Power: Linguistic Imperialism, Women's Rights and Strained Relations in EurAsia PANEL

Student Presenters: Maria Deri, Ivana Gentile, Kinga Koziarska and Pawel Tercha

Faculty Moderator: David Dolence, Political Science/International Relations

As Capstone Presentations for senior International Relations & Diplomacy degree seeking students, these projects look deeply at theories in international relations. Presentations will be on the imperialistic power of the English language, the United Nations efforts supporting women's rights and complex state relations in two critical international areas - the Ukraine and central Asia.

10:30 a.m. A Tempestuous Education: Responding to José Enrique Rodó's Challenge in Ariel Caritas Veritas Symposium Student Research Award Winners PANEL

Student Presenters: Sara Carranza, Evangelina Covarrubias and Sara Minaglia

Faculty Moderator: Douglas Keberlein Gutierrez, History/American Studies

In his essay, Ariel (1900), José Enrique Rodó centered his arguments upon characterizations of Ariel and Caliban from Shakespeare's The Tempest-characters he used to symbolize his vision of how college-aged students should (and should not) prepare to live their lives. For Rodó, Ariel "represents the superiority of reason and feeling over the base impulses of irrationality." Moreover, Ariel represents "noble inspiration in thought; selflessness in morality; good taste in art; heroism in action; delicacy in customs."

Caliban, on the other hand, is held up as “the play’s symbol of brutal sensuality” and “inhibited by victorious barbarism.” What Rodó asks his readers to do is take inspiration from Ariel and “dedicate a portion of your soul to the work of the future.” The students on this panel will share their thoughts on what Rodó’s reaction (if he were alive) would be to their individual curricular choices, the education Dominican University offers students, the university's motto and mission and its resonance with each individual panelist.

11:30 a.m. Is Divine Justice Operative in Human Affairs?

DEBATE

Student Presenters: Ashley Gans, Nicholas Mahoney, Valerie Martyka, Michael Mazur, and Karl Rickert

Faculty Moderator: Quentin Kossnar, Liberal Arts and Sciences Honors Seminars

This is a debate engaging *King Lear*, *Oedipus The King* and *The Book of Job*. The Senior Honors Seminar class will debate the question: Is divine justice operative in human affairs? The two teams will defend their position using key passages from the texts of the seminar. Prior to each debate, a mediator will furnish key points or a plot summary to the audience. The seminar students (two per debate) will then deliver their arguments for the opposing viewpoints. The mediator will then question both teams, initiating lively dialogue. A short question/answer session will allow the audience members to ask questions or provide comments to the presenters. The audience will then judge which side provided the most convincing arguments. The aim is to provide provocative glimpses into the nature of justice and the divine as depicted in three of the great creative works of the Western tradition.

Providing support to those students involved in the debate were fellow class members Anastasia Chmel, Maria Deri, Monica Ignas, Erika Leksan, Fanny Martinez, Se Ouk Oh, Raquel Robles and Natalie Waksanski.

12:30 p.m. Literary Darwinism and Contemporary Critical Theory

PANEL

Student Presenters: Jacqueline Ferrentino, Lauren Johnson, Stephen Litewski, Rachel Swain and Cassandra Vazquez

Faculty Moderator: Ellen McManus, English

This panel was developed in last fall’s seminar for English majors, Literary Darwinism and Contemporary Critical Theory, which examined an approach to literary criticism that draws on evolutionary and cognitive science to understand the nature of literature. Rachel Swain will offer a critical overview of literary Darwinism. Stephen Litewski will draw on concepts from Brian Boyd’s *On the Origin of Stories* to explore the roles of cooperation and punishment in *The Book of Job*. Cassandra Vazquez will show how the concept of Theory of Mind helps us understand the creature in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. Lauren Johnson will use concepts from William Flesch’s *Comeuppance: Costly Signaling, Altruistic Punishment, and Other Biological Components of Fiction* to argue that the protagonist of *The Hobbit* is an altruistic punisher. Jacqueline Ferrentino will use ideas from Darwinian film studies to show how *Avatar* both represents and heightens the out-of-body experience of reading or watching fictional narratives.

1:30 p.m. New Perspectives in Art

PANEL

Faculty Moderator: Kim S. Theriault, Art History, Theory and Criticism

Zulema Dorado

An Examination of Scientific Methods Used in Playful Creations: The Art of Spencer Finch

Art practice in the contemporary world visits several examinations on how humans comprehend visual and sensory experiences. The work of Spencer Finch contributes to contemporary schemes of art as it acts as a vessel for one to meditate poetically in the passage of time. Through investigation of publications and reviews of his art, it becomes evident that Finch includes his biography in his work by intertwining the two sides of his upbringing as a child of a chemist father and a mother who taught literature. His manner of creation can be seen as non-scientific, then scientific, as well as in a combination of both. Summarized in three different methods, Finch's process is mainly focused on recreating the light of specific places while also bridging the gap between space and time. He places a strong importance on subjective viewpoints by demonstrating that so much of the art-making process is about paying attention in observing and noticing things. As seen in his art work, the methods of contemporary artist Spencer Finch are thorough and the ends are poetic.

Emily Karavas

Gabriel Orozco: Photography as Sculpture

Contemporary artists often work in multiple mediums, however many artists consistently work with and stay within either a two-dimensional or three-dimensional format. Part of this stems from the differences in 2D and 3D mindsets, from the language used to analyze both types of works to the different concerns with the visual elements of each. Gabriel Orozco creates installations that build on the tradition of Marcel Duchamp and his readymades and incorporates photography, to bring art to the public in their everyday encounters. Indeed, his intention is to bring art to the people, out of the museum and gallery and make it commonplace in the world.

Andrew Reyes-Burkholder

Donald Judd's Minimalism and Connections to the Vietnam Era

America in the 1960's was a time of great turmoil. The war in Vietnam unleashed horrors and a backlash that had not really been experienced in America up until that point. The government insisted that the only way to protect America was to infiltrate and stop the growing Communist activity in Southeast Asia, whereas protesters believed that America had entered a senseless war with intentions of imperialism. In the midst of this chaos, however, a new art movement, Minimalism, emerged. It was categorized by a number of New York artists who began to create three-dimensional works made from industrial materials that were repetitive and simple, though often referred to as soulless and cold. Through his essay, "Specific Objects," Donald Judd became the leader of the new style. Though his "objects" seem mainly to react against the emotionality of the Abstract Expressionists, there are actually physical and theoretical connections between Judd's minimal "objects" and the industrialization inherent in the Vietnam Era.

The use of Anabolic Steroids is a common problem people hear about today. Many people are looking for that extra push or solution to meet their goals, but what they do not understand is the dangers of using this illegal product. People who choose to use steroids not only harm themselves but others around them, including those who strived to be the best by their own pure endurance and determination.

Jessica Bellavia

The New American Environmental Movement and Its impact on Consumer Behavior

The New American Environmental Movement is making an impact on the behaviors of consumers. Today, many consumers are turning to brands that have a 'green' background, but not all are doing it for the reason of helping the environment. Going 'green' has turned into a trend, many people are buying into it for the simple fact that it is the popular thing to do. This presentation examines the background and history of the American Environmental Movement to determine how it gained the popularity it has today and when it actually began reemerging. It also looks at the purchasing trends of consumers, examining various brands to see if their eco-friendly lines are bringing them profit and examines the impact of the American Environmental Movement, not only on the pocketbooks of consumers, but also on the environment to see if it is really making the impact many people believe it does.

Sara Carranza

Watchable Television

When people watch television, there is always a search for some sort of entertainment value. I am looking for the reasons people actually tune into a certain television show, and what makes one program more successful than another. If scripted television programs like Law & Order survived 20 seasons, there has to be something that connected the audience throughout the years to keep viewers watching. This presentation will explore not only the uses of relatable characters or dramatic plot points, it will also explore the idea of how marketing can also effect whether a person will watch a particular program instead of another.

9:30 a.m. Communication Arts and Sciences Capstone Presentations

Nusreta Cimic

Does Advertising Have a Positive or Negative Effect on Children?

Ad filmmakers are formulating fresh ways of enticing the consumer to buy their product. If an advertisement for a product attracts the consumer, they tend to purchase it frequently, or at least buy it once. Every company has to survive in this competitive world. In order to stay competitive, they have to project an image of the products/services in such a way that they can pick up maximum sales. In order to pick up maximum sales, they have to persuade the consumers through advertisement. However, the ad filmmakers should remember that the commercial can have a negative impact on people, especially the younger children. This research presents some of the most visible effects of advertising on children, positive as well as negative.

Christopher DeLise

An Adventure to the Galactic Frontiers of Yesterday

This presentation will explain what science fiction truly is, and how it represented modern and upcoming life during the 1950s. Through the views of a 1950s future, Tomorrowland (a section of the Walt Disney theme parks) was created. This presentation tracks Tomorrowland's development, creation, and changes throughout history during ever-changing images of the future. The conclusion will focus on where Tomorrowland stands today, and how today's image of the future does not play a part in its further development.

Craig Dettmann

Corruption in College Sports

An in-depth look into the recent increase in allegations, scandals and overall corruption within the college sport scene. Who is to blame? This presentation will dive into the various aspects causing the NCAA to have a negative image in today's environment, especially recruitment, sports agents, universities and players.

Brett Frangella

Hip-Hop: From the "Golden Age" to the "Gangsta Age"

Over the past two decades, Hip-Hop and Rap music have supplanted Rock and Roll as the most influential and commercially successful genre of music. But within that time, mainstream Hip-Hop underwent a transformation of its own: it moved from largely docile, party-oriented music to one of the most graphically violent and criminally obsessed forms of entertainment. How did we get there?

10:30 a.m. Communication Arts and Sciences Capstone Presentations

Daniel Franzo

The Last Great Migration and Its Global Impact

Sponsored by Wayne Koprowski, Brennan School of Business

This research explores the last great animal migration that occurs with the 1.4 million wildebeest each year in East Africa. It looks at the causes and effects of animal migration and the conservation efforts being put in place to preserve these great phenomena, as well as past migrations that no longer exist today, and the reasons why they were so abruptly stopped.

Jessica Gallagher

Chicago's Sustainable Architecture: Making Changes in Our City That Will Change the World

This project will explore how current and future architectural projects in Chicago are being affected by the sustainability movement. The presentation will be broken down into current architecture (which will address green roofs and the renovation of current buildings), and future developments (which will address the use of sustainable building materials, transforming residential neighborhoods, not just the downtown area, and also what effort Chicago universities are making on their campuses). Aside from

the sustainability movement's effect on the architecture in Chicago, the presentation will also address who is behind the movement ranging from Chicago residents forming committees, to Sadhu Johnston, head of the Department of Environment.

Ivana Gentile

Does Alcohol Advertising Influence the Millennials?

It is no surprise that the millennials (those born between 1980 and 1995) also known as Generation Y or the internet generation, can recognize alcohol beverage brand labels a lot more than for example, former U.S. presidents. There is a popular "fact" that says: By the age of 18, the typical young person will have seen 100,000 beer commercials. The question is: Does alcohol advertising influence the millennials or is communication at home a bigger influence?

Sara Gretencord

Brick and Mortar to Click and Mortar: The Economic Recession's Impact on Local Retail Boutiques and What It Means for the Future

This research focuses on how this current economic recession has impacted the local retailers and how they have responded. With the rise of Internet shopping, it also looks at what the future holds for these small businesses.

11:30 a.m. Communication Arts and Sciences Capstone Presentations

Brian Hahn

What Has the Repeal of the Prohibition of Alcohol Taught Us That Can Be Applied to the Ongoing Controversy Surrounding the Legalization of Marijuana?

This paper addresses the history that followed the repeal of the alcohol prohibition. It includes the current controversy surrounding the legalization of marijuana and information that addresses a variety of similarities and differences concerning these issues. Would there be a reduction of crime if marijuana were to be legalized? What were the overall effects that society faced following the repeal and how could it be related to the current controversy? What are the similarities and differences? What is currently going on in the U.S. and around the world concerning the decriminalization, legalization, and deregulation of marijuana? Also discussed will be the health issues that are caused by alcohol and marijuana.

Michaela Hnizda

Language and Thought

This presentation will elaborate on the existing patterns between languages and thought processes.

Samantha Horia

Environmental Regulation and the U.S. Economy

This project examines the effects environmental regulations have on the financial position of U.S. firms, U.S. consumers, foreign trade and the economy as a whole. By looking at the effects on the domestic economy, the position other countries have taken and how it affects their economy will be investigated. Finally, current policies will be dissected and analyzed for the effects they may have on the U.S. economy both domestically and globally.

Evisa Kalemaj

Criminal Law and the Justice System

Criminal Law. What is considered a crime? What are the different types of crime? How does crime affect the justice system? What are the landmark cases that have changed the way Criminal Law is viewed in the justice system. All these questions will be answered and discussed in detail.

12:30 p.m. Communication Arts and Sciences Capstone Presentations

Samantha Medina

Communication as Instrument

This research question is, "After the act of infidelity has occurred, how are each of the couple's personal identities changed, and how can communication be used to overcome the issue?"

Vanessa Mendiola

Human Papillomavirus: The Truths and Myths

Sponsored by Louis Scannicchio, Biology

Human Papillomavirus is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 80% of sexually active women- and 50% of sexually active men and women combined- will contract a type of HPV at some point in their lifetime. Persistent HPV stands as the leading cause of cervical cancer, among several others as well, and progresses with no known symptoms. In this presentation, participants will learn how to search for key secondary symptoms, the available preventative methods and, most importantly, how this affects college students, featuring a Dominican University student survey.

Eulalia Munoz

Are U.S. Immigration Laws Leading to the Creation of Feign Families While Tearing Apart Actual Families?

An overview of the U.S. immigration laws and changes that have been made through the years. Immigrants by the numbers from the early 1800's to present day, and how their family structure has adjusted as a result of the immigration laws.

Kayla Pisano

Social Networking and the Change in Communication Throughout Generations

This research examines social networking, and the positive/negative effects on society. Also researched is communication through generations; social networking being most popular today.

1:30 p.m. Communication Arts and Sciences Capstone Presentations

Danielle Ranallo

Music in Movies

How can music make or break a movie? This research looks at different genres of music and how different genres or certain songs can make people think of different seasons or emotions. It focuses on how these different music genres can make scenes in movies work perfectly, or how they can completely ruin the scene. Music in films is really important when trying to set a mood. It is very difficult to pick the perfect song for a scene in a movie, but that a song can change the entire scene.

Erica Stewart

Do You Feel Guilty?

What is "white guilt" and what is "white privilege"? What is the relationship between the two? Is white guilt real, and does it still exist today? Is its existence confined to the age of Civil Rights or does the past continue to play a part in the relationships and emotions among whites and African-Americans in a time when equality is said to have been established? This research is an exploration of the negative connotations associated with the process of forgiveness and redemption in the relations between white and African-American communities.

Anna Walenski

The New Evangelization: Communicating the Gospel Today

Sponsored by Clodagh Weldon, Theology and Pastoral Ministry

Vatican II, Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II sparked the renewed purpose of evangelization in the Roman Catholic Church. How is it being expressed today? How are today's media being used in the mission of the new evangelization?

1:30 p.m. Communication Arts and Sciences Capstone Presentations

Robert Ranallo

Stand Up Sitcom

This presentation highlights the relationship between stand up comedy and television, and examines the link between these two forms of entertainment. The findings show how the two have affected each other for the better and for the worse, and how each form has contributed to the other form's success. This presentation looks at the events that have sparked the long lasting relationship between stand up

comedy and television in an effort to determine how their relationship can grow and/or deteriorate in our lifetime.

Victoria Whooper

The Development and Growth of Theatre Arts in Chicago

This presentation will take an in depth look at the evolution of Theatre Arts in the city of Chicago starting with its birth in the 1920's prohibition era to present day. The presentation will discuss specific play houses that broke ground in Chicago and helped to formulate and expand not only the Theatre District downtown, but small independent theatre companies across the city itself. In addition to taking a brief look at Chicago theatre, past and present, the presentation will also focus on the future of Theatre Arts in Chicago and what that means for up and coming performers, technicians and production staff members.

Ahmed Youssef

30 Years of Dictatorship in Egypt: What's Next for the Peace Process?

The presentation will provide an insight to the audience of how Hosni Mubarak ruled Egypt for his thirty years in power and the events that led up to his ousting. It will also exhibit the condition of the Egyptian state during his reign and the struggle for power between his feigned democracy and the radical Islamic groups that sought the overthrow of his government, as well as his personal assassination. It will also examine why the people of Egypt allowed their hated president to rule for thirty years and what happened in past Egyptian uprisings. The second part of the project will exhibit Egypt's vitality to the western world (specifically to the United States, Israel and Europe) as the most powerful ally in the Middle East, as well as Egypt's role in the Middle East peace process.

Emily Zeitlin

Barriers to the Successful Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in School Communities

This research is about inclusion and why children should be included in every aspect of what is going on in the classroom. Labels and categories separate students and create two different school systems. For over 30 years since public law 94-142 implementation, there has been an increased schism between general education and special education, and an unequal treatment of an entire class of students.

Lewis Social Hall

3:30 P.M. URSCI Expo Reception & Announcement of 2011 USSP Awards

4:15 PM Angelica Diaz Degree with Distinction Project & 2010 USSP Winner

Americana: Searching for Cultural Identity

First Reader: Mary Scott Simpson, English

Second Readers: Javier Carmona, Art; Germaine Goetz-Sota, Communication Arts
& Sciences

*Special Thanks to Professor Ellen McManus, English, for her assistance in the preparation
of this presentation*

In January 2010, Angelica began researching different methods of recording oral history in order to document her family's oral history. She interviewed and recorded several family members, accumulating fifty hours of footage by August 2010. This footage details how, why, and when each family member came to America, as well as the effect this migration had on the cultural identity of the family. The final project, titled "Yo Soy: Documenting an Oral History," is a four-part essay in addition to this documentary film, *Americana: Searching for Cultural Identity*.

Angelica's project was partially funded by a 2010 Undergraduate Summer Scholar Program Award.

Poster Presentations in Parmer Atrium

8:30 AM Chemistry

Funmi Abosedo, Adilene Aguilera, Barry Baylosis, Robert Cashen, Alma Cato, Michael Dove, Gennaro Fiore and Sara Gonzales

Coenzyme A

Sponsored by Daniela Andrei

Coenzyme A (CoA, CoASH, or HSCoA) is a coenzyme, notable for its role in the synthesis and oxidation of fatty acids, and the oxidation of pyruvate in the citric acid cycle. Since coenzyme A is, in chemical terms, a thiol, it can react with carboxylic acids to form thioesters, thus functioning as an acyl group carrier. It assists in transferring fatty acids from the cytoplasm to mitochondria. A molecule of coenzyme A carrying an acetyl group is also referred to as acetyl-CoA. Coenzyme A has over 100 critical functions in the human body, and it is known as the most active metabolic enzyme in the human body.

This poster is based on a literature search and discusses:

- the biosynthesis of coenzyme A
- its function
- reactions of coenzyme A
- coenzyme A in activation of metabolic pathways

Michael Dove

DNA Fingerprinting

Sponsored by Daniela Andrei

DNA fingerprinting is a way of identifying a specific individual, rather than simply identifying a species or some particular trait. It is also known as genetic fingerprinting or DNA profiling. As a technology, it has been around since at least 1985, when it was announced by its inventor, Sir Alec Jeffreys. DNA fingerprinting is currently used both for identifying paternity or maternity, and for identifying criminals or victims.

In forensics, DNA fingerprinting is very attractive because it doesn't require actual fingerprints, which may or may not be left behind, and may or may not be obscured. This poster is based on a literature search and discusses:

- how DNA fingerprinting works
- the applications of DNA fingerprinting
- problems / issues with DNA fingerprinting

Shytaura Goston

Caffeine Associated Headaches-Fact or Fiction?

Sponsored by Kathleen Schmidt-Nebril

Caffeine is the world's most commonly consumed stimulant, and has long been purported to cause headaches. Caffeine consumption is commonly ingested in the form of coffee and tea with American coffee drinkers consuming approximately 3.1 cups per day. Tea is also a popular drink being the 6th most consumed beverage, however, reports on the frequency of caffeine associated headaches are often linked more to coffee than any other caffeinated beverage. An investigation into reported headaches and the caffeine content of coffee and teas will be studied. Additionally, methods of laboratory analysis for caffeine content will be explored.

Schanel Gray, Angelica Huerta, Gabrielle Jackson, Raphael Jeong, Benora McBride, Krupa Patel, Raquel Robles and Andrea Rohrbacher

Hemoglobin

Sponsored by Daniela Andrei

Hemoglobin is the protein molecule in red blood cells that carries oxygen from the lungs to the body's tissues, and returns carbon dioxide from the tissues to the lungs. Hemoglobin is made up of four protein molecules (globulin chains) that are connected together. Like all proteins, the "blueprint" for hemoglobin exists in DNA. Normally, an individual has four genes that code for the alpha protein, or alpha chain. Two other genes code for the beta chain. The protein chains join in developing red blood cells, and remain together for the life of the red blood cell.

Hemoglobin also plays an important role in maintaining the shape of the red blood cells. Abnormal hemoglobin structure can, therefore, disrupt the shape of red blood cells and impede its function and its flow through blood vessels.

This poster will present an overview of hemoglobin, its structure, characteristics and importance based on a literature search.

Lupe Guerra and John Pontikis

New Nitroxyl (HNO) Donors

Sponsored by Daniela Andrei

Nitroxyl (HNO) has emerged as a potential pharmacological agent due to its intriguing biological properties. Compounds that are nitroxyl donors have been shown to be effective in anti-alcoholic drugs. In addition nitroxyl donors have also received attention as having potential to treat heart failure.

To this end, we are focused on the synthesis of novel HNO donors, exploring the structure-activity and reactivity relationships in the primary amine diazeniumdiolate series, with the aim of developing a variety of improved tools for probing the chemistry and pharmacology of HNO. We are examining a series of primary amines by converting them into diazeniumdiolate sodium salts, followed by the alkylation of the sodium salts to give the corresponding HNO donors. NO and HNO analysis is being performed for each diazeniumdiolate salt and prodrug in order to quantify the amount of NO and HNO released.

Carlos Leon

The Quantity of Vitamin C in Commercial Products

Sponsored by Kathleen Schmidt-Nebril

Vitamin C is an ingredient in many of the foods and beverages that consumers purchase. Vitamin C is a purported antioxidant, an established cofactor for enzymatic reactions, and has been suggested to play a role in collagen synthesis and wound healing. Manufacturers claim to have a specific quantity of Vitamin C in products, and many consumers drink commercial beverages based on these claims. An analytical investigation, using an established titration method, will be conducted to establish the quantity of Vitamin C present in several commercial beverages. Additionally, a comparison of experimental results versus the manufacturer's label data will be investigated.

Karl Rickert

Synthesizing Platinum-Rhenium Compounds as Potential Anti-Cancer Treatments

Sponsored by Robert Faltynek

Contemporary cancer treatments focus on impeding tumor growth by halting malignant cell reproduction. Since the discovery of cisplatin's inhibition of cell growth by Barnett Rosenberg, most of the chemical research has been concerned with platinum(II) complexes and how changing cisplatin's ligands impact its anti-cancer utility (Rosenberg, 1966). Normally, organic ligands are attached to a dichloroplatinum(II) core, and the resulting compound is analyzed. This project, however, focuses on replacing one of the chlorines with a superior leaving group, and then replacing this new ligand with a rhenium compound. The end result contains a platinum-oxygen-rhenium bond, a novel twist on investigating new platinum-based anti-cancer drugs.

Alexander Santin, Chris Signore, Shanna Smith, Mark Urbanski, Jacquelyn Villagomez, Dane Volden, Lisa Zaccone and David Ziganto

Cholesterol

Sponsored by Daniela Andrei

Cholesterol is a waxy steroid metabolite found in the cell membranes and is transported in the blood plasma of all animals. It is an essential structural component of mammalian cell membranes. In addition, cholesterol is an important component for the manufacture of bile acids, steroid hormones and Vitamin D. Cholesterol is the principal sterol synthesized by animals, but small quantities are synthesized in other eukaryotes, such as plants and fungi. It is almost completely absent among prokaryotes, which include bacteria. Although cholesterol is an important and necessary molecule for animals, a high level of a serum cholesterol is an indicator for diseases such as heart disease.

This poster is based on literature search and discusses:

a. Physiology of cholesterol:

- function of cholesterol
- synthesis of cholesterol

- regulation of cholesterol synthesis
- dietary sources
- metabolism, recycling and excretion

b. Significance of cholesterol:

- hypercholesterolemia
- hypocholesterolemia
- cholesterol testing

Theodore Weyna

A Comparative Analysis of Ester Preparation

Sponsored by Kathleen Schmidt-Nebril

An ester can be prepared through the combination of an oxoacid and a hydroxyl group. These preparations were common in school laboratories for their simplicity to make and for the pleasant fragrances that they emit. Esters are very important to many industries for the variety of fragrances they can provide. In this study, two different laboratory procedures will be compared and contrasted for product yield and purity. The ester to be prepared will be ethyl benzoate or fragrance of wintergreen. The first preparation will use benzoic acid and ethanol mixed in the presence of sulfuric acid, which acts as a catalyst. The second reaction will use the addition of ethanol to benzoyl chloride without the use of a catalyst. Additionally, a comparison of these product yields on both the micro and macro scale will also be investigated. Confirmation of the purity of the final ester product will be determined using FT-IR spectroscopy. Finally, the results of this experiment will be used to provide a comparative evaluation to determine which method produces the optimal results in terms of yields, purity and cost effectiveness.

Natural Sciences

Ryan Forrest

Investigation of Electrode Stresses in Lithium-Ion Batteries

Sponsored by Gerald Gulley

In today's technology-driven world, there is a constantly growing need for energy storage. Portable electronics such as cell phones, music players and laptops all use high capacity, lightweight, rechargeable lithium-ion batteries as their power source. Despite their widespread use, there are still many issues and challenges facing the technology. When a battery is charged and discharged, its electrodes undergo volumetric changes associated with the electrochemical reaction that is taking place. These changes in volume exert stresses on the electrodes, which is believed to be a factor in the aging mechanisms for these batteries. This research analyzes the stresses exerted on the electrodes in order to investigate the possible link between the stresses and decreased battery lifetime.

9:30 AM

Psychology

Emily Backlund and Tatum Wilson

The Effects of Empathy and Conflict Resolution on Friendships

Sponsored by Tina Ritzler

The goal of the present study was to assess the role of empathy in conflict resolution among college students at a small midwestern university. Self-report data from 20 participants on two measures of emotional empathy and one measure of conflict resolution were analyzed. Two open-ended questions asking participants about feeling empathic towards other students and conflicts with other students were included in the survey. Results revealed a significant relationship between positive conflict resolution and emotional empathy on the newly created measure of emotional empathy and the Conflict Resolution Styles Inventory. No other significant correlations were found between emotional empathy and conflict resolution subtypes included in the measure (i.e., engagement, withdrawal, and avoidance).

Geoffrey Batres and Monika Ignas

Gender Differences in the Importance of Income on Initial Attraction

Sponsored by Rebecca Pliske

The present study examined the importance of income on initial attraction judgments made by male and female college students. It was an attempt to replicate a study by Sprecher (1989). Participants viewed a series of eight hypothetical dating partners, and were asked to rate the attractiveness of each partner. The yearly income (high or low) of each hypothetical dating partner was displayed beside the image. Participants were also asked to rate a list of qualities they thought were relevant in a relationship; the list included income and appearance. The results of the present study yielded both a main effect of income and an interaction between gender and income. On average, females found hypothetical dating partners with higher income more attractive; whereas attraction ratings made by males were not affected by the income level of the hypothetical dating partner.

Natalia Bukowinska and Brittany Kowal

Motivation and School Burnout

Sponsored by Tina Ritzler

The goal of the present study was to examine the relationship between school burnout, academic motivation and work burnout. Measures included the School Burnout Inventory (Salmela-Aro et al., 2009) and Academic Motivation Scale (Ratelle et al, 2007), as well as a newly created Work Burnout Scale. The newly created Work Burnout Scale was adjusted to pertain to work burnout, instead of school burnout. Participants were 20 undergraduate students that consisted of 14 females and six males. The results indicated that work Burnout and Academic Motivation were negatively correlated.

Danielle Cervone and Julia Siwierka

A Study on Personality Traits and Student Social Adjustment

Sponsored by Alisa Beyer

The purpose of this study was to see if there was a relationship between being an extravert or an introvert and being socially adjusted. The researchers hypothesized that social adjustment would be positively associated with extroversion. Twenty college freshman residents participated in this study. This study used the Extraverting and Introverting Test to measure participants' extroversion and introversion personality traits. Two self-report questionnaire measures were also used to evaluate participant's social adjustability: the Student Adaptation to College Questionnaire and a newly constructed Student Social Adjustment Questionnaire. The new social adjustment questionnaire was validated and found to have strong inter-item reliability. There were no significant associations between the extroversion and the social adjustment measures. However, there was a positive correlation between introversion and the newly constructed social adjustment questionnaire.

Jasmine LaCour and Arielle Ybarra

Career Development and Self-Efficacy

Sponsored by Tina Ritzler

The goal of this particular study was to see how students' self-efficacy is related to their career development level in college. The New General Self-Efficacy Scale (NGSE) was used to assess students' self-efficacy level (Chen, Gully, & Eden, 2001). The Career Decision Scale (CDS) (Landry, 2006) and a newly developed scale were used to assess students' career development. Participants were undergraduate volunteers, 10 men and 10 women, who were given the surveys and asked to fill them out. There was good convergent validity between the newly developed scale (Career Development) and the NGSE scale. Overall, results indicated that students with higher levels of self-efficacy had higher levels of career development.

Mari Martinez and ThuHa Pham

The Effect of Background Noise on a Recall Task

Sponsored by Alisa Beyer

A good environment plays a significant role in learning, as previous research concluded that people have better recall when studying in a quiet place. In the present study, recall performance was hypothesized to be the best for a no noise study condition compared to a high volume study condition. Students from Dominican University (n=21) were randomly assigned to one of three conditions: no noise, low volume and high volume during a PowerPoint presentation of 50 one-syllable words. After the presentation, participants were given a free recall task. The results did not support the hypothesis as there were no significant differences in recall across conditions. Future directions and implications for the findings will be discussed.

Aarika Osvath and Elizabeth Phipps

The Effects of Happiness on Trust Levels

Sponsored by Tina Ritzler

The goal of the present study was to determine if higher trust levels were related to happiness, and if lower trust levels were related to unhappiness. An existing Subjective Happiness Scale (SHS; Lyubomirsky, 1999) was modified to measure each participant's level of happiness and view of himself or herself, and renamed the Happiness Scale (HS). Participants were surveyed using the Oxford Happiness Questionnaire (OHQ; Argyle & Hills, 2001), the Happiness Scale (HS) and the Trust Scale (TS; Rempel, Holmes & Zanna, 1985). The hypothesis of this study was that being in a state of happiness will lead to higher levels of trust.

Carla Ruiz and Paulina Snowpek

Self Perception among Young Women

Sponsored by Tina Ritzler

Body image and eating habits have been found to be predictors of how women view themselves. This study investigated the relationship between women's perceptions of their body image and their eating habits. The study included 20 women from the Dominican student community. The participants were between the ages of 19 and 42. Women reported high levels of concern with how their body looked and low levels of concern with their eating habits. The media played a large role in influencing young women and their perception of their body.

Gabriela Selwocka and Kelly Gavin

The Effect of Similarity on Reported Empathy

Sponsored by Rebecca Pliske

The present study attempted to replicate a study by Batson, Lishner, Cook & Sawyer (2005) in which participants in different experimental conditions read a brief story about a main character who differed in age (20 or 40 years old) and/or occupation (student or store clerk) from the participant. It was predicted that participants who viewed themselves as more similar to the main character would have greater empathy towards her. The results of the present study did not support this hypothesis.

Kellie Van Voorhis

To Learn or to Win, That is the Question: The Effects of Learning and Performance Based Goals on Athletic Performance.

Sponsored by Tracy Caldwell

The way in which we frame a task can have implications for our ability to successfully navigate through that task. My study will investigate the effect of learning- vs. performance-based goals on performance, in the context of athletic achievement. When one frames a task in terms of what one can ascertain, learning based goals are being primed. When one frames a task in terms of achievement and success, performance based goals are being primed. Learning based goals put a greatly reduced amount of

pressure on athletes to constantly perform perfectly. When the focus is constantly on performance, the concept of caritas can easily be lost. Veritas and Caritas can be seen working in conjunction with regard to my study. Coaches must balance their desire to be successful with the pressure of shaping young athletes into truthful and caring individuals. With so much at stake, finding the truth about which coaching style is most effective is essential.

Sara Vicente and Sarah Vitacco

Gender Related Personal Attributes and Choice of Leisure Activities

Sponsored by Tina Ritzler

There are a number of different factors that influence a person's desire to participate in different types of leisure activities. Many people like to participate in leisure activities for recreation or their own personal enjoyment. The purpose of the current study was to assess whether gender-related personal attributes impact a person's choice of activities. We developed a survey of gender related leisure activities, the Leisure Activities Measure. Participants were surveyed using the Leisure Activities Measure, the Personal Attributes Questionnaire and the Bem Sex Role Inventory. Results indicated that Leisure Activities were correlated with feminine attributes and feminine activities, and that androgynous attributes were correlated with androgynous activities. Furthermore, for male participants, results indicated a strong correlation between choice of feminine attributes and feminine activities, whereas for female participants, results indicated a strong correlation between androgynous attributes and activities.

10:30 AM

Biology

Farhana Abusaman, Maryam Hussain and Gabrielle Jackson

Transcriptional Control of Matrilin in an Aplysia Sensitization Model

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman

The formation of long-term memories requires long-term changes in gene expression, but it remains somewhat unclear how these transcriptional changes alter the activity and connectivity of the neural circuits encoding a long-term memory. Sensitization of the Aplysia tail-elicited siphon/gill-withdrawal reflex (T-SWR) has proven a powerful model system for exploring the genetic and physiological mechanisms of long-term memory. Long-term sensitization is known to enhance tail-sensory neuron excitability, but the ionic mechanism underlying this change is not understood. Thus, we probed for sensitization-induced changes in Matrilin mRNA expression, a gene related to tail-sensory neuron excitability.

Sensitization can be induced via trains of electrical shocks applied to the body wall of the animal. It has been established that simple exposure to serotonin can mimic this type of training, producing an increase in reflex responsiveness. Animals were exposed to serotonin for 2 hours and abdominal or pedal/pleural ganglions were isolated from both the stimulated animal and non-stimulated control animal. Whole-ganglion RNA was isolated and reverse transcribed. Semi-quantitative PCR was then used to determine sensitization-induced changes in Matrilin mRNA levels. Results are expected to shed light on the transcriptional changes that alter sensory neuron physiology during long-term sensitization.

Kristen Amarasekera, Ann Bartek, Shannon Hunter and Bry Harbin

Transcriptional Control of CREB in an Aplysia Sensitization Model

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman

The formation of long-term memories requires long-term changes in gene expression, but it remains somewhat unclear how these transcriptional changes alter the activity and connectivity of the neural circuits encoding a long-term memory. Sensitization of the Aplysia tail-elicited siphon/gill-withdrawal reflex (T-SWR) has proven a powerful model system for exploring the genetic and physiological mechanisms of long-term memory. Long-term sensitization is known to enhance tail-sensory neuron excitability, but the ionic mechanism underlying this change is not understood. Thus, we probed for sensitization-induced changes in CREB mRNA expression, a gene related to tail-sensory neuron excitability.

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Yesenia Avalos, David Kinsley and Adam Meacham

Transcriptional Control of eIF3e in an Aplysia Sensitization Model

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman

The formation of long-term memories requires long-term changes in gene expression, but it remains somewhat unclear how these transcriptional changes alter the activity and connectivity of the neural circuits encoding a long-term memory. Sensitization of the Aplysia tail-elicited siphon/gill-withdrawal reflex (T-SWR) has proven a powerful model system for exploring the genetic and physiological mechanisms of long-term memory. Long-term sensitization is known to enhance tail-sensory neuron excitability, but the ionic mechanism underlying this change is not understood. Thus, we probed for sensitization-induced changes in eIF3e mRNA expression, a gene related to tail-sensory neuron excitability.

Karla Bayas, Abigail Kraft and Marisol Rodriguez

Transcriptional Control of Antistasin in an Aplysia Sensitization Model

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman

The formation of long-term memories requires long-term changes in gene expression, but it remains somewhat unclear how these transcriptional changes alter the activity and connectivity of the neural circuits encoding a long-term memory. Sensitization of the Aplysia tail-elicited siphon/gill-withdrawal reflex (T-SWR) has proven a powerful model system for exploring the genetic and physiological mechanisms of long-term memory. Long-term sensitization is known to enhance tail-sensory neuron excitability, but the ionic mechanism underlying this change is not understood. Thus, we probed for

sensitization-induced changes in Antistasin mRNA expression, a gene related to tail-sensory neuron excitability.

Nikisha Burks, Thomas McDonough and Theodore Weyna

Transcriptional Control of BAT1 in an Aplysia Sensitization Model

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman

The formation of long-term memories requires long-term changes in gene expression, but it remains somewhat unclear how these transcriptional changes alter the activity and connectivity of the neural circuits encoding a long-term memory. Sensitization of the Aplysia tail-elicited siphon/gill-withdrawal reflex (T-SWR) has proven a powerful model system for exploring the genetic and physiological mechanisms of long-term memory. Long-term sensitization is known to enhance tail-sensory neuron excitability, but the ionic mechanism underlying this change is not understood. Thus, we probed for sensitization-induced changes in BAT1 mRNA expression, a gene related to tail-sensory neuron excitability.

Sensitization can be induced via trains of electrical shocks applied to the body wall of the animal. It has been established that simple exposure to serotonin can mimic this type of training, producing an increase in reflex responsiveness. Animals were exposed to serotonin for 2 hours and abdominal or pedal/pleural ganglions were isolated from both the stimulated animal and non-stimulated control animal. Whole-ganglion RNA was isolated and reverse transcribed. Semi-quantitative PCR was then used to determine sensitization-induced changes in BAT1 mRNA levels. Results are expected to shed light on the transcriptional changes that alter sensory neuron physiology during long-term sensitization.

Jorge Gacharna

Measurement of Courtship Behavior in Transgenic Drosophila melanogaster

Sponsored by Scott Kreher

My ongoing research consists of studying *Drosophila melanogaster*, or fruit fly, courtship behavior. *Drosophila* males are known for engaging in a “dance” in order for the females to allow them to mate. Ethograms were created in order to investigate the relationship of courtship behavior observed in different strains of *Drosophila melanogaster*. The organisms were aspirated into special courtship viewing chambers where videos were taken in order to analyze the data. The use of any form of anesthesia was prohibited because it has the potential to affect the *Drosophila* nervous system and produce skewed results. The flies were measured on time spent on each category of courtship behavior. Total time and other statistical measurements were taken in order to determine the effect of various transgenes.

Christie Klinger and Pedro Vallejo

Olfactory Behavior and Odor Receptor Genotype in Drosophila melanogaster

Sponsored by Scott Kreher

This ongoing research explores the methods by which sensory input is translated into

behavioral output in *Drosophila melanogaster*. One part of our project investigates how different larval genotypes respond to variable odorant concentrations. In the second part of our project, we analyze sequences of alleles in olfactory receptor genes of different strains in order to find correlations, if any, of an underlying genetic basis for behavior. This is done by comparing polymorphisms among strains of *Drosophila* odor receptor genes. Molecular biology techniques such as the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), cloning, gel electrophoresis and certain aspects of DNA analysis were utilized in our research.

Timothy Lazicki, Ike Okafa and Michael Wesolowski

Transcriptional Control of Matrilin in an Aplysia Sensitization Model

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman

The formation of long-term memories requires long-term changes in gene expression, but it remains somewhat unclear how these transcriptional changes alter the activity and connectivity of the neural circuits encoding a long-term memory. Sensitization of the *Aplysia* tail-elicited siphon/gill-withdrawal reflex (T-SWR) has proven a powerful model system for exploring the genetic and physiological mechanisms of long-term memory. Long-term sensitization is known to enhance tail-sensory neuron excitability, but the ionic mechanism underlying this change is not understood. Thus, we probed for sensitization-induced changes in Matrilin mRNA expression, a gene related to tail-sensory neuron excitability.

Sensitization can be induced via trains of electrical shocks applied to the body wall of the animal. It has been established that simple exposure to serotonin can mimic this type of training, producing an increase in reflex responsiveness. Animals were exposed to serotonin for 2 hours and abdominal or pedal/pleural ganglions were isolated from both the stimulated animal and non-stimulated control animal. Whole-ganglion RNA was isolated and reverse transcribed. Semi-quantitative PCR was then used to determine sensitization-induced changes in Matrilin mRNA levels. Results are expected to shed light on the transcriptional changes that alter sensory neuron physiology during long-term sensitization.

11:30 AM Focus on Art Slide Show

Please see the list and description of Award Winners at the end of the Expo Program

12:30 PM

Apparel Design & Merchandising

Laura Lanzerotte and Stephanie Richter

Collaboration for a Cause

Sponsored by Melissa Carr and Tracy Jennings

The objective of the project was to promote breast cancer awareness. This was accomplished through the collaborative efforts of a designer, a merchandiser and a retailer. The design student created bras inspired by the goddesses Hera and Gaia. These goddesses were chosen because they embodied aspects such as power, femininity, nurturance and inner strength, those same characteristics every woman possesses even in the face of hardship. The merchandising student used this inspiration as a building block for her visual window display at a local retailer. Her challenge was to incorporate the goddess

theme while staying true to the retailer's brand. This project was meaningful in a number of ways: it gave designers and merchandisers the opportunity to work as a team, to collaborate with community partners and help raise awareness for a cause.

Erika Leksan

Fair Trade Organization MarketPlace: Handwork of India

Sponsored by Susan Strawn

Fair trade plays a critical role in sustainable economic development. Fair trade practices can effectively and efficiently assist people in undeveloped nations to build their own economies, contributing to a more sustainable and long term solution to world-wide poverty. Successful fair trade businesses will continue to be an important aspect of economic development in the future as more companies aim to become socially responsible. This project examines specific practices for MarketPlace: Handwork of India, a successful fair trade organization founded in 1986. Headquartered in Evanston, Illinois, MarketPlace employs nearly 400 textile artisans, mostly women living in the slums of Mumbai, India. Illustrated with primary source photos, this poster presents the history, lives of artisans and achievements of a successful fair trade business that has fostered a sense of dignity and empowerment for its artisans.

Francesca Overbeeke

Finding Inspiration in Milan, Italy

Sponsored by Tracy Jennings

Studying abroad is all of the things it is imagined to be – rewarding, challenging, interesting, eye-opening, and most importantly, inspiring. For a fashion design student, world travel is a rich source of inspiration and Milan, Italy, became a foundation for an abundance of ideas which have influenced my design direction. Gaining meaningful inspiration requires immersing oneself in the culture, learning the language, experimenting with indigenous resources, examining artifacts and discovering customs and technology. This project showcases an original collection of fashion designs inspired and influenced by my research abroad, and includes analysis, fashion illustrations, images that inspired the collection and fabric swatches. The project conveys the impact that study abroad can make on the personal style of a designer.

Rosa Rocha

Textile Techniques Used by Artisans of MarketPlace: Handwork of India

Sponsored by Susan Strawn

This project is based on MarketPlace: Handwork of India, a non-profit Fair Trade Organization through which several hundred women from Mumbai, India, have the opportunity to earn a living wage. Using their artisan skills, the women create beautiful textiles for clothing and home décor marketed to North American consumers. My main focus is on the various techniques that the artisans use to create their products. I describe details about the tools that are used and steps that are taken to dye and embellish cloth. To experience first-hand the textiles processes, I created samples of selected techniques, specifically batik, stamping and embroidery. My hands-on exploration gave me a deeper understanding of surface design techniques that are used by a culture other than my own.

Mary Zinni

Everyday Clothing Changes of a mid-1700's English Aristocratic Woman

Sponsored by Tracy Jennings

This project investigates the everyday clothing changes of an aristocratic English woman in the mid 1700's. Around that time, London, England, was an economically flourishing city. The prosperity that was seen in the city was also seen in upper-class women's clothes. This was a significant period of time in women's dress, because it was a time when women of a certain class changed clothes frequently during the day. While spending a semester abroad in London I was able to study and see firsthand these everyday clothing changes. My findings display and help explain the relevance of clothing changes that include sleepwear, undergarments, day dress, evening dress, riding habits and formal court dress, along with the periodically significant accessories. The project investigates how dress of the mid 1700's in England gives us an important window into the culture of the period.

1:30 PM

Brennan School of Business

Caritas Veritas Symposium Research Award Winner

School of Education

Social Justice & Civic Engagement

Samantha Avalos

MNC's and Labor Obligations

Sponsored by Kathleen Odell, Brennan School of Business

Over the years, it has been known that in the United States many large companies have decided to outsource their labor to other countries in order to decrease expenses, thus increasing the companies' income. The company and its investors benefit, and argue that they are bringing employment opportunities to such countries as China, Mexico and India. However, if you take a closer look you will see that in many cases the wages these companies are paying their employees are so low that the workers can't even support their families. The question is then posed, do MNC's have an obligation to be mindful of the workers in other countries, even if those other countries don't have stringent labor laws of their own?

Hannah Minks

Finding Love in the Search for Truth (Caritas Veritas Symposium Student Research Award Winner)

Sponsored by Shannon Green, University Ministry

I do not know whether I believe there exists a universal truth by which all things are true, as Thomas Aquinas put it. I do, however, believe there is a universal search for one. I am interested in exploring from a theological perspective how people search for truth. In this exploration, I will claim that expressions of love will inevitably surface out of the universal pursuit of truth.

Cailey Whalen

Is Deafness Becoming Obsolete?

Sponsored by Josephine Sarvis, School of Education

Technology is moving at a rapid pace. With all of the technology that is developing in the medical field, will deafness become obsolete? If we do find a cure for the deaf, do they want to be cured? Why does society feel the need to correct a community that does not view themselves as having anything wrong or "disabled" about them? What will happen to sign language? With all of the increasing technology, there are many ways to correct deafness, thus, eventually making it obsolete within society, wiping out a whole community. The advances of technology are not always an advantage for everyone and could prove to be a great injustice to the deaf community.

Jamie Zwijack

Bread for the World: A Study in Campus Outreach

Sponsored by MaDonna Thelen, Social Justice & Civic Engagement

Over the last year, I have been a member of the international organization, Bread for the World. Through their initiatives with the Hunger Justice Leaders program, I was able to travel to Washington D.C., and participate in their National Lobby Day and advocacy training with Bread for the World Members from around the world.

For my capstone project for my minor in Social Justice and Civic Engagement, I have been working with Bread for the World researching successful ways to reach out to college students about political involvement. The culmination of this work will result in an action plan and possible resources to use in future advocacy trainings for Bread for the World Hunger Justice Leaders.

2:30 PM

History/American Studies Sociology & Criminology

Bryan Deziel

History in Action: Working With Primary Sources

Sponsored by Liesl Orenic, History/American Studies

Whether studying for a history course, watching the History Channel, or enjoying a historically inspired program such as the Tudors or the forthcoming movie, *The Eagle*, we all interact with history in different ways. At the root of all these activities lies the work of professional historians who explore and interpret primary historical documents to discover the story of the past. Using examples from his work with Prof. Liesl Orenic researching the history of the Teamsters Union Local 743 in Chicago, Bryan illustrates how historians work as both detectives and archeologists in dealing with these primary sources. He shows how historians use context, research and interpretation to extract clues about the past from a variety of

different types of documents including union contracts, personal letters, radio scripts, news articles, photographs and video footage.

Erin Novak

The Dissection of People Magazine: Pulling Apart Body Image and Gender Representations

Sponsored by Janice Monti, Sociology & Criminology

This research project explores the relationship between media representations and perceptions of female body image and identity in *People Magazine*, from the magazine's debut in 1974 to the present day. My research focuses on the following questions: What messages has *People Magazine* given us about women's selves and their bodies, what does it continue to tell us today, have the messages about women's identity changed in a positive or negative way, or have they stayed relatively the same, and to what extent has the narrative about female identity and body image changed over the last 35 years since the magazine's debut? These questions will be answered through an analysis of the content of the magazine covers, focusing on the featured articles cited and the images.

Michelle Sarillo

Rational Choice Theory and Crime Control

Sponsored by Michelle VanNatta, Sociology & Criminology

One theory that serves to explain why people commit crimes, and why they do so in certain situations, is Rational Choice Theory, a derivative of utilitarian philosophy. Rational Choice Theory has long been employed by professionals from criminologists to economists to explain behavior. Rational Choice Theory is defined by Ward, et al. (2006) as, "people engage in conscious and deliberate cost-benefit analysis such that they maximize the values and minimize the costs of their actions". Rational Choice Theory makes sense for survival crimes and crimes for profit, but it doesn't seem as applicable for seemingly unnecessary crimes like vandalism, violence and others that seem irrational. Determinism has been another popular explanation for criminal behavior, and Rational Choice has often been its opponent. Recently the rift between the two camps has become less drastic, and it is more common to attribute criminal behavior to both determinism and Rational Choice Theory.

Jennifer Toomey

Social Dynamics Of Losing a Loved One

Sponsored by Christina Perez, Sociology & Criminology

The purpose of this study is to understand how the structure of family helps the process of bereavement. It will include quantitative research such as formal surveys, mainly discussing individual emotions and experiences, whereas, in the qualitative research such as interviews and field notes, it will focus more on the individual's experiences with others, mainly family. The study of bereavement and death within a family has not been fully understood due to limited research. The population that will be studied includes anyone who has experienced a loss in their life, such as a close friend or a family member. The participants will be from families and support groups. The research concludes that the understanding of the social effects of losing someone close to the participants involves not only those people, but society as a whole.

Dominican University Annual Juried Student Exhibition

Each year, Dominican University showcases the extraordinary artistic talent of its student body by hosting an Annual Juried Student Exhibition. This annual group show gives students the opportunity to have their artwork shown in the O'Connor Art Gallery and compete for cash prizes. Held each spring semester, it is open to all Dominican students regardless of major, and students may submit up to five works in any media completed within the last year. After the submission deadline, Dominican University art department faculty select certain works for inclusion in the show, choosing works based on a combination of aesthetic and conceptual merit.

After this initial selection, an outside guest juror awards prizes in different categories such as Best in Show, Best Color Photograph and Best Sculpture. Because the guest curator is usually a prominent local curator, critic or art dealer, the Annual Juried Student Exhibition is a unique opportunity for students to have their work judged by an established and seasoned art world professional. Finally, each Annual Juried Student Exhibition kicks off with an opening night reception, which serves as a celebration of Dominican students' continued excellence in visual art.

2011 Annual Awards

A slide show of works by students in Dominican's Art Department, including the award winners listed below, will run in the Parmer Atrium during the URSCI Expo.

Guest Juror: **Gregory Harris**, Assistant Curator, DePaul University Art Museum

Best of Show: **Josh Johnson**, *1 Day*

Painting Award: **Josh Johnson**, *Self Portrait*

Drawing Award: **Shirley Leal**, *Our Gallery*

Design Award: **Adriel Lopez**, *Why Design Now?*

Typography Award: **Ashley Richardson**, *Why Design Now?*

Color Photography Award: **Corey McClure**, *Dad 1*

Black/White Photography Award: **Elizabeth Ashley Nichin**, *Leaving*

3D/Sculpture Award: **Brenda Ocampo**, *Encaved Heart*

Printmaking Award: **Eduardo Gaytan**, *Self Portrait*

Dean's Purchase Award: **Jackie Coakley**, *Latino Film Festival*

Selected by Jeff Carlson, Dean, Rosary College of Arts and Sciences)

Rosary College Eagle Spring 2011 Cover Selection: **Barbara Lucy Garcia**, *Swing*

Honorable Mentions: **Emily Karavas** (*Untitled*), **Laura Calabrese** (*Memphis in August*),

Therese Angarone (*Worlds*), **Melissa Summaria** (*Catcher in the Rye*), and

Nicci Cisarik (*Wicker Park III Revisited*)

Dominican University Senior Apparel Collections

Seven examples are on display in the Parmer Atrium during the Expo

Senior collections are investigations into design concepts. Students are asked to experiment with the breadth and depth of their inspiration and take their concept beyond the immediate and the concrete. They document their design process and validate construction techniques used to implement their purpose. In Senior Collection, students develop and articulate their personal design voice.

Students present their collections to a panel of industry professionals. Garments are juried using five criteria: 1) concept/viability, 2) creative inspiration and execution, 3) design process, 4) professional workmanship, and 5) ability to articulate design philosophy.

Senior collections will be displayed in live gallery runway exhibitions in the Lund Auditorium on Saturday, April 9, at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, April 10, at 3:00 p.m.

The seniors participating in the runway exhibition are listed below, along with the name of their collection. McKinley Johnson mentored all of the senior apparel designers.

Jane Arvis	<i>incongruous instances</i>
Jacqueline Bedolla	<i>Siege</i>
Bethany Buchholz	<i>Juno</i>
Anastasia Chmel	<i>Diffusion</i>
Stephanie Foley	<i>Echoes from Another Reality</i>
Katherine Johnson	<i>Astral Trilogy</i>
Danielle Moorhouse	<i>Circus</i>
Stacy Portilla	<i>hoodrat.</i>
Ursula Rivera	<i>Gitana Revival</i>
Shannon Seegers	<i>Attribution Theory</i>

Undergraduate Research Opportunities at Dominican University

The office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Investigations (URSCI) builds upon the instruction in information literacy and research methods undergraduates receive through the core curriculum and the major field, and seeks to enhance the spirit and practice of inquiry occurring already across the curriculum. URSCI promotes undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research in all disciplines, offering students opportunities to engage in scholarly activities that go beyond regular class assignments, and administers a variety of initiatives to support undergraduate students involved in such scholarly projects. If you have questions about these opportunities, contact Martha Jacob, PhD, director of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Investigations, at mjacob@dom.edu

Students can earn course credit for working with a faculty mentor on a research project or creative investigation that is completed independently—not as part of a class assignment.

A uniform course name and number (Beginning/Intermediate/Advanced/Senior Thesis Level Undergraduate Research/Creative Investigation --DEPT 195/295/395/495) has been established to designate participation in independent undergraduate research/creative activities across all departments. Students collaborate with faculty mentors on an ongoing faculty research project or conduct an independent project under the guidance of a faculty mentor. This directed undergraduate research or creative investigation culminates in a conference presentation, journal article, or other creative/scholarly project. *Students must obtain prior approval from a faculty mentor before they can register for any of these independent research courses.* Each course can be completed for variable credit hours (1-3) and can be repeated for two semesters at each class level. Students are encouraged to

present their independent scholarly and creative work at the annual Exposition of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Investigations that is held each spring.

The Undergraduate Research Support Award

The Undergraduate Research Support Award (URSA) program promotes Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Investigations by helping to defray the costs of independent student projects and student travel to professional conferences. Awards up to \$500 are granted to pay for approved supplies and equipment for a research project or creative investigation, or for approved travel to a professional conference, or travel to a unique resource collection within the continental United States for the purposes of scholarly research. All full-time undergraduates who have a GPA of at least 2.5 are eligible to apply. A Dominican University faculty member must sponsor the student's application. In a typical semester, four awards are funded.

Rosary College of Arts and Sciences (RCAS) Undergraduate Research Assistantship Program

The RCAS Undergraduate Research Assistantship Program (URAP) funds students who assist full-time undergraduate faculty in their scholarship. This program is intended to provide students a substantive intellectual experience; that is, student assistants are not to be used as general clerical help. Assistants can help in areas such as library research, data collection and analysis, preparation of manuscripts, etc. Students can earn up to \$1500 per semester. A full-time, tenured or tenure track undergraduate faculty member identifies a qualified student and submits an application that describes the proposed scholarly project. Awards are granted on a competitive basis at the end of each semester for work to be completed the following semester. In a typical semester, five assistantships are funded.

Undergraduate Summer Scholar Program (USSP)

The Dominican University USSP enables qualified undergraduate students to complete a research project or other creative investigation during the summer under the supervision of a faculty mentor. The student receives a \$2000 stipend and a tuition waiver for three credits of undergraduate research (DEPT 395/495). The USSP is open to any fulltime Dominican undergraduate student in good standing who has completed his or her sophomore or junior year. The student must have completed a minimum of 60 semester hours in order to be eligible. Faculty members must be full-time members of the undergraduate or graduate faculty at Dominican University. Selection of participants is based on the student's academic merit and the quality of the proposed scholarly project. Scholarship recipients are required to present their independent scholarly and creative work at the annual Exposition of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Investigations that is held each spring.

Departmental Honors: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science Through the Honors program, honors students can complete an honors project and non-honors students can complete a degree with distinction project in their major field.

Degree with Distinction Projects. The project leading to a degree of Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science *with Distinction in their major* gives superior students in their junior and senior years the opportunity to study independently and understand the nature of scholarship and creativity in a particular field. Generally, students attempting the Degree with Distinction begin working on the project in the first semester of their junior year. The faculty in the discipline approve the project, and the

project supervisor and the second reader recommend the project to the Honors Committee in early March of their junior year. The project is completed in the spring of the student's senior year. A project in an interdisciplinary major or one which is interdisciplinary in emphasis is submitted with prior approval from faculty from the most relevant disciplines. A student majoring in a discipline in which Dominican has only one full-time faculty member should seek approval of both project and proposal from a second faculty member who is a member of the major department or from a related discipline in another department, whichever is more appropriate for the project. Students must meet the following requirements to be eligible: junior status and a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 in the field of the project, and an overall grade point average of 3.0. If the student's proposal is accepted, the student must take ENGL 345 Advanced Academic Writing as a part of the project. Exemption from this requirement is possible at the discretion of the course instructor. Detailed deadlines as well as guides for writing a proposal and project guides for both students and faculty mentors are available on Blackboard at the departmental honors project site, or from the director of the Honors Program.

Honors Projects. Students in the Honors Program undertake honors projects leading to a bachelor's degree with honors in the student's major. The process for completing the project is the same as for the Degree with Distinction. Additional information regarding the Honors Program is available in the Office of the Dean of Rosary College of Arts and Sciences, or by contacting Professor Mickey Sweeney or Professor Clodagh Weldon, Co-Directors of the Honors Program.

Acknowledgements

The office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Investigations (URSCI) would like to thank all of the faculty sponsors for their work with the undergraduate students participating in this exposition. The encouragement given to the students makes it possible for them to take their scholarly endeavors beyond the classroom walls. We also express our appreciation to the session moderators and timekeepers for volunteering their time to make this exposition a success.

We extend our gratitude to the faculty members who released their Parmer Hall classrooms for the exposition: Daniela Andrei, Irina Calin-Jageman, David Craig, Brent Friesen, Margaret Jonah, Scott Kreher, Jeanette Olli, Rebecca Pliske, Louis Scannicchio and Jeff Spanogle. We appreciate your generosity.

We thank Spring, 2011, URSCI assistant Michael Wesolowski, Pete Peterson, Information Technology, and Tina Weinheimer and Becky Lopez, Marketing & Communication, for their help in processing exposition applications and preparing the exposition program. Appreciation also goes to Maria DeFeo-Romanucci and Dave Carlson, Scheduling and Events Services and Samella Johnson-Hargro, Maintenance, for their help in the Expo organization and set-up, and to Helius DeGuevara, Chartwells Catering, for the day's refreshments. We also thank Kelly Gavin for her assistance with URSCI initiatives in the Fall of 2010.

We would like to acknowledge the faculty members of the Honors Committee for all they do to promote undergraduate scholarship at Dominican University: Mickey Sweeney and Clodagh Weldon, Co-Chairs,

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We would also like to recognize the members of the URSCI Advisory Board who give so generously of their time to ensure the continued excellence of URSCI initiatives: Noelle Allen Wright, David Craig, William George, Xue Han, Martha Jacob, Ellen McManus, Kathleen Mullaney, Rebecca Pliske, Caroline Sietmann and Carol Tallarico.

Finally, we thank Psychology Professor Daniel Beach and his wife Cynthia Jared for their support of the Jared-Beach Summer Scholar, and Rosary College of Arts and Sciences Dean Jeffrey Carlson, Associate Provost David Krause and Provost Cheryl Johnson-Odim for their ongoing generous support of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Investigations initiatives at Dominican University.

Presentation abstracts are included in the online exposition program on the URSCI page at <http://www.dom.edu/departments/ursci/expo/>