

**URSCI Expo 2012**  
**Wednesday, April 4**  
**Parmer Hall**

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW – All presentations are oral except for those noted under Posters on Display**

	<b>Bluhm Auditorium 108 Parmer Hall</b>	<b>CTLE 115 Parmer Hall</b>	<b>113 Parmer Hall</b>	<i>(See below)</i>	<b>107 Parmer Hall</b>	<b>Posters on Display Parmer Atrium</b>
<b>8:30</b>	<i>Kellie Van Voorhis</i> Degree with Distinction Project Psychology	<i>Yasen Azmanov</i> <i>Krzysztof Bielak</i> <i>David Kucher</i> Chemistry	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstones	<b>Springer Suites 002/003 Rebecca Crown Library</b>	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstones	
<b>9:30</b>	<i>Ashley Richardson</i> Degree with Distinction Project Graphic Design	<i>Bryan Campbell</i> Natural Sciences <i>Nicola Toritto</i> Chemistry <i>Tyehimba Turner</i> Biology	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstones	International Relations and Diplomacy Senior Capstones  ----- <b>9:30-10:30</b> <b>Portia Anderson &amp; Mohamed Rahmouni</b>	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstones	Psychology
<b>10:30</b>	<i>Haley Leboulanger</i> Honors and Degree with Distinction Project English	<i>Geoffry Batres</i> & <i>Kelly Gavin</i> Psychology	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstones	----- <b>10:30 – 11:30</b> <b>Sarah Aniolowski, Israel Gallegos &amp; Serek Hahn</b>	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstones	Chemistry
<b>11:30</b>	<i>Joshua Johnson</i> Degree with Distinction Project & 2011 URSCI Summer Scholar - Art <b>O'Connor Art Gallery, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Lewis</b>	<i>Elizabeth Pattermann</i> Honors and Degree with Distinction Project Computer Science	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstones		Communication Arts & Sciences Capstones	Biology
<b>12:30</b>	<i>Ernest Krause</i> Degree with Distinction Project History	<i>Kaydene DeSilva</i> 2011 URSCI Jared-Beach Summer Scholar Psychology	A Character Dialogue Liberal Arts & Sciences Honors Senior Seminar Panel	<b>114 Parmer Hall 12:30-1:30 p.m.</b>  <i>Let's Play Some Computer Games!</i>	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstones	Apparel Design & Merchandising
<b>1:30</b>	<i>Sandra Garcia</i> Degree with Distinction Project Psychology	<i>Dylan Hayworth-Weste</i> Honors and Degree with Distinction Project Philosophy	<i>Rosa Rocha</i> Apparel Design and Merchandising <i>Kvitoslava Modrytska</i> Brennan School of Business	<i>Computer Science Department</i>	Communication Arts & Sciences Capstones	Focus on Art Slide Show
<b>2:30</b>	<i>John Pontikis</i> Honors and Degree with Distinction Project & 2011 URSCI Summer Scholar Chemistry	Community-Based Research Social Justice & Civic Engagement Panel	<i>Emmanuel Izaguirre &amp; Samantha Satterthwaite</i> Sociology		Communication Arts & Sciences Capstones	
<b>ATRIUM 3:30: Announcement of 2012 Undergraduate Summer Scholar Program (USSP) Awards: RCAS Dean Jeffrey Carlson and Professor Daniel Beach, Psychology</b>						
<b>3:45: Welcome to Global Learning Symposium: Provost Cheryl Johnson-Odim</b>						

## **Bluhm Lecture Hall -108 Parmer** (Oral Presentations)

**8:30 a.m. Kellie Van Voorhis**

**Degree with Distinction Project**

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

First Reader: Tracy Caldwell, Psychology

Second Reader: Daniel Beach, Psychology

The way in which we frame a task can have incredible implications in our ability to successfully navigate through the task at hand. My study explores the relationship between learning- and performance-based goals 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. Can priming a specific goal change the way in which athletes predict their success, perform on the task, and persist past obstacles? Data on an original empirical study will be presented to answer these questions.

**9:30 a.m. Ashley Richardson**

**Degree with Distinction Project**

*Bridging the Gap Between Graphic Design and Education*

First Readers: Jean Bevier and Bill Kerr, Graphic Design

Second Reader: Marie Masterson, School of Education

The essence of graphic design is visual communication, yet it is often something that is overlooked in education and teaching. The definitions of educate and teach both address communication, which can often be in a visual method in schools. The field of education needs teachers and designers to work collaboratively to come up with better ways of visual communication tools and artifacts to use in the classroom. This project demonstrates how designers can enrich education and work with teachers to improve their means of visual communication in the classroom including graphic organizers, information graphics, and interactive study guides.

**10:30 a.m. Haley Leboulanger**

**Honors and Degree with Distinction Project**

*Introducing **The Constellation**: Dominican's New Undergraduate Research Journal*

First Reader: Ellen McManus, English

Within the last ten years or so, many universities have begun publishing undergraduate research journals to exhibit the work done by undergraduate students. Dominican University now proudly introduces its own undergraduate research journal, The Constellation. In honor of The Constellation's launch, Editor Haley Leboulanger will speak on the origins of the journal, the process leading to publication, and hopes for the future of the journal. She will also give a brief preview of the articles published in this first issue, inviting the audience to visit the journal website, read the articles, and join a conversation about the articles, the journal, and undergraduate research at Dominican.

**11:30 a.m. Joshua Johnson**

**Degree with Distinction Project**

**and 2011 URSCI Undergraduate**

**Summer Scholar (USSP) Award Winner**

***Please note: Joshua's presentation will take place in the O'Connor Art Gallery, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Lewis Hall instead of Parmer Hall***

*The Portrait Revisited*

First Reader: Elena Peteva, Art

Second Reader: Jeffery Cote de Luna, Art

In my presentation I will be discussing the results of both my Undergraduate Summer Scholar Project and my degree with distinction project, which although separate are linked. I am planning on presenting the work that resulted from both of these projects the art gallery which my professors have already given me approval to use for the week of the URSCI presentations. My work is founded in direct observation. In the attempt to capture the likeness of the sitter I analyze the subject through careful observation and measurement, and begin to portray what I believe I see, only to find that the object before me appears foreign to what I was trying to portray even if a self-portrait. The failure of the preconceived notions of what is before me and the necessity to rework the initial drawing forces me to reevaluate what I am portraying as an unfamiliar object, which in order to be captured needs to be examined both physically and psychologically. Through continuous reexamination and reworking what begins to take form is a visual record of the process, the representation and the psychology of the sitter.

**12:30 p.m. Ernest Krause**

**Degree with Distinction Project**

*Echoes of the East and the Crusader Imitations of Christ's Tomb*

First Reader: David Perry, History

Second Reader: Mickey Sweeney, English

This presentation will discuss the aspect of cultural exchange between the East and West during the Crusading era. Starting with a broad view of how ideas and objects moved between the Levant and Europe through the Crusaders in the Holy Land, this presentation will turn its focus on the imitation of the most important religious site to Medieval Europeans in the West, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. What does it mean to imitate the architecture of such a sacred building and what are the features that were borrowed? This project will explore the reasoning and significance behind some of Europe's imitations of the architecture of the church that houses the Tomb of Christ.

**1:30 p.m. Sandra Garcia**

**Degree with Distinction Project**

*Can We Be Manipulated to Help Another by Recalling Our Past?*

First Reader: Tracy Caldwell, Psychology

The goal of the present study was to examine whether individuals primed with empathy would intervene more quickly in a mild emergency relative to those primed with apathy and whether women would be helped more quickly than men. In addition, the study investigated whether this main effect of the target's sex would be qualified by an interaction with hostile and benevolent sexism, such that those high in hostile and benevolent sexism would be especially fast to help out a woman. Sixty participants ( $M = 22.92$ ) were placed in a mild staged crisis and their speed of intervention was timed. The main effect of prime was not statistically significant; however, there was an interaction between prime and target sex, such that those primed with empathy tended to help out a male target more quickly than a female target whereas those primed with apathy helped out a female target more quickly than a male target. Hostile and benevolent sexism, however, was not found to be correlated with helping behavior. Therefore, it could be the case that when having an individual primed with apathy, one feels more compelled to help out a woman whereas when one is primed with empathy, somehow a decision is made that it is better to help out a male.

**2:30 p.m. John Pontikis**

**Honors and Degree with Distinction Project  
and 2011 URSCI Undergraduate Summer Scholar  
Program (USSP) Award Winner**

*Synthesis and Evaluation of Primary Amine Diazeniumdiolates as HNO Donors*

First Reader: Daniela Andrei, Chemistry

Second Reader: Kathleen Schmidt-Nebril, Chemistry

Nitroxyl(HNO) is an intriguing molecule due to its pharmacological potential as a treatment for heart failure and other ailments. However, because of the tendency of HNO to react with other HNO molecules in a process called dimerization, HNO cannot be isolated and delivered to the body by itself. This project seeks to synthesize and evaluate diazeniumdiolate prodrugs with the hope that they could eventually be used to deliver HNO to the body so that it can have a biological effect.

## **CTLE -115 Parmer** (Oral Presentations)

### **8:30 a.m. Chemistry Papers**

#### **Yasen Azmanov**

*Potential Use for Coffee Ground Extracts*

Sponsored by J. Brent Friesen, Chemistry

According to the International Coffee Organization about two billion cups of coffee are drunk worldwide every day. As a result, more than 7.5 million tons of used coffee grounds are added to the organic waste in landfills each year. The goal of our project is to investigate ways to valorize this underutilized resource. Through extracts made by organic solvents we have acquired better knowledge of the chemical composition used coffee grounds. This knowledge of its chemical composition will help us know how to proceed in developing the economical potential of used coffee grounds. We have used various chemical analysis techniques to analyze and create a profile of the extract components. Our objectives were to further separate components that may be of commercial value such as steroids and vitamins. We are also looking for ways to remove brown pigmentation from the coffee oil, so that it could be used for soaps and lotions.

#### **Krzysztof Bielak**

*Investigation of Bioactivity Constituents from Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)*

Sponsored by J. Brent Friesen, Chemistry

*Taraxacum officinale*, also known as the dandelion, has been used in many different cultures for a variety of purposes including food and medicine. In this project we focused on extracting the chemical constituents from the roots and the leaves of the *Taraxacum* plant to investigate their bioactive properties. The main bioactivities that we focused on in this project were the allelopathic and the antibacterial properties. Allelopathic constituents exuded by the plant inhibit the growth of other plants in close proximity. We used common wet chemistry methods such as liquid-liquid extraction and liquid chromatography to separate the constituents according to their chemical properties. By the end of this presentation we will have convinced you that dandelions are more than just an obnoxious weed growing in our yards and gardens.

#### **David Kucher**

*Investigation of Chemical Constituents and Bioactivity from St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)*

Sponsored by J. Brent Friesen, Chemistry

St. John's Wort has received escalating attention for its potential as a potent antidepressant available as a botanical dietary supplement. In fact, German doctors prescribe the herb more often than any other antidepressant. Some studies have shown it to be more effective than classic antidepressants, with fewer side effects. Our research delved into the investigation of the levels and identity of the active

compounds in this plant: primarily hypericin and hyperforin. We used chemical techniques to extract, purify, and analyze the compounds. Initially, the plant material was extracted with hexane followed by ethyl acetate prior to fractionation. Column and liquid-liquid chromatography methods gave fractions that were analyzed with high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC) and gas chromatography (GC). The extracts were also tested for antibacterial activity according to standard bioassay methodology.

## **9:30 a.m. Biology, Chemistry and Natural Science Papers**

### **Bryan Campbell**

*Enforce the Clean Air Act: Why Government Regulation is Necessary to Enact Environmental Protection Initiatives*

Sponsored by Gerald Gulley, Natural Sciences

The Supreme Court concluded in 2007 that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the right and the responsibility under the Clean Air Act to establish regulations of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) that pose a threat to human health and safety. In 2009, the EPA determined that GHG emissions do indeed cause adverse health effects, and as a result, the EPA has been crafting legislation to enact more stringent national emission standards for these hazardous air pollutants. This new legislation would target the largest point sources of this pollution in the country; fossil-fuel fired electric power utilities, and would require them to update their factories to comply with these new national standards. I would argue that this shift to cleaner methods of power generation will not happen without enforceable governmental regulation.

### **Nicola Toritto**

*Dehydration of Methylcyclohexanols: Kinetics and Product Distribution*

Sponsored by J. Brent Friesen, Chemistry

The product distribution and kinetics of the mineral acid catalyzed dehydration of cis and trans 2-methyl-1-cyclohexanols has been systematically investigated. However, comparatively little is known about the dehydration 3, and 4-methyl-1-cyclohexanols which also have cis and trans diastereomers. In this study, the distribution of 1-methyl-1-cyclohexene, 3-methyl-1-cyclohexene, 4-methyl-1-cyclohexene, ethylidenecyclopentane, and methylenecyclohexane dehydration products from both 3- and 4-methyl-1-cyclohexanol were analyzed with GC-FID, GC-MS, and NMR. A series of kinetic experiments for both 3- and 4-methyl-1-cyclohexanol dehydration were performed to monitor the disappearance rates of the two diastereomers as well as the change in alkene product distribution as a function of time. In addition, the relative rates of reaction between cis and trans 2-, 3-, and 4-methyl-1-cyclohexanol were determined. Amazingly, when a single diastereomer of cis-3-methylcyclohexanol was dehydrated the product distribution changed as the reaction progressed. This brings into question the assumption that a single diastereomer reacts at a fixed rate to give a fixed ratio of alkene products.

### **Tyehimba Turner**

*Directed Evolution of *P. pastoris* and *S. cerevisiae* to Metabolize Stevia*

Sponsored by Margaret Jonah, Biology

This project proposes to induce the evolution of two new metabolic pathways in generations of *S. cerevisiae* and *P. pastoris* using selective pressure; while using the plant derived non-caloric sweetener stevia as a consumption substrate. Currently, stevia cannot be utilized as an energy source by *S. pombe* or *P. pastoris*. Stevia contains glycosidic linkages, which are thought to prevent it from being metabolized by many microorganisms. Glycosidic linkages are also found in the chemically derived artificial sweetener sucralose, which shares structural similarities with sucrose and common starches. If the concentration of sucrose is reduced, and sucralose becomes the optimum consumption substrate, it

is hypothesized that both species of yeasts will evolve enzymes that can break glycosidic bonds. These species of yeasts will then be able to break the glycosidic bonds in Rebaudioside A, a chief component of stevia. An alternate hypothesized pathway involves reducing the concentration of glucose, and starving each population to force the evolution of a new metabolic pathway similar to starch scavenging populations already found in nature. Populations will be monitored by observing average up and downward trends in the spectrophotometry of each culture, while freezing samples at regular intervals. If any species becomes able to metabolize stevia, we wish to examine candidate genes and decipher the biochemical and genetic changes needed for the evolution of a new metabolic function.

## **10:30 a.m. Psychology Papers**

### **Geoffrey Batres**

*Need for Cognition, Mindfulness, and Perceptions of Choice Situations*

Sponsored by Rebecca Pliske, Psychology

The present study extends the work of Chapman and Niedermayer (2001) who examined the factors influencing students' perceptions of choice situations. They found that two of the strongest predictors of high decision ratings were high ratings for amount of thought and low ratings for acting reflexively. The present study extended their research in two ways. It incorporated two additional choice scenarios depicting expert decisions adapted from Klein (1998), and included mindfulness and need for cognition as individual differences measures. The present study replicated Chapman and Niedermayer's finding that students' ratings of the amount of thought influence their perception of choice situations. Surprisingly, students' judgments of expert decision scenarios were found to be similar to their judgments of scenarios involving non-experts. Need for cognition was found to have a weak correlational relationship with decision ratings. More research is needed to further examine the role of individual difference variables in perceptions of choice situations.

### **Kelly Gavin**

*Visual or Verbal Learner? Beliefs about Learning Styles May Predict Performance*

Sponsored by Tracy Caldwell, Psychology

There is mixed empirical support for the idea that accommodating learning styles will produce better outcomes and be as predictive of achievement; however, accommodation "works" often enough to warrant an exploration of its underlying mechanisms. The purpose of this study was to test whether simply believing that one's learning style is being accommodated is enough to increase performance on multiple-choice task. Participants completed a learning style inventory, ostensibly to determine what type of lesson they would then be given. In reality, all students received the same lesson and students were randomly assigned to conditions in which they were told their learning styles did or did not match the type of lesson they were then given. Participants who believed their learning style was being accommodated outperformed those who believed they were not being accommodated, regardless of their actual learning style.

## **11:30 a.m. Elizabeth Pattermann Honors and Degree with Distinction Project**

*Military Madness for Xbox*

First Reader: Cyrus Grant, Computer Science

Second Reader: Mark R. Hodges, Computer Science

"Military Madness for Xbox" is a software application for a turn-based tactical strategy game. The "player" competes against the "computer," an artificial intelligence designed by Elizabeth.

**12:30 p.m. Kaydene DeSilva**

**2011 URSCI Jared-Beach Undergraduate  
Summer Scholar Program (USSP) Award  
Winner**

*Factors that Lead to and Experiences that Result from Interracial Dating among College Students*  
Sponsored by Tina Taylor-Ritzler, Psychology

The focus of this project is to better understand inter-racial relationships amongst college students. Although there has been extensive research on inter-racial marriages, there is little research on its precursor, inter-racial dating (Todd, McKinney, Harris, Chaderton, & Small, 1992). Research has mainly focused on people's perception of inter-racial relationships (what they think about it, if they would consider having one, etc.) by using questionnaires to obtain their data instead of targeting individuals who are currently in an inter-racial relationship (Firmin & Firebaugh, 2008). The purpose of the proposed study is to examine the factors that lead college students to be involved in an inter-racial dating relationship and the experiences that they have by being a part of that relationship. The study used a multiple case study approach that includes both within- and cross-case analysis. The goal of the proposed study is to achieve a deeper understanding of inter-racial relationships as an important aspect of appreciating the diversity of the United States.

**1:30 p.m. Dylan Hayworth-Weste**

**Honors and  
Degree with Distinction Project**

*Ideological Attachments and the Spindletop Oil Strike of 1901*

First Reader: Tama Weisman, Philosophy

Second Reader: Peter Taylor, History

This project investigates the influence of religious ideology on a pivotal event in the history of the United States oil industry. I suggest that one of the primary factors leading to the discovery of oil in east Texas and the subsequent ramifications of this discovery were the religious convictions of individuals involved in the financing and drilling for oil in this region. The presentation places the Spindletop oil strike in a broader context of the oil industry, examines the particular life stories of specific prospectors, and shows how this perspective relates to previous work done on the topic. Additionally, sufficient attention is also given to the methodological subtleties involved in utilizing a Marxist theory of ideology for historical study.

**2:30 p.m. Community-Based Research**

**PANEL**

*Social Justice and Civic Engagement Capstone students will present their community-based research projects illustrating how their research projects benefitted the local community and advanced the pursuit of justice. Projects include: "Community Study on Underserved Hispanic Elderly;" "Transitioning to America - Iraqi Refugee Nutritional Involvement Proposal;" and "Civic Engagement Predictors and Service Learning at The Peace Corner."*

**Student Presenters: Vanessa Delgado, Shaun L. Kelly and Lubna Saleh**

Faculty Moderator: MaDonna Thelen, Social Justice & Civic Engagement

## **113 Parmer Hall** (Oral Presentations)

### **8:30 a.m. Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations**

*All Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations presented today in Parmer 113 are moderated and sponsored by Kathleen Prunty, Communication Arts & Sciences, unless otherwise noted.*

#### **Paul Anderson**

*An Improv Story: The Exploration of Group Dynamics*

Improvisational theater techniques are beginning to appear more and more frequently when dealing with group dynamics. What makes these techniques so popular? What makes these techniques successful? *An Improv Story: The Exploration of Group Dynamics* covers the basics of these techniques while relating it to a personal story and exploring the influences of improvisational theater on group dynamics.

#### **Katelyn Boehmke**

*Does Media and Technology Affect Communication in Relationships?*

The purpose of my study is to assess how technology and media effect communication in relationships. I will analyze specific television shows and determine whether or not they have an effect on the way people communicate in their relationships. The relationships that will be examined range from marriage relationships to friendships. I want to study how technology affects relationships as well. In today's society there are numerous ways to communicate with others from texting, emailing, phone calls, social networking, to skypeing, video chatting, etc. I want to study how these different forms of communication effect relationships and how different age groups and gender are affected.

### **9:30 a.m. Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations**

#### **Eileen Bracco**

*Dangerous Definition of Beauty: Society's Impossible Standard for a Perfect Appearance*

The standard that America sets for beauty is dangerously unattainable so much so that both men and women go to great lengths to try to achieve this unhealthy goal. This presentation will focus on the unhealthy beauty standard that American society has defined in the 21st century. The inspiration for this research came from my study of the fashion industry at Dominican University as well as my career working with professional models in Chicago. This project will uncover the effects of celebrities and the media on body image and self esteem. Through research, surveys, and statistical analysis, I will explain the serious body image issues that men and women of all ages face today. This project also focuses on the dangers of eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder, and eating disorders not otherwise specified (EDNOS).

#### **Kelly Butler**

*Transmedia Storytelling: A Transformation from Audience to Character*

Storytelling has been an essential part of human culture since societies first began to develop. As society and technology have evolved, however, so has the manner in which we tell stories. Traditionally, stories are told from a narrator to an audience in a linear fashion. This form of storytelling has persisted from the early oral tradition into the digital era. Now, storytelling has taken on a new, interactive form by actively involving its audience as co-authors and characters. The same stories are shared across media platforms through movies, video games, novels, social media, and other internet outlets that allow the

audience to take a role in dictating stories. I will be researching the evolution of transmedia storytelling, its place in society, and examining whether or not traditional storytelling is still viable.

**Alexis Coffey**

*Minding Your Ps: The Impact of Facebook on Your Privacy and Your Personal and Professional Life*

Over the last eight years, the social networking site Facebook has turned into a phenomenon. Its main purpose seems innocent enough at a glance; connecting people from around the world together, keeping up with your family and friends, expressing your opinions through status updates, and learning more about the world through pages, notes and the like. When can using Facebook become a tool for something more sinister? My research will explore the darker side of social networking to see the ways in which Facebook is used negatively in regards to a person's professional career, privacy and personal life and how it ultimately affects them.

**10:30 a.m. Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations**

**Marco Colapietro**

*Negotiating and Navigating the Subculture of Flea Markets*

I will be breaking down and defining flea markets and the various aspects of its subculture, including: History of flea markets, types of patrons and vendors, verbal/nonverbal communication between seller/buyer, process of negotiations, haggling, and an overall "how to" at flea markets.

**Karen Delgado**

*Media Bias in Political News Casts: Analyzing Public Perceptions and Attitudes*

What is media bias? Most importantly, how does media bias affect our political perceptions and attitudes? Does media bias further polarize our views within our political affiliations and does it hinder the information we receive as a result? Media Communications and journalism have been culprits of misinformation since the failed attempt of the FCC to regulate broadcast and news television. Today, we have NBC, FOX News, CNN, and many other major news networks constantly presenting information to the public and filtering this information through a web of their own political affiliations and ideals to bring them to your TV set. What this has done, many researchers confirm, is polarize our political spheres and has created a divide in public perceptions and attitudes as to the news networks they prefer and the information they believe. This research study will present a brief literature review that will look at the history of media bias to present day where we find ourselves in the middle of the biggest Democratic and Republic debate recorded between the current Obama administration and the potential Republican candidates running for GOP. A small sample survey will be administered to identify primary research and its relevance to prior research and hypothesis presented by professionals in this field. This will enable me to consider the issues in media bias in a neutral scope.

**Rowena Demadara**

*The Rise of Drunkorexia Among College Students*

The issue of drunkorexia has developed in the past few years. Drunkorexia is a term used to describe individuals who have developed similar or combined characteristics of people who suffer from anorexia and alcoholism. It is important to raise awareness about this issue because most college students who consume excessive amounts of alcohol on a regular basis do not view this unhealthy lifestyle as problematic. Instead, it is considered an acceptable part of college culture.

## **11:30 a.m. Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations**

### **Elizabeth Dunn**

*Crisis Management in Higher Education*

Colleges and universities have faced crisis over the years. Some institutions were prepared and others were not. This presentation will focus on real life examples such as the Virginia Tech Massacre and the Penn State Scandal. Communication is through words and action and how a school performs in crisis can show how well they communicate.

### **James Eldridge**

*The Power of Persuasion in Advertising*

I plan on investigating the power of persuasion in advertising and how much it can affect the decisions of the general public. Advertisers have been using persuasive tactics since the start of the industry. Every slogan, commercial, billboard or radio jingle is meant to persuade you to buy that particular product in some way. Most of these tactics are very subtle to the average buyer, but they seem to be successful tools more often than they fail. I plan on explaining these tactics of persuasion in extreme detail. After becoming aware of these tactics first hand, maybe you will not be persuaded as easily to buy a product after seeing an advertisement.

### **Mylene Esparza**

*Child Discipline: A Generational Review of Communication Tactics*

My study will look at the different ways children are communicated to and how they are disciplined. I will look at the 1960's until now and see what is acceptable when communicating with a child.

## **12:30 p.m. A Character Dialogue**

## **PANEL**

*The Liberal Arts and Sciences Honors Senior Seminar 464 class will present a dialogue between four of the major characters in Shakespeare's King Lear, Oedipus the King by Sophocles, and the Bible's book of Job. The characters are King Lear, Gloucester, Oedipus, and Job. Students will present the dialogue using character quotes from the texts to explain and explore the different issues that may overlap and connect the four characters. Each character also has his own personality which affects his decision-making and that can also be explored and questioned in the dialogue.*

**Student Presenters: Portia Anderson, Bilu Chen, Luis Garay, Ali Messina, and John Pontikis.**

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

***Providing support to those students involved in the debate were fellow class members Mimi Hernandez, Haley Leboulanger, Samantha Spitzcock, and Kara Williams.***

## **1:30 p.m. Apparel Design and Merchandising & Brennan School of Business Papers**

### **Kvitoslava Modrytska**

*European Economic Crisis: Fairness of Austerity Measures toward Greece's General Public*

Sponsored by Kathleen O'Dell, Brennan School of Business, Economics

Will current austerity measures solve Greece's government spending dilemma? Is it ethical for the European Union to demand austerity in Greece in exchange for debt support? More budget cuts and tax increases could be counterproductive, weakening the economy, even causing tax revenues to fall and spending on unemployment benefits and other social programs to rise. This paper explores the ethical dimensions of the European Union's response to Greece's debt crisis.

**Rosa Rocha**

*An Exploratory Study of Two Surface Design Techniques*

Sponsored by Susan Strawn, Apparel Design and Merchandising

As part of an independent research project, I closely explored two particular surface design techniques: felting and devorè. Felting is the process in which wool fibers are matted together under conditions of heat, moisture and agitation. Devorè, on the other hand, is a type of “burnout” process that destroys one fiber—usually cellulosic—but leaves another fiber intact; the resulting fabric has designs created by contrasting areas of transparency and opacity. My oral presentation describes results of my study, which consisted of reviewing sources and materials, experimenting with both techniques to gain a better understanding of felting and devorè as media, and exploring ways to implement the techniques into my apparel design work.

**2:30 p.m     Sociology Papers****Emmanuel Izaguirre**

*Founded in America: Built in China*

Sponsored by Janice Monti, Sociology

This project focuses on the Apple Corporation to help us understand the debates about outsourcing. Apple, long considered one of the more socially responsible corporations, has recently decided to outsource all of its manufacturing. This project will analyze Apple’s decision and will frame it in the overall debate about the costs and benefits of outsourcing. Apple, once on the verge of declaring bankruptcy, is now considered one of the most valuable and globally recognized companies in the world. Would Apple have been as successful in this global marketplace if it had continued to manufacture its products domestically or was outsourcing the key to their overall success?

**Samantha Satterthwaite**

*Battered Women Syndrome*

Sponsored by Michelle VanNatta, Sociology

When women kill their abusers after experiencing repeated physical, psychological, and sexual violence, they should be allowed to appeal for lesser sentencing and parole even if the killing was not technically in self-defense. In this paper, I explore existing social science research examining battered women’s cases and analyzing the effects domestic violence on women. Contemporary criminal legal system responses to violence are inadequate in protecting women, and many women do not have the economic means to escape their batterers, since shelter space is frequently unavailable and the cost of housing is high. Eight women a day are killed by their spouses in the United States (Susan Milano, 2010). In this paper I argue for change on behalf of women who are abused by their spouses and experience Battered Woman Syndrome (BWS). Throughout this paper, I further explore cases of women who are abused by their husbands and develop BWS, showing the negative impact domestic violence has on women’s lives.

**Springer Suites, 002/003 Rebecca Crown Library (Oral Presentations)****9:30-10:30 a.m.   International Relations and Diplomacy Senior Capstones**

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.

**Portia Anderson**

*Cuba and the United States: Hope for Diplomatic Engagement in the Future*

Sponsored by David Dolence, Political Science

Relations between Cuba and the United States diminished shortly after the Cuban Revolution of 1959. Fifty years since the implementation of the economic embargo against Cuba, the United States has ceased its formal diplomatic relations with Cuba; and instead has maintained a relationship marked by hostility and tension. Has there ever been a time when these two countries got along and were civil with one another? The answer to that question is yes. Every President from Dwight D. Eisenhower to Bill Clinton had held negotiations with Cuba, but former President George W. Bush curtailed almost all interaction with the neighboring country. President Obama has made strides towards progress in regards to diplomatic relations with Cuba, and has shown that it is possible to engage with Cuba. This presentation will explore the relationship between Cuba and the United States and will bring forth practices for positive diplomatic engagement in the future.

**Mohamed Rahmouni**

*Playing with Hormuz: Iran's Use of the Vital and Deadly Strait*

Sponsored by David Dolence, Political Science

Hormuz is one of the most important passages in the world. A little more than 30% of the world's oil passes through it. I will focus my research on its importance for all the countries located along its shores. Iran and the role it plays are extremely important. What may happen if Iran decides to act and close the straight? Who are the critical actors in this drama? How do these straights and Iran's actions influence the security of the region and the world as a whole? The prospects of war will also be discussed.

**10:30-11:30 a.m. International Relations and Diplomacy Senior Capstones****Sarah Aniolowski**

*The Role of Nationalism in Yugoslavia*

Sponsored by David Dolence, Political Science

Yugoslavia was the perfect example of a multi-ethnic empire, and it lasted for the majority of the 20th century. It all came crashing down in the 1990's when ethnic tensions were at their peak and politicians used this to heighten nationalism among their people in order to secure a basis for forming their own nation. This paper will explore the role of nationalism in the breakup of Yugoslavia. It will look at examples of different breakaway countries and how their nationalism led to the eventual creation of a nation-state. Each process was different, some transitions went more smoothly than others, but one characteristic of them all was the influence of nationalism.

**Israel Gallegos**

*Human Trafficking: A View of Modern Day Slavery and an Economic Boom*

Sponsored by Christopher Colmo, Political Science

Each year there is over 2.5 million individuals that become victims of human trafficking; this is roughly the population of Utah and of Brooklyn. This project analyzes the acts of recruiting, transporting, transferring, and harboring individuals for the sole purpose of exploitation. It also focuses on the different types of human trafficking that exist; sexual exploitation, forced labor and the trafficking of organs. Not only does this project analyze the acts of human trafficking and the types of trafficking but it also demonstrates the role human trafficking plays in a global economy. Furthermore, it portrays what

different organizations are doing to prevent and put an end to this modern day slavery: But can there be an end to human trafficking?

### **Serek Hahn**

*Echoes from the Past: Athens, The Third Reich, and Realism*

Sponsored by Enze Han, Political Science

This project's goal is to discuss how what would come to be known as realism was seen in the classical world during the Peloponnesian War and in early modernity through the actions of the Third Reich immediately leading up to and during World War Two. Special attention will be paid to the comparisons between the two situations as well as to how both cases in question relate to the viability of realism as a theory in our current world. Questions will be raised, including: "what can a modern observer learn about realism based on the aforementioned examples?" and "both Athens and the Third Reich were ultimately defeated – did employing an early form of what is recognizable as realism contribute to these defeats, and what lessons can be learned today if that is the case?"

### **114 Parmer Hall (Oral Presentations)**

#### **12:30-1:30 p.m. Let's Play Some Computer Games!**

*Students in the Game Development class developed a series of games to be played on the Xbox, PCs and Windows Phones. The students on the panel will talk about some of the games they developed. This audience will then be invited to play the games the students developed.*

**Student Presenters: Edwin Anzures, Gerard Cafaro, Vince Forgione, Kevin Horvath, David Koller, Edward Krause, Alex Lentz, Elizabeth Pattermann**

Faculty Moderator: Cyrus Grant, Computer Science

### **107 Parmer Hall (Oral Presentations)**

#### **8:30 a.m. Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations**

*All Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations presented today in Parmer 107 are moderated and sponsored by Kathleen Prunty, Communication Arts & Sciences, unless otherwise noted.*

### **Luis Garay**

*First-Generation College Students: Characteristics, Struggles and Effective Communication*

What is a first-generation college student? Most commonly, first-generation students are defined as being the first in their family to attend a higher education institution (i.e. university, college, etc.) and because of this this, they bring an interesting perspective to the higher-education experience. But, there are some differences in which institutions communicate to first-generation students and non-first generation students. How can higher education institutions best communicate to first-generation college students? This presentation will answer this question by identifying characteristics, addressing the struggles in the transition from high school to higher education institutions, and offering suggestions on how institutions can best help first-generation college students through effective communication.

### **Katie Garner**

*Female Genital Mutilation: Whose Right Is It?*

More than three million girls are at risk of experiencing genital mutilation every year. Female genital mutilation (FGM), as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1997, refers to the cultural, religious, or non-therapeutic practice of removing or injuring the external female genitalia, either partially or totally. The severity of FGM varies greatly, the most severe form occurring when all external genitalia are removed and the vaginal opening is stitched nearly closed, leaving only a small opening for urine and menstrual blood. FGM, therefore, not only violates the human rights of women to control their full sexuality and to stay free from bodily harm but also inflicts numerous devastating and lifelong health problems on women. This research reveals detailed information about FGM, including its origins, the four types, cultural assumptions that surround it, the human rights the practice violates, and the numerous physical and psychological health problems it creates, all of which question the ethics of this surviving practice.

### **Alfredo Herrera**

*Communications As It Relates to Effective Message Sending Through Different Types Of Media*

A lot of people don't have time to be up to date on their news and know what is going on in today's society. Listening to the radio helps people get their news on the run and something as simple as a car ride home. Broadcasting and radio can be a big way of communicating today and I thought it was cool to do a study on how people rely or listen up for things in this type of media. It's definitely taken for granted and underrated but can be a vital resource we can put to use for our benefit.

### **9:30 a.m. Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations**

#### **Charles Honeywood**

*Hollywood Success in Today's America*

To give a brief summary, my project will focus on the success of today's biggest stars and how they communicate with one another as well as with the public today. I will also attempt to answer the question of what drives them to do what they do. How they got to the point of stardom that they are currently at, why they pick some of the roles that they agree to, and if they could communicate another way how would they? Within this presentation, I plan to conduct a survey, or interview a potential movie actor or actress with huge amounts of exposure to the big screen as well as the public eye.

#### **Amy Hughes**

*Effective but Intrusive? Analyzing the Effectiveness of Mobile Marketing and Its Impact on Society*

Due to the innovations and improved technology of mobile phones and other mobile devices, more people are able to easily access information and communicate at any time or location. Mobile phones and devices allow us to access the Internet, play mobile games, send and receive emails, and visit our favorite social networking sites all in the palm of our hands. For marketers, the increasing popularity of mobile phones presents an abundance of opportunities. This presentation will identify the types of mobile marketing and analyze their effectiveness. It will also explore the impact this relatively new type of marketing has on society.

#### **Valerie Kelleher**

*Gender Roles on Television: Fan versus Expert*

Sponsored by CarrieLynn Reinhard, Communication Arts & Sciences

For this project, I will examine gender roles on television and how fans react to gender roles in their favorite shows via online message boards. I will also examine how experts on gender studies and media

studies think that gender roles have changed on television, especially over the last twenty years. My goal is to understand and analyze the similarities and differences between how an expert or researcher sees gender roles and how a fan, who is passionate about a particular show, views gender roles. I will be examining the reversal of roles between men and women and examining the idea that while we may think gender roles have completely changed, this is not always the case.

## **10:30 a.m. Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations**

### **Jennifer Kesseg**

*Training for a Marathon: Self-Talk for Runners*

Training for a marathon is a very gradual process. Building your body up to the potential of running 26.2 miles takes several months of training. This training reflects on a healthy balanced diet among other physical activity strategies. The nutritional aspect of this is to keep the body well-nourished to remain strong and prevent injuries. Each and every ounce of food that enters the body determines a runner's stamina and performance level. The right amount of nutrients and training is the utmost important factor when running a marathon.

### **Amanda Klopp**

*The Chosen One: The New Generation of Female Heroes*

My project is a look at the hit television series, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. This research will cover Dr. David McClelland's motivational needs theory and how the main character experiences these three needs at different stages throughout the show. Most importantly, I will point out that the series has revolutionized television by being one of the first to portray a modern, strong female heroine to whom both men and women can relate.

### **Jennifer Left**

*Controversial Art: Is it Offensive?*

Controversial art comes from media forms such as photography, painting, drawing and graphics. The art genre itself can range from any given type such as religious art, political art or erotic art. Art is meant to be a portal of self-expression and subjective opinion. However, pieces of art from all different mediums are deemed inappropriate because of the way the artist depicted it. In many instances "inappropriate art" has been removed from gallery settings because some people are insulted by it. Is this right? Should artists have to censor their work because the work is not well received? My research investigates art controversy and censorship as it pertains to the artist's intent.

## **11:30 a.m. Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations**

### **Walid Mohammad**

*Texting and How It's Shaping Communication Today*

The project will give background information for how texting became so popular. It will look at current research being done examining how texting is affecting communication in today's society. Also, data will be collected through surveys in order to see how texting impacts the lives of Dominican University students.

### **Lauren Orlando**

*Teen Mom Television Shows... Positive or Negative Influence?*

The purpose of the research is to examine the influence of all the teen mom and teen pregnancy shows that are aired on television. The research should determine whether more people see these shows as positive influences or negative influences. The interviews conducted in this research will be girls that have been teen moms and girls that are currently in high school to see if they are/were influenced by these shows and how. The primary investigator has been beginning to see more and more young mothers right around the time these shows started popping up so this has been my inspiration of my topic. Through personal relationships the primary investigator believes that this research will provide data that supports the hypothesis. The hypothesis is that the teen mom and teen pregnancy shows on television influence both positively and negatively. I can see these shows projecting a positive influence because they truly depict how hard it is to be a teen that is pregnant and being a teen mother. The negative influence can come about because the girls that are on these shows get paid and get their name in the spot light just for getting pregnant at a young age.

### **Tina Paliferro**

*Dementia: Are We Closer to a Cure?*

Ever since my grandmother was diagnosed with Dementia about 2 years ago, I have been very concerned and interested in her health. Although I have found out that this condition is not reversible in any way, it's been said that with the right living conditions and medication, the progression of this illness may be able to go a bit slower. I want to research and gain a better understanding about Dementia: what it exactly is, what triggers this awful illness in the first place, how and why it happens, will a cure ever be discovered for this illness, are there specific foods or strategies doctors recommend to help it, and what can people do to help others, especially the elderly, make this process easier.

### **12:30 p.m. Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations**

#### **Nancy Paredes**

*Postsecondary Education for Undocumented Students*

Postsecondary education is what we as Americans come to see as an important part of life. It is the door which we all want to go through to the other side where success lays. For a natural-born citizen this dream is possible, as there is financial assistance for those families who can't afford college. When we consider those students who aren't from the United States we come to see that they are unable to attend college because of the financial burden it will bring to their lives. Postsecondary education for undocumented students is a topic which has drawn various controversies and debates. To what extent should we allow undocumented students to attend a college or university? This paper argues that undocumented students should be allowed to attend a university or college of their choice as well as receive financial funding as it will only better the community.

#### **Jeremy Porter**

*Abstinence Only School Education: Effective or Not?*

The project that I plan on presenting is entitled "Abstinence only, Effective or Not?" Throughout the research you will see how effective or not, abstinence only programs are in school systems. My research will mainly focus on Chicago and surrounding suburbs public high schools. There will be a comparison to the highly sexually active neighborhoods and less sexually active neighborhoods. I will also outline the many contributing factors based on the neighborhood demographics on reasons why the neighborhood could be more sexually active than the others. The ultimate goal of my research is to show regardless of the contributing factors that many cause highly sexual activity in certain neighborhoods, are the school

systems doing their part in giving students a comprehensive sex education rather than just an abstinence only education.

### **Robert Ranallo**

*Weight Loss: Diet, Exercise or Lifestyle Change?*

An examination of different weight loss techniques and the benefits and handicaps associated with each focusing on health as well as long and short-term results. My personal weight loss experience will be presented as well as information from outside sources.

## **1:30 p.m. Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations**

### **Nancy Reyes**

*The Correlation Between Gender Roles, Sexual Orientation, and Artifactual Communication*

I will examine the correlation between gender roles and sexual orientation as being socially constructed and then examine how they are interpreted through artifactual communication in the western world.

### **Jessica Rosales**

*Eating Disorders in Female Athletes*

What I am focusing on for this project is how the lifestyle of a competitive female athlete can become so out of control that they turn to an eating disorder. I will be focusing on girls of all ages ranging from high school to college to professional. What I am looking to portray throughout this project is showing the lifestyle that a competitive female athlete has. I will also be revealing why these girls turn to an eating disorder and how they cope with it. The interviews I intend to conduct will be with female athletes who have suffered from an eating disorder and seeing if their athletic lifestyle is what contributed to it, doctors and therapists who provide services for these problems, and coaches. This project will be interesting because most people think that athletes have confidence and are so strong but this will show that they struggle like everyone else does.

### **Stamatia Soumbasis**

*"Sex-vertising": An Exploration of the Use of Sex in Advertising*

My research is aimed at understanding the use of sexism and sexual imagery in advertising. The expression, "sex sells," is widely accepted and embraced by many advertising agencies. The use of sex in ads is a constant dilemma in the media world and in the eye of the public. My research dealt with understanding why this advertising strategy is so commonly used, why are people against it, and most importantly, does sex really sell?

## **2:30 p.m. Communication Arts & Sciences Capstone Presentations**

### **Carissa Stewart**

*Intervention: The Fight to Stop Human Trafficking*

Two million children are forced into the sex industry each year. Demanding our attention is the third largest and fastest growing criminal enterprise of the world. International Justice Mission is at the forefront of this battle against human trafficking. Their efforts have been to rescue and care for victims of oppression, ensure consequences for abusive crimes, and to prevent future brutality. We may not realize it, but human trafficking is happening under our very noses as well. An estimated 14,500 to

17,500 people a year are trafficked in the United States. Let us, who have freedom, fight for those who don't.

### **Kara Williams**

*Attitudes on Sex and Sexuality in Young Adult Novels*

As the category of Young Adult Novels has been created, there have been many changes to the content of children's books. Topics such as sex and sexuality began to enter the mainstream and strike controversy within the reading community. This paper and presentation will explore the creation of the Young Adult 'genre,' as well as the progression of controversy within the topics presented in Young Adult novels. Attitudes on sex and sexuality will be explored and explained, from the creation of the genre to contemporary time, as well as how gender roles have played a role in the interpretation of these attitudes. Case studies of particular young adult novels will be utilized as part of this exploration.

## **Parmer Atrium- Joint Reception URSCI Expo and the Global Learning Symposium**

**3:30 P.M.      Announcement of 2012 URSCI Undergraduate Summer Scholarship Program (USSP) Awards: RCAS Dean Jeffrey Carlson and Professor Daniel Beach, Psychology Department**

**3:45 P.M.      Welcome to the Global Learning Symposium: Provost Cheryl Johnson-Odim**

## **Poster Presentations in Parmer Atrium**

### **9:30 AM                      Psychology**

**Joanne Agsalud, Mercedes Apoule, Maria Najera and Kelly Petty**

*Understanding Civic Engagement, Sense of Community and Family Values*

Sponsored by Tina Taylor-Ritzler, Psychology

The purpose of this study is to identify predictors of civic engagement, specifically investigating the relationship of civic engagement with sense of community and family values. Participants, 70 Dominican University students ranging from 18 to 23 years of age, completed an online survey assessing their level of civic engagement, sense of community, and family values. Results showed that higher levels of an individual's involvement in his or her neighborhood, shared emotional connection with the neighbors, having an influence on the community, and having family values that emphasized compassion and social responsibility are associated with higher levels of civic engagement. Findings suggest that sense of community and family values predict civic engagement.

**Kevin Amarantos, Monica Cano and Brianna Martin**

*Procrastination Factors: Self-handicapping and Stress*

Sponsored by Rebecca Pliske, Psychology

The aim of our study was to determine whether procrastination was correlated with self handicapping and stress. We created our own assessment of self-handicapping (Dominican University Self Handicapping Scale) that was used along with Strube's (1986) Self Handicapping Scale. The PASS (Beck, Koons, & Milgrim) was used to measure Procrastination and the Role Overload Scale (Thiagarajan, Chakrabarty, & Taylor, 2006) to measure stress. There were 92 male and female undergraduate

students who completed our survey. Our results indicate both self-handicapping and stress are correlated with procrastination.

**Marisol Arreola, Karla Bayas, Yuritzi Chavez and Mary Catherine Shamoon**

*Extraversion, Gender and Family Values Predicting Civic Engagement*

Sponsored by Tina Taylor-Ritzler, Psychology

This researcher sought to determine whether family humanitarian-egalitarian values and extroversion predicted civic engagement. The other aim was to determine if active civic engagement could be predicted with extroversion. Another aim the researcher had was to determine if there was convergent validity with the newly created DU Family Values scale and the Katz and Hass (1988) Humanitarian-Egalitarian scale. The participants in this study were 76 Dominican University students that varied in age, gender and majors. Each participant completed a Civic Engagement Survey which consisted of adapted versions of the Big Five Personality scale (John, Naumann, & Soto, 2008), Katz and Hass' (1988) Humanitarianism-Egalitarianism scale, DU Family Scale and Bobek et al.'s (2009), an open ended question and a brief demographics section. The results of this study showed positive correlations between family values and civic engagement and extroversion. The results did not show any significant relationships between active civic engagement and extroversion.

**Jennifer Bailey and Benjamin Sostrin**

*The Effect of Priming on Environmentalism*

Sponsored by Tracy Caldwell, Psychology

The triangular recycling symbol may be identified as one of the most prominent symbols used in messages which wish to promote a 'greener' Earth. However, does seeing this symbol really have an effect on people's attitudes about recycling? In this study, we varied the amount of eco-friendly symbols the participants were shown and then assessed their attitudes using the Attitudes Towards Recycling scale. The study was divided into three groups: the control group, which received plain white drawing paper, the simple prime group which received the drawing paper with a watermark, and the extreme prime group, which received the paper with a watermark and were also surrounded by several eco-friendly posters.

**Chelsea Baker, Mallory Lawler and Giannoula Prokopia**

*A Timely Approach to Procrastination: A Study of Self-Handicapping, Time Management and Academic Procrastination*

Sponsored by Rebecca Pliske, Psychology

The goal of the current study was to explore the correlational relationships between self-handicapping, time-management and academic procrastination. An original self-handicapping scale, the Dominican Self-Handicapping Scale as well as Strube's (2007) Self-Handicapping Scale were utilized to assess students' tendency to self-handicap. The Procrastination Assessment Scale-Students (Beck, Koons & Milgrim, 2000) was used to measure college students' tendencies to academically procrastinate. Finally, the Time-Management Questionnaire (Britton & Tesser, 1991) was used to assess students' time management abilities. Participants were male and female undergraduate students in psychology courses. A correlational analysis was conducted to determine the relationship between procrastination and self-handicapping as well as the relationship between procrastination and time-management. Overall, this study found reliable, yet moderate results between time-management, self-handicapping and procrastination. Limitations of the research and implications of future possible regression analyses are discussed.

**Richard Boyte and Monika Magierska**

*Motivation Links with Procrastination in Academics*

Sponsored by Rebecca Pliske, Psychology

In this study we examined motivation as a predictor of academic procrastination and developed a new measure of self-handicapping. We surveyed 92 undergraduate students using the Academic Motivation Scale and found the Intrinsic Motivation subscale to be the most predictive of academic procrastination. Students with high intrinsic academic motivation were less likely to procrastinate. The new self-handicapping measure demonstrated convergent validity with Stube's (1986) Self-Handicapping Scale.

**Ashley Burkhart and Emmajane Thompson**

*Self-Esteem, Body Image, and Our Quest to Fit in*

Sponsored by Tracy Caldwell, Psychology

The purpose of the current study was to see how one of three modified images impacted participants' body image and self esteem. The participants were primed using a modified photograph of a skinny, normal, or curvy model. The Rosenberg Self-Esteem scale (Rosenberg, 1965), the Body Shape Questionnaire (BSQ-16A; Evans & Dolan, 1993), and a generated attractiveness scale were used to determine changes in self-esteem and personal body image after viewing the conditioned photograph. The participants, 16 female and 5 male, were tested using The Rosenberg Self-Esteem scale (Rosenberg, 1965), the Body Shape Questionnaire (BSQ-16A; Evans & Dolan, 1993), and a generated attractiveness scale. Overall, the current study did not demonstrate a significant relationship between primed pictures and participants' self esteem and body image. Due to poor manipulation strength, further research is needed to detect an interaction between the primed images and self-esteem or body image.

**Rocelle Hernandez and Arielle Ybarra**

*Career Exploration and Study Skills*

Sponsored by Tina Taylor-Ritzler, Psychology

The goal for this experiment was to examine the effects of source credibility on career exploration and a study skills course in college students (N=30). Mock letters of study skills courses were chosen to test the model for a topic relevant to counseling. The letter had high credibility and low credibility, along with high and low levels of involvement. A newly developed scale was used to determine the student's behavior score and an existing measure was used to determine student's attitude score. The participants were undergraduate volunteers, thirteen men and seventeen women, in which were given the surveys and asked to fill them out. Based on previous research, we expected to find that better levels credibility would enhance student's response to arguments to support pro additional recommendation in the institution of career exploration and study skills course. Having positive study skills can establish a better outlook for career exploration. Overall, people who were given higher credibility had low attitude and behavioral scores and people that were given low credibility had high attitude and behavioral scores.

**Enrique Jimenez and Malgorzata Rozko**

*Does Perfectionism Predict Procrastination & Self-Handicapping?*

Sponsored by Rebecca Pliske, Psychology

The purpose of this study was to explore relationships between academic procrastination, self-handicapping, and perfectionism. A sample of 110 male and female undergraduate students from a small private liberal arts school completed the Self-Handicapping Scale (SHS), Dominican University Self-Handicapping Scale (DUSHS), Procrastination Assessment Scale-Students (PASS), and Frost

Multidimensional Perfectionism Scale (FMPS). Correlational analyses showed a positive correlation between procrastination and self-handicapping, and between procrastination and the two self-handicapping scales (DUSHS and SHS). There was also a positive correlation between one dimension of perfectionism and the DUSHS. There was not a statistically significant relationship between perfectionism and procrastination.

### **Nicole Potoski and Samantha Simmons**

*The Effects of the Unconscious on Cognitive Tasks*

Sponsored by Tracy Caldwell, Psychology

The goal of this study is to see if our moods unconsciously affect the way we react to the world. We recruited 20 undergraduate psychology students and assigned ten of them to watch a negative film clip, *The Champ*, and the other ten to watch a neutral film clip, a two minute clip of shapes and colors. Immediately after the clips, we gave each group the same word search and instructed them to find as many words as they possibly could in two minutes. Our results did in fact support our hypothesis that negative emotions can bias our attention; those put in a negative mood found more negative words, on average.

### **Danielle Rodriguez**

*The Effects of Priming Color*

Sponsored by Tracy Caldwell, Psychology

Students come to associate success and failure with the letters A and F. Could the mere presence of these letters, outside of the context of evaluation therefore influence their motivation on a task? Participants will be given a vocabulary test but will be first randomly assigned to conditions in which the test bears the code A or F. I hypothesize that those given the vocabulary test with the letter F will outperform those given the A because the F may prime them to believe they have nothing to lose whereas the A may prime them to believe they have only to lose. I will also manipulate the color of the letters to see if a red vs. black pen would intensify this effect.

## **10:30 AM**

## **Chemistry**

### **Cassandra Baez**

*A Study of the Calcium Content in Powdered Infant Formulas*

Sponsored by Kathleen Schmidt-Nebril, Chemistry

Calcium is one of the most abundant minerals in the body and is required in specific concentrations to support a strong skeletal system. Maintaining a correct calcium level for infants is especially crucial because it plays a significant role in proper bone growth and development. Utilizing a traditional analytical titration method the calcium content in two different varieties of powdered infant formula was measured. A comparative analysis of the experimental and reported calcium values in Parent's Choice and Nido brands were compiled for evaluation.

### **Ann Bartek**

*Pharmaceutical Application of Restasis (cyclosporine ophthalmic emulsion) 0.05%*

Sponsored by Daniela Andrei, Chemistry

Restasis (cyclosporine ophthalmic emulsion) 0.05% is a new FDA approved prescription eye drop used to increase tear production in patients with chronic dry eye, also known as keratoconjunctivitis sicca. It works by decreasing ocular inflammation associated with this condition to help increase the eyes'

natural ability to produce more tears. This drug belongs to the class of medications called immunomodulators which alters the immune response by suppressing the growth and effectiveness of T cells, reducing inflammation. This poster will describe the pharmaceutical application of Restasis, including its chemical structure, synthesis, biological function in the eye, dosage, and side effects.

### **Ashley Burkart**

*Sodium Cocoate: An Organic Analysis of a Critical Ingredient in Soap*

Sponsored by Daniela Andrei, Chemistry

Reading the labels on your favorite skin and body soap can be a startling encounter. Scanning the endless list of unpronounceable chemical names listed in the ingredients section may lead you to be highly concerned about what you're putting on your skin. One example is the critical ingredient, sodium cocoate. Even though this compound is found in many types of skin cleansers, few people know what it actually is and how it helps cleanse your skin. The current analysis introduces sodium cocoate in more depth than what consumers find on the ingredients label. The current analysis will explain what the compound is, how it is synthesized, and what the chemical actually does to your skin. It will conclude by explaining the numerous benefits of sodium cocoate to both people and the environment. In addition to analyzing a critical component of soap, the current analysis will educate students on how organic chemistry gives a deeper insight into the chemical reactions that produce everyday necessities.

### **Jonathan Cabai, John Pontikis and Theodore Weyna**

*Characterization of Diazeniumdiolates by Infrared (IR) Technique*

Sponsored by Daniela Andrei, Chemistry

Diazeniumdiolate ions, also known as NONOates, are extensively used in biochemical, physiological and pharmacological studies due to their ability to slowly release nitric oxide (NO.) and nitroxyl (HNO). In the search of new, organic-based compounds that release HNO, we are interested on the synthesis and evaluation of novel diazeniumdiolates using a variety of primary amines. This poster will describe the characterization of several new diazeniumdiolates compounds using the infrared (IR) spectroscopy technique.

### **Jason Carter**

*A Plastic World Can Be Harmful?*

Sponsored by Daniela Andrei, Chemistry

Plastic has around since the 18th century when it was discovered by Alexander Parkes. Plastic has been made into all sorts of shapes and sizes; from key chains to cars, and from televisions to cell phones. This product defines who we are not only because it is all around us, but it seems as if we live in this "Plastic World." Over time plastic will decay causing our water resources to be polluted and wild life to be infected, since they drink from these watering holes. If we do not do something life as we know will soon begin to die. Plastic does not just affect animals, but our bodies too. We sit, sleep and breathe plastic. Harmful chemicals, such as BPA (Bisphenol A) or its chemical formula  $(CH_3)_2C(C_6H_4OH)_2$  can lead a person to infertility as well as give them cancer. This chemical can be absorbed through our skin, digested through the mouth and can be inhaled through our nose. This poster presentation will describe the effects of BPA on our life.

### **Jacqueline Gutierrez and Abigail Smith**

*Death by Chocolate: Effect of Theobromine on Canines*

Sponsored by Daniela Andrei, Chemistry

Chocolate may provide physiological and psychological benefits for humans; however, this is quite the contrary for canines. According to the American Pet Products Association 2011-2012 Nation Pet Owners Survey, there are approximately 78.2 million owned dogs in the United States. A largely cited mistake dog owners can make, is treating their beloved pet as a human. In reality, the domestic dog is a member of the Canidae family, order Carnivora. Dogs differ from humans from biology to behavior. The focus of this research will target the consumption of chocolate by dogs. The average American consumes approximately 11.7 pounds of chocolate each year. How much is safe for dogs to consume per year? 0 pounds. This research project will explain how chocolate binds to the blood and, in turn, affects the animal. In addition, the use of activated charcoal as treatment for chocolate poisoning and how it binds to theobromine will be investigated. The results will provide a platform for education and awareness of chocolate toxicity to dogs.

### **Seema Kamath**

*Sedation Practice in Dentistry*

Sponsored by Daniela Andrei, Chemistry

Although oral hygiene is an important aspect of one's overall health, if one isn't experiencing excruciating dental pain, a visit to the dentist is a rare occurrence. Seeing the dentist rarely can bring up a myriad of issues and many times, dentists are faced with alleviating these issues, such as fear of the dental materials, before even treating the patient's ailment. This can become a barrier to proper dental care for the patient, especially for certain patient demographics. In low income communities, a dentist who sees a patient through a public service has only one chance to treat as many of the patient's needs as possible. Sedation practice allows dentists to treat a variety of patient types in an efficient and effective way. Through this presentation, the methods of sedation, new research in sedation practice, advantages/disadvantages, when sedation is most effective, and the populations sedation practice can best serve will be explored.

### **11:30 AM**

### **Biology**

**Chineola Agwuncha, Kathleen Byrdak, Alma Cato and Deanna Leon**

*Transcriptional Control of Matrilin in an Aplysia Sensitization Model*

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman, Biology

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. Alternatively, 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 500  $\mu$ M serotonin for 2 hours and abdominal 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.

### **Krzysztof Bielak**

*Transcriptional Control of eIF3e in an Aplysia Sensitization Model*

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman, Biology

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**Caterina Giglio, Anna Majka and David Szczepaniak**

*Transcriptional Control of BAT1 homolog in an Aplysia Sensitization Model*

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman, Biology

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 homolog 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. Alternatively, 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 500  $\mu$ M serotonin for 2 hours and abdominal 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 homolog mRNA levels. Results are expected to shed light on the transcriptional changes that alter sensory neuron physiology during long-term sensitization.

**Jessica Guerrier, Anna Kopacz and Elizabeth Yakey**

*Transcriptional Control of CREB in an Aplysia Sensitization Model*

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman, Biology

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. Sensitization can be induced via trains of electrical shocks applied to the body wall of the

animal. Alternatively, 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 500 uM serotonin for 2 hours and abdominal 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 CREB mRNA levels. Results are expected to shed light on the transcriptional changes that alter sensory neuron physiology during long-term sensitization.

### **Melissa Larson and Aileen Zimmerman**

*Sequencing and Identification of Parsley GAPDH Gene*

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman, Biology

The purpose of this experiment was to isolate, clone, and sequence gDNA from a sample of parsley to compare with known sequences from different plant species. Cloning is used to create a multitude of exact copies from a portion of DNA, known as a gene, to allow further study by isolation of a selected portion of DNA encoding the gene of interest. Genomic DNA (gDNA) of *Petroselinum crispum* (parsley) was properly isolated, replicated for PCR amplification, and purified prior to sequencing. GAPDH gene was the gene of interest for PCR amplification. After DNA replication, primers were removed by Exonuclease I. Purification of gDNA was completed and inserted into a plasmid using blunt end ligation. Plasmids were multiplied in competent *E. coli* bacterial cells on an LB/AMP agar plate. A mini-prep was then conducted to isolate plasmid DNA which then underwent a restriction digest to properly identify cloned DNA, followed by DNA sequencing. Clustalw analysis showed an 82% alignment score between the cloned gDNA and the sequenced *Petroselinum crispum* located in the NCBI database.

### **William Heard, Melissa Larson, Michelle Linke and Josceline Rodriguez**

*Transcriptional Control of Antistasin in an Aplysia Sensitization Model*

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman, Biology

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. Sensitization can be induced via trains of electrical shocks applied to the body wall of the animal. Alternatively, 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 500 uM serotonin for 2 hours and abdominal 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 Antistasin mRNA levels. Results are expected to shed light on the transcriptional changes that alter sensory neuron physiology during long-term sensitization.

### **Lorien Menhennett**

*Antibiotic Resistance of E. coli to Rifampicin and the Mutagenic Effects of Caffeine*

Sponsored by Scott Kreher, Biology

Studying antibiotic resistance has relevance to medicine and presents the opportunity to observe genetic mutation, which is the raw material for evolution. *E. coli* can develop resistance to the antibiotic

rifampicin through mutation of the gene *rpoB*, which encodes for a subunit of its RNA polymerase. I used a suspected mutagen, caffeine, to determine whether this would increase the resistance rate of the bacteria to rifampicin by elevating the mutation rate. I measured *E. coli*'s ability to develop antibiotic resistance by growing the bacteria on plates containing rifampicin, carbenicillin, and caffeine, as well as control plates containing only carbenicillin. Contrary to my hypothesis, the caffeine dramatically reduced the number of both surviving control and rifampicin-resistant colonies, especially at the higher caffeine concentration tested. This indicates a possible interaction between caffeine and the gene encoding for *E. coli*'s carbenicillin resistance, or that caffeine may act as an antimicrobial agent.

### **Jamie Mussen, Garrett Peacy and Nicole Shouse**

*Transcriptional Control of Syntaxin in an Aplysia Sensitization Model*

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman, Biology

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 syntaxin 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. Alternatively, 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 500  $\mu$ M serotonin for 2 hours and abdominal 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 syntaxin mRNA levels. Results are expected to shed light on the transcriptional changes that alter sensory neuron physiology during long-term sensitization.

### **Xochitl Vinaja**

*Cloning and Characterization of the GAPDH gene from Mentha sp.*

Sponsored by Irina Calin-Jageman, Biology

To study genes, researchers use cloning to make multiple copies of the nucleotide sequences that they want to examine. DNA sequences are collected by databases like GenBank and other INSDC members to maintain gene sequences for research. These databases allow genes to be compared between organisms, especially well conserved genes like GAPDH - a housekeeping gene necessary for glycolysis, which is well documented in GenBank. In this study gDNA from mint leaves (*Mentha* sp.) was isolated, amplified using nested PCR, and ligated into pJET plasmids to form recombinant DNA. Plasmid vectors were transformed into *e. coli*, cultured, and cloned. Data was evaluated using agarose gel electrophoresis, DNA sequencing, and bioinformatic analysis to identify GAPDH gDNA. Subsequent testing that confirms these results may help to characterize the *Mentha* sp. genome and yield new sequence data for GenBank, which will then be available for continued genetic research.

## **12:30 PM**

### **Apparel Design & Merchandising**

**Laura Lanzerotte**

### *International Studies: The Art of French Couture*

Sponsored by Tracy Jennings, Apparel Design & Merchandising

My objective in the Paris study abroad program was to learn construction techniques used by French designers. This course consisted of an in depth study of Mme. Gres pleating, shibori dyeing techniques, millinery and feather work. Studying abroad in Paris helped me define what kind of designer I want to become. The Mme. Gres pleating and shibori dyeing techniques have been extremely influential in my design aesthetic. These two techniques have inspired my growth designer. The art of hand dyeing has taught me to express myself in a more creative and unique way than before. Draping and completing a Mme. Gres inspired original design, taught me to step out of my comfort zone and enter the world of couture! The experiences and skills I have obtained have allowed me to translate the techniques learned into pieces in my senior collection.

### **Julia Shirey**

*Comparing Medieval Dress and Medieval Architecture*

Sponsored by Susan Strawn, Apparel Design & Merchandising

This project describes commonalities and influences between architecture and dress during the Late Middle Ages. Both architecture and dress held symbolic meaning in the dominant Christian culture and demonstrated the displays of wealth and power. Specific aspects of architecture that influenced dress included the soaring heights of buildings, especially churches and design elements such as columns. This influence manifested itself in elements such as long garments, tall headdresses, and lengthy sleeves. Dress had an influence on architecture because the common colors of textiles were represented in textiles worn by figures in stained glass windows. Exploring relationships between dress and architecture tells us much about culture during the Middle Ages. Similarities between architecture and dress will be visualized through images on my poster.

### **Dominican University Senior Apparel Collections**

*Eleven examples are on display in the Parmer Atrium during this poster session*

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

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

Senior collections were displayed in live gallery runway exhibitions in the Lund Auditorium on March 31 and April 1. The seniors participating in the runway exhibition are listed below, along with the name of their collection. McKinley Johnson, Apparel Design and Merchandising, mentored all of the senior apparel designers.

Alena Cecchini

*Bliss*

Katie Kacic

*Come Away*

Laura Lanzerotte  
*the road not taken*

Amanda Lindley  
*Nouveau Debut*

Lauren Nelms  
*Rise & Fall*

Diana Otarola  
*Parisienne Elegance*

Francesca Overbeeke  
*Daydream*

Brittany Pallay  
*Once Upon an Antoinette Fairytale*

Rosa Rocha  
*Atonement*

Julie Shirey  
*Automation*

Marissa Surma  
*Banana Republic*

### **1:30 PM Focus on Art Slide Show**

## **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.

## **2012 Annual Awards**

Guest Juror: Cecilia Vargas. Ms Vargas has curated exhibitions in Los Caminos, MO as well as numerous venues in the Chicago, IL area

Best of Show: Joshua Johnson, *Introspection Series*

Painting Award: Yakelin Becerra, *Untitled (Self-Portrait)*  
Design Award: Amaris Marshall, *Latino Film Festival Poster-Roses*  
Color Photography Award: Jenny Engels, *Pod*  
Black/White Photography Award: Abberlyn Pick, *Untitled*  
Ceramic Award: Carly Connelly, *Rocks and Teeth (Homage to Georgia O'Keefe)*  
Sculpture Award: Christopher Swasko, *Untitled*  
Printmaking Award: Anna Skleba, *Bronchi (Series)*  
Dean's Purchase Award: Lauren Ricciardi, *Untitled*

*Selected by Jeffrey Carlson, Dean, Rosary College of Arts and Sciences*

Honorable Mentions: Kate Brown (*Untitled*), Eric Clarke (*Intake*), Julie Fenske (*Gravitomatic*), Evelyn Gamboa (*Untitled*), Izzy Heras (*Tail Goes By*), Adriel Lopez (*Untitled*), Douglas McGillivray (*King Yorkie*), Betzabel Mendez-Sanchez (*Find Your Peace*), Andrew Reyes-Burkholder (*Silent Shift*), Lauren Ricciardi (*Untitled*), Ashley Richardson (*The White City*), Liz Skokna (*Happiness Steps Up to Greet Me*), Erin VanBuskirk (*Abandoned Church*) and Greg Zook (*Untitled: Series*)

## **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](mailto: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, David Aron, Jeff Bell, Alyssa Braun, Carissa Buber, Irina Calin-Jageman, Jacqueline Elder, Robert Irons, Margaret Jonah, Louis Scannicchio, Kristen Schemmerhorn, Kathleen Schmidt-Nebril, Aliza Steurer, Marion Weedermann, Jill White and David Whiteis. We appreciate your generosity and support of our efforts to promote undergraduate research.

We thank 2011-2012 URSCI assistant Michael Wesolowski (who is indispensable and will be sorely missed when he graduates this year!), Pete Peterson, Information Technology, and Tina Weinheimer and Becky Lopez, Marketing & Communications, for their help in processing exposition applications and preparing the exposition program. Appreciation also goes to 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 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, committee members Alyssa Braun, Carissa Buber, Jeffrey Carlson, Ben Freville, Joe Heininger, Jeanette Olli, David Perry, Al Rosenbloom, and Richard Woods, and volunteers Marie Masterson and Ning Zou.

We would also like to recognize the members of the URSCI RCAS Committee who give so generously of their time to ensure the continued excellence of URSCI initiatives: Martha Jacob, URSCI Chair and faculty committee members David Aron, Tracy Caldwell, William George, Alexis Howe, Dennis Kirchen, Ellen McManus, Kathleen Mullaney, Mickey Sweeney, Marion Weedermann, Tama Weisman, Ning Zou and student members Paul Anderson and Megan Graves.

This year, Paul V. Simpson, executive director of the Academic Enrichment Center (AEC), sponsored a Research and Creativity Workshop Series to better prepare students to give an URSCI Expo presentation. We would like to thank Paul, Erica Rideaux, AEC office manager, and the faculty members who gave so generously of their time for coordinating and presenting these extremely beneficial workshops. Presentation topics were "Using PowerPoint to Support an Effective Presentation" by Jennifer Dunn (Communication Arts and Sciences); "A Crash Course in Design for Poster Presentations" by Bill Kerr and Jean Bevier (Graphic Design); and "Tips on Participating in a Panel Discussion" by Ric Calabrese (Communication Arts and Sciences).

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, Provost Cheryl Johnson-Odim and President Donna Carroll for their ongoing

generous support of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Investigations initiatives at Dominican University.

For more information, please see the URSCI page at

<http://www.dom.edu/departments/ursci/expo/>