

Welcome to the Thirteenth Annual MCLA Undergraduate Research Conference
Thursday, April 23, 2015

Schedule of Events

8:30 – 10:30 am

Welcome Remarks, Monica Joslin, Interim Vice-President of Academic Affairs
Poster Session (Venable Gym)

9:30 – 10:50 am

Special Session I-A: History, Influence and Intertextuality in Literary Studies (Murdock 218)
Paper Presentations I-B (Murdock 201)
Paper Presentations I-C (Murdock 322)
Paper Presentations I-D (Murdock 216)

11:00 am – 12:20 pm

Special Session II-A: Signifying Jazz: Representations in Literature, Film and Art (Murdock 218)
Paper Presentations II-B (Murdock 201)
Paper Presentations II-C (Murdock 301)
Paper Presentations II-D (Murdock 322)

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Welcome Remarks, Cynthia Brown, Interim President
Keynote Address and Luncheon (Campus Center Gym)
Presented by Dr. Alicia Girgenti, PhD '07

1:30 – 2:00 pm

Meet the Keynote Speaker (Sullivan Lounge)
FOR STUDENTS ONLY

2:00 - 3:20 pm

Special Session III-A: Artist Talks* (Murdock 301)
Paper Presentations III-B: (Murdock 216)
Paper Presentations III-C: (Murdock 213)

3:30 – 5:30 pm

Special Session IV-A: Philosophy Mini-Conference (Murdock 201)

*This special session will run until 4:00 pm.

Poster Session
Venable Gym, 8:30-10:30 am

Poster 1

Title: Model United Nations DISEC Committee

Authors: Jamie Burdick and Katherine Rowell

Faculty Advisor: Ben Taylor

Abstract: Founded in 1945, the United Nations (UN) was designed to promote peace and security for participating countries. Model United Nations conferences were established with the goal of providing an educational experience that would enhance student learning and understanding of the UN and the dynamics of international politics. Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the North American Model UN (NAMUN) conference was hosted by the University of Toronto in Ontario. This presentation shares what students serving on the conference's Disarmament and International Security Council (DISEC) committee learned from their NAMUN experience, and how they participated to work towards the goals of DISEC

Poster 2

Title: Hideta Kitazawa, the World's Last Noh Traditional Mask Maker

Author: Sarah Robinson

Faculty Advisor: Dawn Shamburger

Abstract: Through the art of making wooden masks by Master Woodcarver Hideta Kitazawa and the preservation of traditional techniques used in Japanese Noh theatre for thousands of years, we begin to understand the true beauty of theatre and the importance of history and tradition. I was given the rarest opportunity to spend my Spring break going to the industries' largest national conference for theatre technology to connect with and study Mr. Kitazawa's work. I will share what I've gained from this educational experience by presenting a poster that will demonstrate the importance, beauty, and knowledge of Noh theatre that Mr. Kitazawa displays through his work.

Poster 3

Title: Switzerland and SPECPOL within the UN

Author: Schuyler Nelson

Faculty Advisor: Ben Taylor

Abstract: The United Nations (UN) is the foremost organization for world political cooperation today. Founded in 1945, the UN aims to achieve world peace through discussion and cooperation among member-states. In an effort to celebrate and learn about this process, the North American Model United Nations in Toronto, Canada, is held each year so that students can compete and learn with and from one another. In this poster, I will present about the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, and describe the issues on which I worked. The poster will also cover the history of Switzerland within the UN and discuss the implications of the UN today.

Poster 4

Title: Banded: The Northern Saw Whet Owl Eye Morphology Explored

Authors: Rachel Deschamps

Faculty Advisor: Justin Golub

Abstract: Hopkins Memorial Forest, located in Williams Massachusetts, is the autumn home of the Northern Saw Whet Owl (NSWO; *Aegolius acadicus*). Forest Manager, Drew Jones, has been collecting data, as part of a national network of banding sites studying their migration since 2001. NSWO's are captured by net, banded, and observed at night during the month of October, when the majority of NSWO pass through the region on their annual migration. This project explores morphology of owls that have been banded, to look for correlations in morphology. The goal of this research is to better understand eye morphology of NSWO.

Poster 5

Title: Wind Power and the Variability of Wind Speed

Author: Anthony Cancilla

Faculty Advisor: Emily Maher

Abstract: Wind power is a strong contender for becoming the leading source of alternative energy. The main drawback with wind power is the variability of wind speed. My experiment is exploring a method for compensating for this variability of wind speed. I produced windmills using a 3-D printer. I varied the yaw of the blade, which is the angle the blade makes with the direction of the wind velocity. I hypothesized that a higher yaw is optimal for a higher wind speed, and a lower yaw is optimal for a lower wind speed. I will present my results at the conference.

Poster 6

Title: The Evolution and Significance of Female Political Protest

Author: Dahlia Gallagher

Faculty Advisor: Jennifer Zoltanski

Abstract: A society that involves constant potential for war depends on the militarization of all citizens; this involves maneuvering gender norms into ones that supposedly benefit a wartime culture. Women are consistently alienated and subordinated during times of war. The ways females find their own agency to oppose war and the war institution is significant. My poster presents my research which examines and analyzes the evolution of female anti-war protests and what this suggests in the context of militarized societies.

Poster 7

Title: China and East Turkestan: A NAMUN Joint Crisis Committee

Authors: Lucas McDiarmid and Samantha Beaton

Faculty Advisor: Ben Taylor

Abstract: The United Nations (UN) is the foremost organization for world political cooperation today. Founded in 1945, the UN aims to achieve world peace through discussion and cooperation among member-states. In an effort to celebrate and learn about this process, the North American Model United Nations in Toronto, Canada, is held each year so that students can compete and learn with and from one another. In this poster, we will present about the Joint Crisis Committee: Xinjiang Region, and describe the issues on which we worked. We will cover the history of our state, and people and discuss the implications of the UN today.

Poster 8

Title: Measuring the Instantaneous Distance to the Moon from One Spot on Earth

Author: Jon Oleson

Faculty Advisor: Emily Maher

Abstract: In this experiment, a telescope, a digital camera, and two free computer programs were used to measure the distance to the moon. The purpose of this experiment was to use tools available to most people to measure the distance to the Moon. &I took pictures of the moon at certain angles above the horizon and compared the changing size of the moon. According to NASA, the moon was 4.05×10^5 km away from the earth on the night of the observations, and the analysis provided a measured distance of 3.81×10^5 km which is ~6% less than the actual distance.

Poster 9

Title: The Efficiency of Turbines for Small Scale Water Sources

Author: James Chapman

Faculty Advisor: Emily Maher

Abstract: Hydroelectric power is primarily used to power residence, commercial, and industrial zones. However, hydroelectric power can also power small-scale systems. The goal of this research has been to determine the most efficient turbine design for small-scale hydroelectric power systems. Small-scale systems consist of smaller turbines and require less water. All turbines were produced using a 3-D printer, which allows for quick production and minute deviations in the turbine design. The two primary focuses have been maximizing the velocity of the water and designing a lightweight turbine that is extremely efficient at generating electricity for small-scale systems.

Poster 10

Title: The Green Wave Project

Author: Virginia Graves, Mark Sebastino, Kristen Nadeau, and Joseph Davis

Faculty Advisor: David Eve

Abstract: The Greenwave Project poster focuses on supporting an new environmentally conscious generation of ocean farmers. It describes the process as a team we went through to create a web-based front end that would allow end users to complete a federal application online and create a collaboration space for program participants. We used open-source software (Ubuntu, Jboss, eXo, Mongo) to connect and capture the data entered on the federal application as well as to establish a social community of environmentally conscious people for the future of ocean farming. The poster outlines real world challenges encountered when integrating emerging technology with customer needs.

Poster 11

Title: Examining College Student Experiences and Success: A Multivariate Approach

Authors: Timothy G Williams, Daniel Greig, Amanda Hoag, and Rachel Mills

Faculty Advisor: Deborah Foss and Rebekah Benjamin

Abstract: This project is very significant due to its direct relevance to college students and the MCLA campus community, particularly faculty, staff, and administrators participating in the Student Success and Retention Task Force. In the current study students are taking a multivariate approach

at looking at variables by predicting student success at MCLA by examining combinations of traditional demographic variables and test performance.

Poster 12

Title: Model United Nations: Representatives on the Legal Committee

Authors: Taylor Krowitz and Zoe Schwartz

Faculty Advisor: Ben Taylor

Abstract: The United Nations (UN) is the foremost organization for world political cooperation today. Founded in 1945, the UN aims to achieve world peace through discussion and cooperation among member-states. In an effort to celebrate and learn about this process, the North American Model United Nations in Toronto, Canada, is held each year so that students can compete and learn with and from one another. In this poster, we will present about the General Assembly Legal committee, and describe the issues on which we worked. We will cover the history of our states, and discuss the implications of the UN today.

Poster 13

Title: Threespine Stickleback Comparison of Bone Morphology to Ecotype

Author: Nile Rozie

Faculty Advisor: Justin Golub

Abstract: The Threespine Stickleback, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, is an andramonous species of fish, using fresh bodies of water to spawn. Due to this behavior stickleback are sometimes cut off from the open ocean. In isolation, population characteristics become distinctly different, depending upon the environment the resident population is in (i.e. ecotypes). This study examines the interaction between morphology and bone structure relative to its environment. Threespine stickleback were collected from freshwater ecosystems in Alaska, preserved, and then treated to digest and remove soft tissue, allowing us to examine bone morphology. We aim to compare boney structures of ecotypes, and populations within ecotypes.

Poster 14

Title: Mongolian Invasion

Author: Alexandra Kadell

Faculty Advisor: Ben Taylor

Abstract: The 13th and 14th century Mongolian invasions are considered the largest and most successful military campaign in history. The Mongolian Empire spread across the steppes of the Central Asia to the Seas of Japan, Central Europe, Siberia, and the Indian subcontinent. The Empire first emerged as a powerful nation in 1206 CE when Temüjin was crowned Genghis Khan the Great Mongolian Nation. A ruthless ruler, using military and personal violence to conquer the lands, Genghis Khan also brought advancements that allowed the empire to prosper. This presentation will demonstrate the early history of the Mongolian invasion and Genghis Kahn's rule.

Poster 15

Title: The Effects of the International Monetary Fund on the International Community

Authors: Brendan Peltier

Faculty Advisor: Ben Taylor

Abstract: The International Monetary Fund, (IMF) is an organization of 188 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. With its interesting voting structure, the ways of selecting financial stability and the leadership of the organization, there have been many questions about the effectiveness of the IMF. This poster will discuss this international organization, and the effectiveness of it on a world scale. Would it be best to eliminate the IMF? Or should the organization be kept with restructuring? After reviewing my poster, the choice is yours.

Poster 16

Title: Sexuality during War

Author: Jenna O'Connor

Faculty Advisor: Jennifer Zoltanski

Abstract: Exploring the realm of hetero-assimilationism and sexuality during a time of war, I will be diligently researching observations and existing ideologies pertaining to sexuality in the military, and henceforth, in warzones. I will be looking at the repression of homosexuality (focusing a lot on lesbianism), the heightened belief and practice of prevalent gender roles and heterosexuality roles, propaganda relating to heteronormativity, and the violence toward anyone outside of the societal norm guidelines. Incorporating my developing ideologies, I hope to illuminate others on the strict and harmful patriarchal guidelines put in place concerning sexuality in the military, and during combat.

Poster 17

Title: How Perfectionism Relates to College Satisfaction

Authors: Haily Kelliher, Monique Lemay, Gregory Wilson, and Amy Bird

Faculty Advisor: Sharon Claffey

Abstract: The college experience consists of many different factors, of which social support, perfectionism, academic success, and overall college satisfaction seem very important. The current study aimed to expand on existing research by examining social support from friends as a moderator of the relationship between socially-prescribed perfectionism and academic success, as well as the relationship between socially-prescribed perfectionism and college satisfaction. Participants were 218 college students who completed an online survey. A significant negative correlation was found between perfectionism and college satisfaction. Social support from friends was not found to act as a moderator. Socially-prescribed perfectionism and academic success were not found to be correlated in this sample.

Poster 18

Title: Embryonic Learning in Zebrafish

Authors: Elizabeth Pitroff and Susan Bloom

Faculty Advisor: Justin Golub

Abstract: Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) is a tropical freshwater fish, and model for studying embryology and behavior in the laboratory. This project investigates embryos' ability to learn danger associated with chemical cues and respond accordingly after hatching. Zebrafish embryos were conditioned with predator diet-based cues, and after hatching observed for behavioral responses to predator cues. Zebrafish fry were expected to respond only when conditioned with predators that had recently consumed eggs. The ability to recognize and react to chemical cues in ovum has been previously documented in other species, and the project aims to demonstrate similar abilities in the zebrafish model system.

Poster 19

Title: Maternal Conditioning in *Poecilia reticulata*

Author: Evan Patev

Faculty Advisor: Justin Golub

Abstract: It has been previously demonstrated that embryos exposed to predator cues are able to learn, and avoid that predator's scents after hatching. However, in live-bearing fish, such as guppies

(*Poecilia reticulata*), there are no opportunities for embryos to experience environmental signals. Alternatively, embryos carried internally can receive signals from the mother, and potentially learn. Pregnant females were isolated in breeding tanks, and exposed to the olfactory cues of a predator (goldfish) and guppy alarm cues, or goldfish alone. The behavior patterns of the offspring were recorded. Fish whose mother experienced predator and alarm cue should respond more strongly than control fish.

Poster 20

Title: Re-examining predictors of college student success: A multivariate approach

Authors: Sara Peck, Emily Law, Jacklyn Dwyer, and Cherie Dewey

Faculty Advisor: Deborah Foss and Rebekah Benjamin

Abstract: Our research project focuses on the non-cognitive aspects that may contribute to college student success. Specifically we are interested in determining and examining interrelationships between self-esteem, self-efficacy, perceived social support, and some collected student record information. After obtaining data from our online survey that will determine each participant's levels of self-esteem, self-efficacy, and perceived social support, we will compare their results to student record data such as GPA, SAT scores, etc. The goal of this project is to find what non-cognitive features make a student successful.

Poster 21

Title: Animal Care in Research

Authors: Sara Peck, John Jones, Taylor Manning, Monique Lemay, Haily Kelliher, Emily Hart, and Amanda Hoag

Faculty Advisor: Tom Byrne

Abstract: In conducting animal research, concerns often arise for the care and well-being of the animals involved. Animal research at MCLA, conducted primarily with rats, has been met with controversy in the past. This literature review seeks to inform the campus community about the safe-guards in place for animal research subjects. Analyzing past research, regulations set by the MCLA IACUC committee, as well as our own study, we hope to give the community a better understanding of animal research and the protection of any animals involved.

Poster 22

Title: Ethanol Self-Administration Using a Sweetened Condensed Milk Vehicle

Author: Monique Lemay, Haily Kelliher, Emily Hart, Amanda Hoag, Sara Peck, Taylor Manning, and John Jones

Faculty Advisor: Tom Byrne

Abstract: This study will examine ethanol self-administration in a sweetened-condensed milk solution using male albino Sprague Dawley rats. Subjects will be exposed to increasingly higher concentrations of ethanol over time as a reinforcer for lever presses in an operant chamber, as approved by the MCLA IACUC Committee. Previous research demonstrates success in sucrose fading procedures (e.g. Navaie, Kryder, & Gilbertson, 2011). High baseline rates of responding for sweetened-condensed milk influenced the investigators to replace sucrose with sweetened-condensed milk with a goal to slowly decrease levels of sweetened-condense milk and observe response rates when subjects encounter a 10% ethanol and water solution.

Poster 23

Title: Friends with Benefits: The Benefits of Social Support on Self-Esteem

Author: Amanda Meczywor, Rachel Niddrie, Thomas Chiang, and Brittany Zimmerman

Faculty Advisor: Sharon Claffey

Abstract: Self-esteem can have a major impact on an individual's social interactions. Not only does it affect the type of social support we receive, but also how we perceive that social support. Technology has become a major source of social interaction in current society. Our study examined the relationship between social support and an individual's perceived self-esteem. Participants from local colleges (i.e. MCLA and Williams College) were solicited to voluntarily take the anonymous online survey. Scales for social support and self-esteem were used to rate participant's perceived levels of each measure. Results showed that self-esteem was positively correlated with support from both family and friends (in person), but not with online support. The higher the participants' self-esteem, the more social support they perceived. Implications from this study suggest that face-to-face social support may be most beneficial to a person's self-esteem.

Poster 24

Title: Community Service and Academics at MCLA

Author: Joelle Dumont, Paige Fairman, and Angie Mejia

Faculty Advisor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: Participation in community service has been found beneficial to college students' academics. The present study will be surveying freshmen through seniors at MCLA about their community service experiences and academic achievement through Survey Monkey. The

questionnaire was adopted from Blais, Brière, Pelletier, and Vallerand (1989) and Harter and Neemann (2012) with the addition of original questions. We hypothesize that students who participate in community service will tend to have higher levels of academic achievement and self-esteem.

Poster 25

Title: Stimulant Drug Use in Relation to Academic Motivation and Achievement on the MCLA Campus

Authors: Haily Kelliher, Monique Lemay, and Kelly Charest

Faculty Advisor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: Increases in prescription rates of stimulant drugs such as Ritalin and Adderall have led to curiosity in the potential for recreational use that has been well-established within the college-aged population (Teter, 2005). The present study will obtain data on Ritalin and Adderall use amongst college students of traditional and non-traditional age at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts for frequency and prevalence of use, extending Babcock and Byrne's (2000) study 15 years later. Our study will also examine academic performance and motivation and their potential relationship with stimulant use.

Poster 26

Title: How Satisfied with your Sleep Are You? Sleep, Living Arrangements, and Academic Performance

Author: Brittany Zimmerman, Danielle Sylvester, Rachel Niddrie

Faculty Advisor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: College students are typically known for their sleep struggles. In previous research, sleep can have an effect on academic performance. The purpose of this study is to examine how students' living situation affects sleep and, in turn, academic performance. Approximately 200 MCLA students will be asked various demographic questions about their living situations as well as questions adapted from Gomes, Tavares, and de Azevedo (2011). We expect to find that students more satisfied with their living situations will have better sleep quality and academic performance.

Poster 27

Title: Mobile Augmented Reality in the Biology Lab

Author: Daniel Heinen

Faculty Advisor: Sarah Herrick

Abstract: A mobile education app was designed to utilizing augmented reality and an assortment of open source technologies to create an educational platform to aid students in learning the anatomy of the human body. The purpose of this project is to utilize readily available technology that many of us carry in our pocket to aid students in understanding the complex detail of human anatomy while creating an interesting and engaging learning experience. With further development we hope to provide this app free of charge as an open source learning platform implemented into courses, such as anatomy and physiology.

Poster 28

Title: The Institutional Review Board at MCLA

Author: Bentley Munsell

Faculty Advisor: Kristina Bendikas

Abstract: The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) Institutional Review Board (IRB) was established to protect the rights of human subjects who volunteer to participate in research. The IRB exists as a safeguard to promote the ethical and responsible treatment of participants in research. MCLA requires that all research involving human participants must be reviewed and approved by the IRB before any research may be started. Guiding the review process is the application of federal and state laws and regulations outlined in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 45 Part 46 (45 CFR 46), and the ethical principles of the Belmont Report as the criteria for the review of all research studies.

Poster 29

Title: Ultra capacitors and rail guns

Author: Jesse Lee Egan-Poirier

Faculty Advisor: Emily Maher

Abstract: The idea that electric current can accelerate a payload to enormous velocities using a railgun instead of rocket technology has been around since 1918. At the heart of every railgun exists a bank of capacitors supplying huge electrical current over small time intervals. Recently capacitor technology has improved such that the amount of charge they can hold increased by one hundred million percent. The purpose of this experiment is to explore the application of ultracapacitor technology as a motive power source using a simple railgun. I will report my findings at the conference

Poster 30

Title: Strengthening Mentor/Mentee Relationship

Author: Makayla-Courtney McGeeney and Nicholas Swanson

Faculty Advisor: Amanda Beckwith

Abstract: The Write Stuff After-School Program involves college students volunteering to mentor North Adams Public School youth (mentees) through hands-on activities and writing prompts. In order to strengthen the mentor and mentee relationship, new methods and structure have been added to the program. This presentation will share these new elements and examine the results.

Poster 31

Title: Alternative Spring Break: Belize

Authors: Lucas McDiarmid, Katelyn Abbott, Alexandra Kadell, Jamie Burdick, Jasmine Cespedes-Mejia, Elizabeth Diaz, Nia Scott, Bryannna Bradley, Francesca Rodriguez, Krystal Cantu

Faculty Advisor: Spencer Moser

Abstract: The purpose of this poster is to display the experiences of MCLA students on their trip to Belize. The trip contained a service learning experience, as well as cultural and educational component as well. While in Belize students were exposed to a lifestyle and culture not found here in the U.S. Through this exposure and the experiences during the trip, students gained a multitude of lessons. Throughout this poster presentation the students, who traveled to Belize, will explain and exhibit the importance of the trip. The presentation will highlight the importance of a service learning project as well as the rewards that come as a result.

Poster 32

Title: Skin Bleaching in Ghana: Globalization, Localization, and Changing Beauty Standards

Author: Justina Jordano

Faculty Advisor: Sumi Colligan

Abstract: This study examines skin bleaching in Ghana, taking into account social and cultural factors such as race, gender and status, and constructed beauty expectations. The issues include the presentation of lighter skin color in the media as the ideal, the connection between global and racial identity formations, and skin color as social capital through the marriage market. What has caused the emergence of a profound market of skin bleaching products in Ghana? How do Ghanaian women form their own racial identities as a result of this emergence?

Poster 33

Title: Teen Substance Abuse

Author: Emily Vigiard

Faculty Advisor: Ingrid Castro

Abstract: To get a better understanding and enhance my knowledge of adolescent drug addiction in the United States, I created a research paper that includes original data and my interpretation of a combination of books and scholarly articles in order to demonstrate what I have learned. Writing this research paper has broadened my knowledge of statistics surrounding addiction along with what struggles adolescents encounter, contributing factors that may lead to addiction, and what policies are in place in the United States to handle adolescents with this addiction, including both punishment and rehabilitation.

Special Session I-A: History, Influence and Intertextuality in Literary Studies
Murdock 218, 9:30-10:50 am
Faculty Sponsor: Rosanne Denhard

Paper IA-1:

Title: Milton's Republic: Moral Education in Plato and Paradise Lost

Author: Brett Belcastro

Abstract: John Milton's (1608-1664) representation of God in Paradise Lost presents a political organization of the cosmos which bears an important similarity to Plato's hypothetical Republic. Reading of both texts, especially concerning the Republic's chosen genre, reveals the dialogue which exists between them and its emphasis on moral education. The construction of Plato's dialogue form, which is more drama than treatise, presents a unique approach to the framing of philosophical problems which Milton's work seeks to emulate. Supplementary reading of Milton's Of Education and other essays elucidate the importance of education, free will, and political construction to both Milton's and Plato's work.

Paper IA-2:

Title: When Heaven Becomes Hell and Hell Becomes Heaven: Wuthering Heights as a Re-imagining of Paradise Lost

Author: Elizabeth Davis

Abstract: Certain works of literature continue to inspire other writers centuries after they were written. John Milton's (1608-1664) *Paradise Lost* is one of these works, and Emily Brontë (1818-1848) is one of these writers. This project explores the connections between Milton's epic and Brontë's novel, *Wuthering Heights*, focusing on characters and themes. It also examines the intentions behind these connections. Did Brontë mean to re-imagine Milton's work? Did she want to make a statement on it or just put a different twist on the story? I seek to find answers to these questions using research, critical interpretations, and my close readings.

Paper IA-3:

Title: Sympathizing the Sinister: Reader and Writer Relations between *Frankenstein's Creature* and *Paradise Lost's Satan*

Author: Kathryn Donnelly

Abstract: Commentators observe that Mary Shelley (1797-1851) developed *Frankenstein's* creature influenced by John Milton's (1608-1674) depiction of Satan in *Paradise Lost*. The Creature and Satan contain many similar character flaws, yet there is something more complex about them. Both characters are deeper than initial expectations of them in a way readers can relate to. Not only are these characters connected to one another, but they are connected to the readers through sympathy, and perhaps empathy. Through a brief exploration of their characteristics, Romantic and modern reader interpretations, and the stated intents of Milton and Shelley, this project examines whether these "villains" are really villains or something more.

Paper IA-4:

Title: Finding a Family: A Comparison of Mary Shelley's Familial Relations to the Creature as Seen in *Frankenstein; or the Modern Prometheus*

Author: Virginia Graves

Abstract: This presentation showcases comparatively the familial relationships that Mary Shelley (1797-1851), the author of *Frankenstein*, and *Frankenstein's Creature* have in common. This presentation will give biographical information regarding Mary Shelley herself, and then explain the commonalities as they can be seen in this epistolary novel. How do Shelley's and the Creature's familial relations form? Can it be interpreted that the Creature's experiences are a reflection of Shelley's experiences? Are other characters within the novel a representation of Shelley's own familial relationships? These are the questions that my presentation hopes to address and confirm within my study of the epistolary novel.

Paper IA-5:

Title: Milton and Misogyny? A Critical Analysis of Milton's View of Women through His Portrayal of Eve in Paradise Lost

Author: Alexandria Jackson

Abstract: In his fictionalized epic Paradise Lost, John Milton (1608-1674) provides readers with an inventive and creative depiction of what dialogue may have been like between God, Satan, the angels, the demons, and human beings. Often, his portrayal of Eve is criticized as being veiled with misogynistic undertones. Initially, Eve can appear to be a stereotypical female character, gentle and beautiful, but also vain and naïve. However, a closer study of the text, in addition to the research of the complex roles of women during Milton's 17th century, reveals the strength, power and courage Milton gives to his female character.

Paper IA-6

Title: "The Beacon of the Wise": Shakespeare as Philosopher

Author: Deven Philbrick

Abstract: The works of Plato (424 BCE - 348 BCE)--undoubtedly some of the most influential writings in the history of philosophy and across the disciplines--were not straightforward prose treatises; philosophical dialogue is a distinctly literary form. Dialogue is one example of literary philosophy as distinguished from philosophical literature--the latter consisting largely of idea play for aesthetic or rhetorical effect and the former dealing with ideas rigorously, systematically, and consistently enough for us to classify it as "serious" philosophy. This project argues that the poem's and plays of William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616)--rightly relished as literary objects first and foremost--engage with philosophical questions in such a way that demands that we take Shakespeare seriously as a contributor to the western tradition of philosophy.

Paper Presentations I-B
Murdock 201, 9:30-10:50 am

Paper IB-1:

Title: A Monte Carlo Approach to Asian Options under Regime Switching Models with State Dependent Switching Rates.

Author: Patrick Meunier and Stephen Raftery

Faculty Advisor: Duy Nguyen

Abstract: Asian options are financial derivatives whose payoffs depend on the average of the underlying asset price over a pre-specified time period. In addition to being relatively cheaper than European and American options, Asian options reduce the risk of market manipulation of the underlying instrument at maturity. A major challenge in pricing Asian options is that the distribution of the average asset price is usually not available analytically, even under the simple Geometric Brownian Motion model, except in the special case of geometric average. As a result, numerical methods must be used to price these financial derivatives. In this talk, we consider Asian options under a regime switching model with state-dependent switching rates. The model under consideration generalizes many existing models in the literature such as Geometric Brownian Motion models and mean-reverting switching models. We present a Monte Carlo method to compute Asian options under regime switching models. Numerical values obtained by several different methods will be presented for comparison.

Paper IB-2:

Title: Exploratory Factor Analysis of the Attitudes toward Serial Killers Scale

Author: Kelli Furney

Faculty Advisor: Ben Wood

Abstract: In this study we have created and tested a scale to measure participants attitudes toward serial killers, a previously untested area of research, (N=122). Using this scale paired with three previously validated scales: Big Five (O'Keefe, 2012), The Curiosity and Exploration Inventory (Kashden et al., 2004) and the Disgust Scale (Olatunji et al., 2007); we examined the relationship between these various variables. Our Exploratory Factor Analysis revealed two separate factors: curiosity and discomfort, which were congruent with our theoretical research. The original 25 item scale has been reduced to 12 items and requires a follow up Confirmatory Factor Analysis.

Paper IB-3:

Title: The Utilization of Terror to Fight for Land and Freedom in nineteenth-century Russia

Author: Samantha Thomson

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: Narodnaya Volya, or 'The People's Will,' was the Russian terrorist organization responsible for the assassination of Tsar Alexander II in 1881. Members of this group believed that the removal of the Tsar would incite a peasant revolution against the autocracy, which would bring Russia more democratic and social freedoms. The research presented will examine the motivations behind Narodnaya Volya's turn from propaganda to violence, the direct repercussions as well as the effects on modern terrorist groups, and the eventual downfall of one of the first terrorist organizations.

Paper IB-4

Title: Students and Strategies of Non-Violence in the Civil Rights Movement

Author: Jessica Barcher

Faculty Sponsor: Ely Janis

Abstract: The purpose of this research looks at strategies employed by students and youth members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during the Civil Rights Movement. This research looks at the question of how successful the strategies executed by this group were. It also examines the shift from traditional non-violent means to a more violent and militant approach that happened during the later years of the movement when the group fell under the leadership of new leaders such as Stokely Carmichael and began focusing more on ideas such as black power. And lastly, this research looks at how the new leadership and a culmination of other factors affected the group and its success in the movement which relied heavily on both strategies of violence and non-violence at the time.

Paper Presentations I-C
Murdock 322, 9:30-10:50 am

Paper IC-1:

Title: Income Inequality in the United States

Author: Nicholas Hernigle

Faculty Advisor: Nancy Ovitsky

Abstract: America is currently facing the worst income inequality since the Financial Crash in 1929. This inequality led to the Financial Crash of 2007. The Financial Crash has left millions of people without homes and jobs along with putting more people in poverty. This crash was partially caused by the income gap that is occurring in our nation, among other consequences. Decreased funding in public institutions and an increase in government debt have been affected by this gap. Since the late 1970's and early 1980's the government switched to trickle-down economics policy and workers facing stagnating wages. Fixing these problems will help bring the economy back to the equality we had during the 1970's. Through research, more consequences can be found, more affected areas of our country will be seen, and more factors can be detected when the income gap is high.

Paper IC-2:

Title: Backwards Progression: Why Terror Has Not Worked for the PLO

Author: Jordan Barsamian

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) has used many methods to accomplish the goal of attracting awareness to their cause and bringing about political change for their people. Some of these methods have been lawfully political and others highly violent. This presentation will analyze the ways in which the violent acts of terror that the group has committed have helped bring change and to what degree their overall goals have been accomplished. I will argue that these goals have not been reached in large part because of the group's violent actions.

Paper IC-3

Title: Boston Tea Party and the American Revolution

Author: Kelly Lewis

Faculty Advisor: Ely Janis

Abstract: For my research paper I've taken on the task of explaining why the Boston Tea Party happened in 1773 and how this event and others lead to war with Britain. Events that led up to the Tea Party include British increase of taxes on goods shipped to the colonies. The British army began to fortify Boston which stirred the militia. An organization called the Sons of Liberty was formed in response to unfair British rule. Before the Tea Party the British had actually lowered the tax on imported tea, making it less expensive than the tea brought in by smugglers.

Paper IC-4

Title: Me, Myself, and You

Author: Amanda Meczywor

Faculty Advisor: Sharon Claffey

Abstract: A person's body image and self-esteem are important factors in forming and maintaining intimate relationships. The purpose of this study was to examine the association between body image, self-esteem, and relationship status among young adults, ages 18 to 25. Participants (n=242) were recruited through social media and word of mouth to voluntarily complete the anonymous online survey. Self-Esteem, social support, body apperception, and relationship assessment scales were used test the hypothesis that individuals in relationships have higher self-esteem and a more positive body image when compared to single individuals. Significant correlations were found between multiple variables, including self-esteem and relationship satisfaction, social support and

relationship satisfaction, and self-esteem and body image. A limitation in the study includes lack of diversity among participants, specifically in socioeconomic status and race.

Paper IC-5

Title: The March on Washington and the Rise of Martin Luther King

Author: Cassandra LaChance

Faculty Sponsor: Ely Janis

Abstract: How the March on Washington, shaped by Bayard Rustin and “The Big Six,” gave rise to the legacy of Martin Luther King shaping the Civil Rights Movement. Bayard Rustin organized the March on Washington as well as other key events of the Civil Rights Movement personifying a significant role in shaping the legacy of MLK as he is known today. “The Big Six,” MLK, James Farmer, Whitney Young, John Lewis, A. Philip Randolph, and Roy Wilkins represented different organizations at the March on Washington and helped to create an atmosphere where MLK became recognized as the leader of the movement.

Paper Presentations I-D
Murdock 216, 9:30-10:50 am

Paper ID-1:

Title: Threat to Americas: FARC

Author: Michael Eckert

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: The terrorist group known as FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) is very dangerous and is located right in the heart of Columbia. They emerged in the 1960's and have destroyed much of Columbia's infrastructure, killed thousands, and exported large amounts of cocaine to the world, in addition to undertaking ransom kidnappings, making them one of the richest terrorist groups today. My focus in this presentation will be on their development and what led them to be so dangerous.

Paper ID-2:

Title: Engaging the Millennial Audience

Author: Becky Waterhouse, Cecilia Wright, Brendan Jennings, Jasmine Garcia, and Kathleen Sansone

Faculty Advisor: Diane Scott

Abstract: The Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) Conference, held every January in New York City, provides professional development seminars and showcases to the performing arts industry. As emerging arts leaders, MCLA FPA students experienced the conference through a millennial perspective, not only on how we are marketed to as an audience, but also in our place in the field as future colleagues. Due to this, we are able to compare less-traditional forms of millennial marketing, audience engagement, and consumer philosophy to older business models, in order to provide a new look into the industry as a whole.

Paper ID-3:

Title: To Seneca Falls and Beyond

Author: Rodger Coryell

Faculty Advisor: Ely Janis

Abstract: The Seneca Falls Convention is largely considered the beginning of the Women's rights movement. I will examine the importance of the convention as the first convention and how what was set down at Seneca Falls influenced the women's rights movement up to women gaining right to vote. I will look at what took place over the two days at Seneca Falls. Then, briefly examine how Seneca Falls was looked at going forward and how the movement looked back to and used the Seneca Falls Convention to continue the women's rights movement.

Paper ID-4:

Title: "Bread or Blood:" Women Rioting in Wartime America

Author: Hannah McClearnen

Faculty Advisor: Ely Janis

In early American history, women were expected to remain in the domestic sphere. However, in both the revolutionary war and the civil war, American women found themselves in the middle of a conflict they had no representation in creating, and yet they found that they were expected to sacrifice their husband and sons for war and suffer through the resulting food shortage. Women were forced to riot on the streets for staples like bread, and in doing so redefined their gender roles and their duties in the domestic sphere in order to survive.

Paper ID-5

Title: Garvey and Carmichael: A Movement Towards Pan-Africanism

Author: Danielle Bloh

Faculty Sponsor: Ely Janis

Abstract: The Pan-Africanism movement developed in the mid-nineteenth century, promoting social, economic and political prosperity as well as encouraging many blacks to move back to Africa. Two big proponents of this movement were Marcus Garvey and Stokely Carmichael. Both radicals in their thinking, they exhibit parallels in their lives and philosophies but ultimately the paths they took were different, though they ultimately shared the same goal. Taking a comparative look, this paper seeks to take a look at both the lives of Garvey and Carmichael, critiquing their strategies, successes and failures.

Special Session II-A: Signifying Jazz: Representations in Literature, Film and Art
Murdock 218, 11:00 am-12:20 pm
Faculty Sponsor: Zack Finch

Paper IIA-1:

Title: Making It One's Own: The Role of the Individual in Aesthetic, Cultural, and Political Readings of Jazz as a Cultural Artifact

Author: Deven Philbrick

Abstract: This project argues that the cultural phenomenon we call jazz music can be historically understood as the continuous and radical innovations of individual jazz artists. The initial innovations of artists like Charlie Parker brought the soloist to the forefront of the music. Throughout jazz history, it is evident that these innovations continued; the very best jazz artists each took what his predecessors left behind and made it his own. This project examines both musical and literary texts to demonstrate the ways in which jazz music and jazz culture is an exercise in making "it" one's own. In this way, we can interpret jazz as an African-American response to modernism, which emphasizes above all else the individual talent of the artist.

Paper IIA-2:

Title: The Duality of Blackness in Louis Armstrong's "When it's Sleepy Time Down South"

Author: Ama-Bemma Adwetewa Badu

Abstract: This presentation explores the duality that is within Louis Armstrong's 1942 short film "When it's Sleepy Time down South." Within this piece, we can observe a simultaneous dualism between the theatrical performance that goes on in conjunction with the musical performance of Armstrong's trumpet playing. By using Duboisian duality, Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s approach to African-American literature, and James Scott's theory of hidden and public transcripts, this presentation will argue that despite the demeaning stereotypes within the theatrical performance, Armstrong's musical performance redeems the short film. By joining together these two aspects, Armstrong creates a bridge between himself and his audiences.

Paper IIA-3:

Title: Bebop & Basquiat

Author: Ryan Walters

Abstract: This paper seeks to understand the relationship of jazz music, namely Bebop, on the visual artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. Bebop permeated his life and art every step along the way. His aesthetic approach to painting was influenced by the jazz concepts of teasing, quoting, and improvising. He constantly named and pictured his influences in his work, often citing his favorite bebop musicians. He also lived a lifestyle much like most of his favorite musicians, was as self-destructive as they came. Without Bebop music Basquiat would be much different than the man we know of, as both an artist and person.

Paper IIA-4

Title: T.S. Eliot and the Relentless Influence of the Jazz Age

Author: Alisia True

Abstract: During the Jazz Age, poetry and music intertwined, leaving behind a vast array of literary examples to consider. This purpose of this paper is two-fold: to understand how jazz aesthetics influenced both content and style in the work of T.S. Eliot and to explore the parallels between the trajectory of jazz as popular music and Eliot's own modernist ideas on popular culture. After the analysis of two pieces, "The Lovesong of J. Alfred Prufrock" and "The Wasteland", the influence of jazz will be revealed, but made complicated by Eliot's struggle to reconcile the relationship between high and low art forms.

*Paper Session II-B
Murdock 201, 11:00 am-12:20 pm*

Paper IIB-1:

Title: The Effect of Income Inequality on Political Polarization

Author: Schuyler Nelson

Faculty Advisor: Ben Taylor

Abstract: Due to the emergence of groups such as the Occupy Wall Street movement and populist politicians like Elizabeth Warren—who stress the importance of economic inequality as a political issue—and the seemingly high political polarization in modern American politics, it is important to examine the relationship between economic inequality and political polarization. In this project, I specifically examine whether political trends such as times of increased or decreased political polarization and partisanship are the result of varying wealth disparities among economic classes in the United States. My theory is that when a high wealth disparity is present among economic classes, a political trend of increased political polarization and partisanship will occur as people will be more likely to grasp onto their base political beliefs regarding economics.

Paper IIB-2:

Title: The Troubles of North Ireland

Author: Jake Bonenfant

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: The focus of this presentation is to present research on the creation of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and other Protestant militant groups during the Troubles in North Ireland in the 1970s and 1980s at the height of IRA activity. Some of the issues that will be explored are the effects of the UVF on the Troubles, how the public responded, and the legitimacy of the organization of these groups and if these groups were themselves, terrorists. Tying it all together is the question: were these people truly fighting for the cause of staying with Great Britain or as a vehicle for revenge tactics and continued terrorist activity?

Paper IIB-3:

Title: Norway Maple Management

Author: Jon Hubbard

Faculty Advisor: Dan Shustack

Abstract: The Norway maple (*Acer platanoides L.*) is an invasive species in the Northeastern United States. Of major concern is its ability to outcompete a native congener. In the fall of 2014 I surveyed the MCLA campus for Norway maple trees. I documented the locations and sizes of 56 Norway

maples tree, indicating that MCLA is likely a source population for *A. platanoides*. To assess allelopathic properties of *A. platanoides*, I planted radishes in soil samples collected from various distances from a mature *A. platanoides*. Results suggest that allelopathy is not responsible for the Norway maple's success as an invasive species.

Paper IIB-4:

Title: 1972 Munich Massacre

Author: Alexandra Kadell

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: In 2015, newspapers, live television, and social media have allowed for terrorist organizations to grab attention for their cause throughout the global community. An early example of saturation media coverage occurred at the 1972 Summer Olympics, in Munich, West Germany. During this event Black September, a Palestinian terrorist group, attacked Israeli athletes in the Olympic Village. Throughout the event, news reporters captured each moment of the attack, broadcasting the suspenseful moments to the world. This presentation will demonstrate how the media impacted the outcome of the event and the influence media had on the global audience.

Paper IIB-5

Title: Death by Discrimination

Author: Jordan LaBarre

Faculty Sponsor: Ely Janis

Abstract: During my research I studied the working conditions and types of attitudes toward immigrants in Chicago during the 1880s. I plan to use this research to explain why and how government officials wrongly convicted the eight men in the Haymarket bombing. The combination of discrimination toward immigrants and low wages in the workforce led to the eight men being arrested based on their ideology beliefs rather than evidence. The bulk of my evidence comes from court documents from the trial and evidence from other labor movements and police related violence.

Paper Presentations II-C
Murdock 301, 11:00 am-12:20 pm

Paper IIC-1:

Title: Anarchy and the Wall Street Bombing during the Early Twentieth Century

Author: Taylor Krowitz

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: The 1920 car bombing outside the headquarters of the J.P. Morgan bank is regarded as one of the first modern terrorist attacks. Although the case has never been officially solved, the general consensus is that Mario Buda, an American Anarchist Fighter, was responsible for the attack. What led this anarchist group, founded by an Italian prisoner, to carry out a series of bombings in the United States? This presentation will explore the group's motivations and objectives, taking into account American policies post-World War I and the rising fear of communism among the general public.

Paper IIC-2:

Title: Combinations of Graphs, Infinite Classes, and the Disproof of a Clar-Kekule Conjecture

Author: James Chapman

Faculty Advisor: Liz Hartung

Abstract: Our research focuses on benzenoids, or graphene patches, which are patches of carbon atoms. Carbon bonds to carbon in rings of 6 atoms, so we can represent these molecules with 2-D graphs in which every interior face is a hexagon. Using graph theory we mathematically analyze these graphs and discover properties about the corresponding molecules. One area that has been heavily focused upon is combinations of graphs at edges we have coined as "Required Edges". We have looked at the properties of the resulting graph and compared this with the properties of the previous graphs to see if their properties are merely additive. As it turns out, they are not; however we have been searching for examples where they are. Another main focus area has been to either verify or disprove and conjecture that relates the number of Kekule structures and a graphs Clar Number when comparing 2 graphs with the same number of vertices. Amazingly, our program has found hundreds of examples where this conjecture is false. Branching off of the conjecture examples, we also thought of an interesting question; "What can we add to these graphs so that its properties do not change". We have discovered one property of additions that will answer that question for any graph that we are presented with. This gives us an enormous infinite class of graphs for future study.

Paper IIC-3:

Title: Disease and Perception: An Examination of Public Health and Immigration in a New England Mill Town

Author: Bentley Munsell

Faculty Advisor: Ann Billetz

Abstract: News media throughout history has targeted immigrant and working class populations as the cause of disease and public health epidemics. This research examines the public perception of immigrant populations and disease between 1885 and 1900 in North Adams, Massachusetts. Contrasts will be made between public perception in the news and analysis of board of health records with regard to incidence and prevalence of Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, Measles, and Tuberculosis in a burgeoning New England mill town.

Paper IIC-4:

Title: A People Divided: Armenian Diplomacy and Terrorism

Author: Nicholas DiCristofaro

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: This presentation provides a close look at the Armenian Genocide (1914-1918) and the study of how that event led to the terrorist actions occurring in the 1970s and 1980s and eventual attempts at diplomacy in order to achieve sympathy. By looking at the genocide taking place during World War One, I will explain why some Armenian groups resorted to terrorism in order to achieve support and recognition for this atrocity. Following the terrorist acts, the Armenians turned to diplomacy in order to achieve their goals. I intend to analyze the methods used by these groups, examine their effectiveness, and discuss the idea of whether history can excuse terrorism.

Paper Presentations II-D
Murdock 322, 11:00 am-12:20 pm

Paper IID-1:

Title: The United States and Iran: The Hostage Crisis

Author: Shaun LeBlanc

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: On November 4, 1979, a group of Iranian militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran. There they held seventy Americans captive, creating the most profound crisis of Jimmy Carter's residency. The drama lasted 444 days and the after effects still linger in the U.S-Iran relationship, from nuclear warfare to oil. For this presentation I will analyze why the Iranians took the Americans hostage and examine the impacts of the hostage crisis for Iran and the United States.

Paper IID-2:

Title: Labor Fare is not Fair

Author: James Clark

Faculty Advisor: Ely Janis

Abstract: My thesis for this project is The Labor Movement in America led to a fairer workday for Americans. I am looking at many different things throughout a period of US History. I am looking at workers fighting for rights that they believed that they believed in. Some of these rights include wage increases and a fairer work day. During this project, I will look at different strikes that got workers the rights they thought they deserved. I will also look child labor and women's labor after the fact and compare their rights to men.

Paper IID-3:

Title: "Togetherness" and Millennial Engagement

Authors: Victoria Page, Krystal Henriquez, Benjamin Baylon, Maggie Kase, Jordan Goyette

Faculty Advisor: Diane Scott

Abstract: The theme of the 2015 Association of Performing Arts Presenters conference was "Togetherness." We assert that the arts industry should advocate for increased "togetherness," as a tool for socioeconomic change and community engagement. As a part of the millennial generation, we'll explore trends in the treatment of millennials as a part of the arts industry, the creation of brands that permeate the lives of millennials and others, and the use of increasing technology in a field that ultimately remains people-focused.

Paper IID-4:

Title: Bullying: The Complex Social Phenomenon among Today's Youth

Author: Ellen Farrell

Faculty Advisor: Ingrid Castro

Abstract: This presentation is a product of an independent study conducted in the fall of 2015. This research will cover various aspects of bullying among adolescent youth. Bullying is a complex social phenomenon that involves much more than one incident between two people. This research covers various aspects of the bullying phenomenon, such as relational aggression and cyber bullying. This project also covers various sociological aspects, and how they contribute to

aggressive behavior among youth. This reach also covers some of the psychological effects experienced by victims of aggressive behavior. This research explores peer interactions, and how bullying can prevent one from forming positive relationships.

Keynote Address:

Campus Center Gym, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch is provided

Dr. Alicia Girgenti, PhD '07

Alicia A. Girgenti is an assistant professor in the Department of Criminology at Merrimack College in North Andover, MA. She graduated summa cum laude with her B.A. in Psychology from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in 2007 and went on to earn her Ph.D. in Criminology and Justice Policy from Northeastern University in 2014. Alicia currently teaches courses in Research Methods and Statistics in Criminology, and the Death Penalty. She serves as faculty advisor to Pi Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma: The National Criminal Justice Honor Society at Merrimack College. Her research interests include capital punishment, intersectionality, and race, gender and social class inequality in the criminal justice system. She has recently published in the Criminal Law Bulletin and Race & Justice: An International Journal. Her scholarship examines the intersection of victim race and gender on jurors' decision to impose a death sentence in capital cases.

Meet the Speaker: Sullivan Lounge

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm

For Students Only

Students will have the opportunity to have an informal question and answer session with the keynote speaker following the luncheon. Dr. Girgenti will be available to answer any questions you have about her experiences both at MCLA and in graduate school. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn from someone who has walked in your shoes not too long ago.

Special Session III-A: Artist Talks
Murdock 301, 2:00-4:00 pm
Faculty Sponsor: Melanie Mowinski

Paper IIIA-1:

Title: The Process of Over-Processing

Author: Alex Jamal

Abstract: Many things are processed for our consumption. Files are encoded, data is encrypted, and light is translated into pixels on a screen, as are dots on to paper. Diving deep into this subtle but tangible transformations, one can observe artifacts and patterns, and view minuscule form as landscape and texture. Alteration is the focus here, on the randomness and beauty of the error and the glitch, allowing the imperfection to become the inspiration. This presentation explores new and reused images obtained on the web, through filters, and macro photography.

Paper IIIA-2:

Title: The Color of Neigh

Author: Caitlin Belk

Abstract: By use of colors, contrasts, and angles, I create unique worlds featuring horses in collage. Each piece displays a clear focal point and main theme. These themes are based on personal reflection and often convey a mood or emotion. Due to my extensive practice, research, and knowledge of horses, I use them as my main subject matter in most pieces. Like many famous artists throughout history, my fascination with horses began at a young age and continues in my current art. George Stubbs, Franz Marc, and Joseph Cornell are artists my work closely relates with and will be compared to.

Paper IIIA-3:

Title: Figure Me Out

Author: Emily Boughton

Abstract: I explore the allure of the ever expanding potentialities a viewer brings to a work. By translating photographs into line drawings, and gathering them together with text and splashes of color, I create pages open to infinite interpretations. Each new person interacts with the pages uniquely. These individualized interactions provide my audience with the means to transcend the role of a passive viewer, and become an intimate part of a piece's completion as well as an artist in

their own right. Once finished, they can reflect back on their choice of interaction to discover something about themselves.

Paper IIIA-4:

Title: Broken Mirrors and Dreams

Author: Dylan Wallace Limoges

Abstract: How light affects an object intrigues me. The light creates shadows and striking contrasts. I enjoy the way that the human figure and light interact with each other. My goal was to paint the human figure but something was missing. One day my mirror fell and broke. I reassembled some of the fragments and it intrigued me. The different broken shards rearranged my facial features. This inspired me to create a body of work that incorporates the human form and is fractured in some way. Also how light plays an important role within the art.

Paper IIIA-5:

Title: Creatures of Mind

Author: Denis Sinclair

Abstract: My body of works is the limitless possibility of my imagination. By taking time to find the perfect idea I am able to express that idea through the use of software painting programs. There are no strings attached to any of works: no story behind it, no representation-all of it is just what I can come up with. Every little idea is ever evolving and that is what makes it amazing. During this time I will examine my own works that show the depth of my imagination and just how I find innovative ideas to create these works of art.

Paper IIIA-6:

Title: Inspirations of the Past

Author: Matthew Barge

Abstract: My art work consists of abstract simplistic forms combined with free flowing drips of paint. My series of works create a unity between the orderly and the structured with the seemingly loose and random. My art has its roots in both the ancient and contemporary pasts. In my presentation I will talk about my artist family and some of the artists and art movements that have existed over the millennia and influenced my work. I will talk about artists that have both influenced me by the style of their work or their philosophy behind the creation of their art.

Paper IIIA-7:

Title: Landscape Painting: Intuition Meets Abstraction

Author: Shelagh Conley

Abstract: I paint fantastical and abstracted landscapes. Each brush stroke, and movement is done in an improvisational way with nothing to guide me but my instincts. The result is a colorful, textured image that resembles parts of nature. The most fascinating and important part of my art work is what inspires and compels me to create, and how different that is compared to the final painting. I will not only discuss my techniques in creating these acrylic paintings, but also the emotion connection I have to the creative process itself—you will learn why making art is such an essential part of my being.

Paper IIIA-8

Title: Geology as a Relationship Abstract

Author: Alberto Roman

Abstract: This series of work examines the formations of rocks and how they are arranged in nature. Through the course of millenniums, large and small rocks are undermined, dragged and even thrown up (via underground pressurized water bursting through bedrock) before settling in place where they will remain to today. These ink drawing explores the numerous shapes, texture and composition of rocks, boulders and pebbles as they give an insight to the origin of each rock as they were before settling on the surface of the earth.

Paper IIIA-9

Title: The Importance of Seeing

Author: Betsy Baczek

Abstract: What is the difference between seeing something and looking at it? My work is a series of landscapes and still lives examining the difference between glancing at the natural world and really absorbing it. Each piece depicts a scene changed by color and contrast, demonstrating the way atmosphere can change through shifting light, weather, and focus. My presentation will focus on the importance of seeing the environment, and why.

Paper Presentations III-B
Murdock 216, 2:00-3:20 pm

Paper IIIB-1:

Title: Hezbollah: From Guerillas to Politicians

Author: Courtney Keefe

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: President Reagan once described the Middle East as a region that senselessly spills blood in the name of religious faith. It is also a region that is often associated with terrorism. Hezbollah is a modern-day terrorist organization in Lebanon that developed in the 1980's and is known for its aggression against Israel and the West, especially the United States. In this presentation I will argue that Hezbollah is not a terrorist organization that appeared spontaneously. Instead, the organization was created in response to social, political, and military inequalities and oppression, evolving from a terrorist organization to a political entity.

Paper IIIB-2:

Title: Red Terrorism in the Years of Lead

Author: Evan Pirnie

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: Known as the "Years of Lead," the time from 1968 to 1984 was an era of great fear for Italian citizens. A terrorist organization called the Brigade Rosse [Red Brigades] would become one of the most dangerous groups established during this time and made substantial contributions to that fear. In this presentation I will analyze the major issues evolving in Italy after World War 2 that led to the formation of the Red Brigades and explain the tactics they used to thrive during the Years of Lead.

Paper IIIB-3:

Title: Paul Robeson: A Casualty of the Times

Author: Jason Adams

Faculty Advisor: Ely Janis

Abstract: A scholar, athlete, singer, actor, political activist, and star around the world. Paul Robeson became known as a radical and Un-American during the Cold War era not due to his ideas or views, but due to American society and the world that was coming into existence around him as he was arising to great heights. His love of freedom, equality, and the country of Russia would lead to the United States government and some people in American society turning against the once beloved African American Star. He was eventually almost entirely forgotten in history due to McCarthyism and “radical” beliefs.

Paper IIIB-4

Title: “Are you an Addict?” The Addiction of Technology and Social Media

Author: Benjamin Finley

Faculty Advisor: Diane Balduzy

Abstract: There is a new drug on the street these days that nearly everyone, at nearly any age, has already tried and has left them completely addicted to it. This new drug is the combination of technology and social media. This presentation examines the effects of technology and social media on the brain and how it changes the interactions of individuals to the outside world. This includes studies performed by several independent research institutions; along with information included from well-known publications and studies done in collaboration with Elon University. The possible effects of the use of technology and social media will be discussed. Please use as directed!

Paper IIIB-5

Title: Thomas Jefferson: Radical or Enlightenment Thinker?

Author: Alisia True

Faculty Advisor: Ely Janis

Abstract: This paper will look at the representation of Jefferson as a radical using his writings and actions during the election of 1800 as a focal point. By looking at the perceptions of Jefferson as a radical (or not), his actions that often contradicted his ideologies, his relationships with other founders, Adams and Hamilton in particular, and looking at him comparatively with his contemporaries, one can begin to see Jefferson as both a radical and as an average Enlightenment thinker.

Paper Session III-C
Murdock 213, 2:00-3:20 pm

Paper IIIC-1:

Title: The American Revolution: Terrorism or Struggle for Independence?

Author: John Bresett

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: Independence. Freedom. Revolution. These are all words that are looked at when a nation is trying to fend for itself. Patriots in the American Colonies resisted British rule and wanted to fend for themselves in their own, independently ruled nation. Some have argued that the tactics used prior to the American Revolution could be seen as terrorism. In this presentation, I will consider definitions of terrorism and then argue that while parts of the American Revolution could be considered terrorist acts, the Revolution itself was not terrorism.

Paper IIIC-2:

Title: Negative Media Portrayals, Prison Communication Networks, Popular Culture and Gender: How the Red Army Faction Used It All to Their Advantage.

Author: Dahlia Gallagher

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: The Red Army Faction was a terrorist group in Germany in the nineteen sixties and seventies. Birted from radical leftist student movements, this group, commonly known as the Baader Meinhof group, influenced generations of German citizens. Despite antagonistic media attention and imprisonment of its leaders, the Red Army Faction persisted and prospered. Almost every obstacle put in their way was turned into a new opportunity to validate their cause and further the movement. I aim to uncover these methods and to investigate their impact.

Paper IIIC-3:

Title: Bracketing Terrorism

Author: Rajnikant Ishmael

Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: Politicized understandings of terrorism via news media overshadow the intellectual understanding of it, which leads to parochialism. My research asks whether terrorism can be defined without making it dismissive of violence or incomprehensible to the observer. I will focus on three umbrella categories that can serve as bridges to understanding terrorism in a concise manner: Civilian Terrorism, State-Sponsored Terrorism, and International or Transnational Terrorism.

Paper IIIC-4

Title: Human Trafficking in North America: The Hidden Tragedy and Why Continental Neighbours Fail to Enact Cooperative Policies

Author: Lucas McDiarmid

Faculty Advisor: Robert Bence

Abstract: Human Trafficking is a crime which goes largely unnoticed in the United States. Through my research, I intend to examine policies in place in North America. The research will be conducted as a comparative study between the nations of Continental North America. I will examine the laws and policies of Mexico, the United States, and Canada to show how the crime is combated in each nation. I will also show whether or not the three nations work interactively to limit and restrict the flow of trafficking victims. I also intend to examine how the U.S. and its North American neighbours treat the victims of the crime.

*Special Session IV-A: Philosophy Mini-Conference
Murdock 201, 3:30-4:50 pm
Faculty Sponsor: Matt Silliman*

Paper IVA-1:

Title: Philosophy and Practical Implementation of Vegetarianism

Author: Avery Finnivan

Faculty Advisor: David Johnson

Abstract: The field of philosophy suffers from no shortage of moral analyses of vegetarianism, but most involve theory alone. This project focuses equally on providing a moral basis for obligatory vegetarianism and addressing practical arguments against vegetarianism. Logical argumentation serves as the project's framework and method of establishing conclusions. Most sources are prior philosophical works on vegetarianism. This project concludes by demonstrating that moral theory

compels vegetarianism for individuals to maintain logical consistency, and that practical obstacles excuse relatively few people from that compulsion. The project's scope is confined primarily to the USA, though much of it applies equally well elsewhere.

Paper IVA-2:

Title: Morality and Education

Author: Sebastian Waldron

Faculty Advisor: Matt Silliman

Abstract: Teachers have a very large effect on children's lives both in and outside of the classroom in our world today. Educating children and young adults on how to become responsible human beings is one of the most foundational aspects of any successful educational system. Drawing from the theories of Plato, John Dewey, Harvey Siegel, and other real world examples of moral education, this paper claims from a philosophical standpoint why morality is not only an integral aspect of any student's education, but in fact inherent within it.

Paper IVA-3:

Title: Glaucon: Plato's Socratic Student

Author: Dominick Cooper

Faculty Advisor: Matt Silliman

Abstract: There is a great deal of scholarship on the political philosophy of Plato's Republic, and much less so on education. The opening scene of the Republic depicts Socrates and Glaucon going down to Piraeus. This paper shows a pedagogical purpose of that journey. An analysis of the Republic shows the education of a young timocrat—Glaucon. A close dramatic reading of the dialogue, with attention to the interplay between Socrates and Glaucon illustrate the education of Glaucon—most notably, the Allegory, the dialectical movements of Book VIII into Book IX, and finally the dramatic scene of Glaucon's transformation in Book IX.

Paper IVA-4:

Title: Buddhism as Methodology

Author: Brian Fitzpatrick

Faculty Advisor: David Johnson

Abstract: The best way to account for the changeability and difference within the form and beliefs of Buddhism is to classify it as a sort of methodology. The recent upswing of fundamentalism is particularly strange in a faith where worldly political and social concerns are secondary to seeking enlightenment. Buddhism viewed as a methodology takes as its first principles the possibility of the end of suffering, but it leaves future practitioners to innovate as long as they are in line with Buddhism's first principles. Buddhism is uniquely able to innovate and to accept rationalism and science, while rejecting the stultifying forces of fundamentalism.

Paper IV-5

Title: Should a Theory of Justice Remain just That? Exploring the Possibility of Working inside of Rawls's Original Position

Author: Helena Kemper

Faculty Advisor: Paul Nnodim

Abstract: If the possibility of bias opinions and perspectives were liberated from a given society how much better off would it actually be? The paper that I am currently in the process of writing seeks to help me convey to the audience exactly what a theory of justice is, how and to whom it can be applied, and what the outcome of using one can be. Before delving any further it is important to understand the concept of the principle of liberal legitimacy in a given society. In Rawls's Theory of Justice presented in 1971, he conveys democratic conceptions of person and society.

Paper IV-6

Title: Lincoln the Utilitarian

Author: Rajnikant Ishmael

Faculty Advisor: Matt Silliman

Abstract: Abraham Lincoln was a politician rather than a moral philosopher, though he was thoughtful and articulate about his moral choices. It is not obvious, however, what theoretical moral framework primarily informed his deliberation. The difficulty is not entirely due to Lincoln himself; moral theories themselves sometimes generate paradox when put into practice. On the basis of his emphasis on compassion in preserving the union and other evidence, I will argue that Lincoln was, primarily if not entirely consistently, a utilitarian.

Paper IVA-7

Title: The Internet, Crowdsourcing, and the Democratization of the Market

Author: B Gaudet

Faculty Advisor: Gerol Petruzella

Abstract: The Internet and various related technology, through the facilitation of crowd-sourcing, is fundamentally changing how consumers interact with companies and their products. This crowd-sourced participation economy puts pressure on companies to deal more directly, honestly, and publicly with customers and customer concerns. The participation economy is essential to the democratization of the market (which is, itself, essential to democracy in politics), and will create an economic environment better suited for a free market.

Paper IVA-8

Title: Anti-Nudism: Cultural, Conformist, and Fallible

Author: Colby Harvish

Faculty Advisor: Sumi Colligan

Abstract: Nudism, which is the practice of living or conducting activities in the nude, is taboo to many. Opponents of nudism often resort to claims that nudism is sexual, deviant, harmful to children or others, aesthetically detestable, or impractical. The paper aims to rebut or refute such claims. Why, then, do so many anti-nudists persist, despite their fallible arguments? In order to address this question, the paper provides an analysis of the historical and cultural development, or withering, if the case may be, of nudism in a few countries, such as the United States, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

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The talent, dedication and hard work of our student-researchers made this conference possible. We congratulate them on their fine achievements.

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