Welcome to the Eleventh Annual MCLA Undergraduate Research Conference
Thursday April 18, 2013

Schedule of Events
8:30 – 10:30 am
Welcome Remarks, Monica Joslin, Dean of Academic Affairs
Poster Session (Venable Gym)

9:30 – 10:50 am
Special Session I-A: Major Templates: 2013 ePortfolio Fellows (Murdock 218)
Special Session I-B: From Modern Preview to Post-Modern Practice in Literature and Film (Murdock 201)
Paper Presentations I-C (Murdock 322)
Paper Presentations I-D (Murdock 216)

11:00 am – 12:20 pm
Special Session II-A: Medieval and Renaissance Britain: Texts, Contexts, & Inspirations (Murdock 218)
Special Session II-B: Japan: Juxtaposition of Modernity and Tradition (Murdock 201)
Special Session II-C: Directing Class Mid-Term Project (Campus Center)
Paper Presentations II-D (Murdock 322)
Paper Presentations II-E (Murdock 216)

12:30 – 1:30 pm
Keynote Address and Luncheon (Campus Center Gym)
Introductory Remarks by President Mary Grant
Presented by Evan Herrmann ’07
“Becoming a Behavioral Scientist”

1:30 – 2:00 pm
Meet the Keynote Speaker (Sullivan Lounge)
FOR STUDENTS ONLY
Come meet Evan Herrmann for an informal Q & A Session

2:00 - 3:20 pm
Special Session III-A: Artist Talks (Murdock 201)
Special Session III-B: U.N. Security Council—An Audience Participation Presentation (Murdock 301)
Special Session III-C: Issues in Sociology (Murdock 213)
Paper Presentations III-D (Murdock 322)
Paper Presentations III-E (Murdock 216)

3:30 - 4:50 pm
Special Session IV-A: Philosophy Mini-Conference (Murdock 218)
*Agamemnon* and talk-back session with cast and crew (Venable Theatre)
Poster 1
Title: Gender Diversity in Social Entrepreneurship Curricula: Learning from the Syllabi
Author: Tyson Luneau, Rebecca Ramos, David Boerman, Samantha St. Pierre
Faculty Advisor: Petra Hejnova

Abstract: We examine gender differences and gender representation in syllabi devoted to social entrepreneurship topics. Specifically, we focus on the gender diversity of the faculty and professionals instructing social entrepreneurship courses, the gender diversity of the authors of assigned readings, and the gender representation among authors of readings we identify as those assigned most frequently. We focus on 4-year non-profit colleges and universities in the United States. Reviewing existing curricula in regards to gender representation is crucial as it may increase our understanding of how educational institutions portray social enterprise innovators to students.

Poster 2
Title: Rise of Social Media in Marketing
Author: Desiree Brown
Faculty Advisor: Celia Norcross/ David Eve

Abstract: Social media is widely used today by many consumers. These outlets can be beneficial for businesses to use by promoting their products/services/events to their customers using Facebook and Twitter. Businesses can find their customers through Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram. These social media avenues are becoming very popular, allowing many businesses to find ways to stay relevant in their target markets. I will be using online sources and magazines that will be determined at a later date.

Poster 3
Title: Serving and Learning in Appalachia
Author: Samuel Boyden
Faculty Advisor: Spencer Moser

Abstract: This poster presentation will present MCLA’s Alternative Spring Break service and cultural program in the heart of Appalachia in Eastern Kentucky. It describes the insights and perspectives acquired by the MCLA students who served at the David School, tutored and mentored at-risk Appalachian high school students, and volunteered in the community of David. Presenters will also comment on the observed and experienced cultural, economic, historical, and other critical conditions of the area.

Poster 4
Title: Native and Medicinal Herb Garden on Campus
Author: Katherine Lloyd, Max Dilthey, Korinna Dennehey
Faculty Advisor: Emily Mooney
Abstract: Wild medicinal plants are at risk due to the combined effects of habitat destruction, human harvest, and other changing environmental factors. In spring of 2012, we installed a medicinal plant garden at a forested site on campus. This medicinal herb garden houses at-risk understory plants native to our region. With the help of volunteers, we first removed trash and invasive plant species from the site. The plants were selected after research into their life history, growing requirements, and medicinal use. This poster presents the outcome of our research and planting efforts.

**Poster 5**
Title: Land Use Changes in New England Agriculture  
Author: Katherine Lloyd, Amber Luke, Sarah DiMarino, Elizabeth Brisebois  
Faculty Advisor: Dan Shustack

Abstract: In the 1880s, 54% of the land in New England was used for agricultural purposes. Today, only 18% of the farms that existed historically are still around today. That is because many abandoned farms have grown up into forests, and other farms have been developed for urban and residential purposes. The agricultural New England landscape is now a more forested and urban landscape than it was. Occasionally some agricultural land is preserved, like Sheep Hill in Williamstown, MA. While not actively farmed anymore, this property is maintained to preserve the New England agricultural landscape from the 1930s.

**Poster 6**
Title: Student Perceptions, Performance and Motivation in the Core Curriculum  
Author: Michael McCormick, Kelli Furney, Bethany Munsell, Jennifer Harrington  
Faculty Advisor: Rebekah Benjamin

Abstract: Prior research has shown that the goals of the general education curriculum are important to business, civic, and academic leaders. Unfortunately, the same research has also suggested that students do not place the same degree of importance on those aspects of their college education. In the present study we look to examine the relationships between student motivation, perceptions, and performance in the core curriculum of a small public liberal arts college. We use a modified version of the Attitudes Toward Learning - General Education scale to assess these constructs across a variety of demographic characteristics. Results are pending.

**Poster 7**
Title: The Effects of Extinction on Voice Pitch and Volume  
Author: Ivette Santizo, Shawna Rosser, Michael McCormick, Colleen Shea  
Faculty Advisor: Tom Byrne

Abstract: B.F. Skinner (1957) researched verbal behavior and the acquisition of linguistics. He defines terms such as mands, verbal requests, and tacts. Our study measured voice pitch in terms of characteristic consequences. Our objective is to determine whether there is an increase in voice pitch frequency when an extinction of a positive reinforcement is presented. This study will include approximately 10 students from an introductory
psychology course at MCLA. Our experiment consists of participants answering a set of 70 mathematical equations through a microphone within 30 minutes. The extinction intervention is later presented.

Poster 8
Title: Student Perception of MCLA Student Study Habits and Perceptions of Academic Performance
Author: Shawna Rosser, Christopher Tate
Faculty Advisor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: Academic Self- Efficacy is widely regarded as one of the most important factors determining college students’ motivational and goal-setting tendencies, which are key predictors of overall academic success (Bandura, 1993). There has been little research, however, into how academic support on college campuses relates to these factors. The present study aims to determine MCLA students’ perceptions of academic support resources, their Academic Self- Efficacy using the General Self- Efficacy scale (GSE), and academic performance. We hypothesize that there is a positive correlation between perceived availability of academic support and Academic Self- Efficacy.

Poster 9
Title: A Measurement of the Band Gap in Silicon and Germanium
Author: Stephanie Watroba
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Adrienne Wootters

Abstract: The Band Gap experiment demonstrates the quantization of energy of electrons. Different materials require a different amount of voltage to be introduced in order for electrons to receive enough energy to flow through a circuit. I worked with two different semiconductors. In particular, in this experiment I checked the output for Silicon and Germanium diodes under the strain of different temperatures, including sub-zero.

Poster 10
Title: Survey of Young Adults’ Online Interactions
Author: Megan Casey, Catherine Nickerson
Faculty Advisor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: The present study is designed to compare individuals’ online and offline (in-person) relationships. Previous studies have shown different electronic uses among men and women, where undergraduate women were much more likely to use Facebook than their male counterparts (Thompson & Lougheed, 2012). We will use surveys to ask questions about people’s friendships and internet habits. We expect to see people maintaining long-distance relationships with the use of social networking (ie. Facebook, Twitter, Skype), and we expect their perceptions will be similar with these friendships in comparison to their face to face friendships.

Poster 11
Title: The Depiction of Native Americans in Disney Films
Abstract: Disney’s portrayal of Native Americans in the films *Peter Pan* (1953) and *Pocahontas* (1995) plays heavily upon the stereotypes of culture that exist in our society. In more recent times, Disney films have changed regarding race. In *Peter Pan*, the Native American is illustrated as “red,” jumping around the campfire, and smoking peace pipes. In *Pocahontas*, he is represented as stoic, one with nature, and spiritual. I believe that Disney has become more willing to portray Native Americans in a positive light in recent years due to societal pressure.

**Poster 12**
Title: Benefits, Skills, and 21st Century Career Paths of MCLA Sociology Graduates
Author: Doris Behanzin, Kailey DeMarsico, Alexandra Kastrinakis, Rebecca McCauley, Cara Sheedy, Joel Siskin
Faculty Advisor: Diane Baldulzy

Abstract: Over the past three decades numerous studies have been conducted to find out what sociology alumni learned from their degree. MCLA sociology alumni were surveyed and asked to assess the major’s success in helping them attain skills and knowledge in specific areas, acquire conceptual abilities, develop marketable skills, and utilize these skills to effectively navigate the job market. Results and drawbacks of the study will be presented.

**Poster 13**
Title: Eagle Street Rising: Urban Revitalization in North Adams
Author: Luis Felipe Aedo, Richard Doucette
Faculty Advisor: Elena Traister

Abstract: Eagle Street Rising is a project organized by the Green Living Seminar and to be implemented as a public event on April 27th, 2013. Following the Seminar’s theme of place-based prosperity, students in the class learn about the different aspects of urban sustainability and how they relate to economic and social sustainability. Throughout the semester, the students organize an event that demonstrates the ability to rapidly revitalize historic Eagle Street. As a result, the students are able to put into practice what they learn during this course and experience the benefits that their project can have on the local community.

**Poster 14**
Title: Feasibility Study of a WISP in Northern Berkshire County
Author: Kevin Thomson
Faculty Advisor: David Eve

Abstract: Berkshire County has many rural areas where Internet service is unreliable. It is too costly for providers to maintain the lines going to homes in rural areas. As a result, subscribers are left with expensive bills and mediocre service. This project considers the
feasibility of a wireless Internet service provider (WISP) in Northern Berkshire County. The Internet services would be transmitted wirelessly to a subscriber's home and link the end user to the Mass Broadband 123 Fiber Optic project. This could result in improved service at a reduced cost for the customer.

**Poster 15**
Title: Free Roaming Cat Study  
Author: Daniel Anderson  
Faculty Advisor: Daniel Shustack

Abstract: There is increasing concern over the impact that domestic cats (Felis catus) have on native animal populations. A recent review estimated that in the United States, domestic cats kill 7-25 billion birds and mammals annually. The purpose of my project is to document the extent and attempt to estimate the population of free-roaming and owned cats in North Adams, MA. Determining the magnitude of the owned and free-roaming cat populations will make it possible to estimate the potential impact to wildlife populations in this community. My study encompasses multiple observation techniques, primarily through use of trail cameras.

**Poster 16**
Title: Amphibian Population Monitoring in the MCLA Forest  
Author: Daniel Anderson, Jason Brown, Macy Fredericksen  
Faculty Advisor: Elena Traister

Abstract: The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Forest lies adjacent to the Athletic Complex and measures approximately 70 square acres. This project is an effort to better utilize the forest and gain additional knowledge of amphibians, specifically the Red-Backed Salamander. Additionally, this study will allow for independent research opportunities for MCLA students. To evaluate the current amphibian population inhabiting the forest, artificial cover boards of alternating sizes will be placed in transects and monitored for specimens on an annual basis. This technique is a common method for monitoring amphibian populations because of the similarities between cover boards and natural habitats.

**Poster 17**
Title: Jiminy Peak Rental System  
Author: Vale Maziarz  
Faculty Advisor: Mark Cohen

Abstract: This project is to develop a web-based application that will allow the Jiminy Peak rental shop to move away from paper records and move to a more efficient and environmentally friendly form of record keeping. It was implemented to make the overall process of renting equipment faster and safer by removing operator error when setting the binding release on skis and allowing a computer system to do the calculations. The project also has a standalone Android application that calculates the release settings and can be used in both Imperial and Metric measurement systems.
Poster 19
Title: Listen to the Mustn’ts: An Inquiry Into the Art and Poetry of Shel Silverstein
Author: Alacin Fanning
Faculty Advisor: Dale Borman Fink

Abstract: There is deeper meaning within children's literature than some people realize. My research explores the work of the twentieth century American author and poet Shel Silverstein. I studied Silverstein's illustrations, satire, and short narrative poems, and decided to focus my presentation mostly on two of his popular collections of poetry, *Where the Sidewalk Ends* (1974), and *A Light in the Attic* (1981). I discovered themes such as the celebration of children's imaginations, the loss of childhood innocence, and the complexity of relationships between adults and children. I look forward to sharing my analysis, along with samples of Silverstein’s words and drawings.

Poster 20
Title: Indirect Measurement of Surface Acoustic Waves
Author: David Daniels
Faculty Advisor: Adrienne Wootters

Abstract: I have demonstrated that it is possible to measure microscopic waves on the surface of water by analyzing the diffraction pattern produced by a beam of light that is incident on the surface of the water. The distance between peaks in the diffraction pattern and the relative intensity of the peaks within the pattern provide information that leads to the measurement of the amplitude of the surface wave off of which the light was reflected.

Poster 21
Title: Contributors to the Health of College Students
Author: Alyssa Neil, Bronwen Barrett
Faculty Advisor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: With increased media attention and evidence suggesting the importance of a healthy diet, researchers need to consider how different groups of people such as college students are affected by what they consume. College students are in a position where they have to expend significant cognitive effort while attempting to maintain mental and physical health in the face of stress, sleep loss, and sometimes a poor diet. This study is designed to evaluate the correlations between healthy eating, academic motivation, and mental health. We hypothesize that college students who prioritize healthy eating will have better mental health and perform better academically.

Poster 23
Title: Student Perceptions of Self-Disclosing Mental Health Concerns in the Classroom
Author: Olivia Bolner, Alexa O’Neil
Faculty Advisor: Benjamin Wood
Abstract: The purpose of the study was to generate phenomenological descriptions about how students perceive self-disclosure of mental health concerns in classroom settings. By interviewing students about hearing self disclosures of mental health concerns, it was possible to identify themes that arose from these experiences. Those interviewed were asked to describe their experiences, thoughts, emotions, and behaviors associated with hearing self disclosures. Reactions to self disclosures included concern, discomfort, interest, respect, indifference, and increased understanding. The description of student reactions will be beneficial to teachers who plan on having class discussions relevant to mental health in class.

Poster 24
Title: North American Cemeteries
Author: Sara Bouchard, Kaylie Warner, Anthony Argo, Joseph Duncan, Vernon Cross
Faculty Advisor: Daniel Shustack

Abstract: Noticeable characteristics within the landscape of graveyards that depend on their design and management. The purpose of our project is to use a local cemetery, Hillside Cemetery in North Adams, MA, to illustrate the effects that cemeteries have on natural landscapes. Using historical records, we described the origins and changes associated with Hillside Cemetery. We then related this local case study to cemeteries in general by describing cemeteries’ effects on biodiversity and erosion.

Poster 25
Title: Affordable Autonomous Data Collection
Author: Nicole Smith
Faculty Advisor: Mark Cohen

Abstract: Scientific experiments often require large amounts of data to be collected over long periods of time. This data could be collected by humans, but for many experiments it is advantageous for the data to be collected autonomously. This project creates a low-cost system that collects a variety of types of data, such as ambient temperature or light levels, at time intervals defined by the user. This data can be delivered in a text file of comma-separated values or placed in a database. These formats are easily accessed by spreadsheet software and user-designed programs, which facilitate data manipulation.

Poster 26
Title: Relations Between Youth Soccer Participants’ Motivation to Play and Parental Involvement in Sport
Author: Ashley White, Miranda Benjamin
Faculty Advisor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: The present study strived to expand on previous research regarding relationships between parental involvement in youth sports and their children’s motivation and perceptions about their sport. Participants were children in a premier level soccer club, ages 7-14, and their parents. Surveys gathered information regarding parental involvement and support of the program, children’s motivation and perceptions of soccer, and
demographics for all participants. Results showed significant correlations between parents' exercise routines and children’s identified motivation, exercise routines and children’s internal motivation, intrinsic motivation and children's interest and thoughts of soccer, and parental support and discussions about soccer.

**Poster 27**

Title: Observing the Maxwell-Boltzmann Distribution due to LED Internal Heating  
Author: Caroline Bartlett  
Faculty Advisor: Adrienne Wootters

Abstract: LEDs (light emitting diodes) emit light through a quantum mechanical process that is not necessarily temperature dependent. This QM process occurs when electrons in the conduction band of a semiconductor recombine with holes in the lower valence band. However, due to the internal heating of the p-n junction, we observe a Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution in the LEDs' spectra. I have explored this broadening in the blackbody spectrum of several various LEDs with specific wavelengths in order to investigate the internal heating effect of the LED.

**Poster 28**

Title: #SocMedia and Journalism  
Author: Ayaka Lanzoni  
Faculty Advisor: James Niedbalski

Abstract: Rewind to the 18th century, when the only source of news was from a newspaper or word of mouth. In today’s world, journalism has changed, and so has the way everyone gets news. Social media — Twitter, Facebook, etc. — have become a presence in getting news and information. However, there are pros and cons to using it as both a source and way of gathering news. My research has shown that social media can be used by journalists to get news/sources, but that there is a certain way of using it to a journalist’s advantage.

**Poster 29**

Title: Autonomous Robot Navigation  
Author: Michael Wheelock  
Faculty Advisor: David Eve

Abstract: Robots are playing an increasing role in our everyday lives. For less than $300 in parts and materials, I have built an autonomous robot that explores its environment while avoiding obstacles and keeping track of its location in space. It is capable of various other tasks such as line following, cliff detection, and achieving a navigational goal. By using an inexpensive but fully functional microcomputer as its brain, the robot is controllable over a wireless network as well. The poster presentation will include a video, schematics, and short working demonstrations.

**Poster 30**

Title: The Alteration of Landscapes from Hydropower: A Case Study of Beaver Street Dam, North Adams, MA
Abstract: Throughout the 1800s and 1900s, the demand for energy in the United States generated an increase in hydropower facilities. However, the implications of these dams are still argued. We examined the impact of hydropower facilities using a local case study of Beaver Dam in North Adams, MA. Beaver Dam exemplifies the positives and negatives of hydropower. We found that although the dams are effective at producing power, they lead to many drastic landscape changes that persist today. In conjunction, we examined the process of dam building and the modern environmental standards that have to be met during dam construction.

Poster 31
Title: The Correlation Between Sex Education and Teen Pregnancy Rates
Author: Corinne Blake
Faculty Advisor: Kathleen Miller

Abstract: The United States has the highest teen pregnancy rate among developed countries. The teen pregnancy rate in the United States is more than 9 times higher than in the Netherlands, and the teen birth rate is almost 11 times higher. I will look at sex education programs in these and other developed countries to see how they compare. Through research, I hope to draw some conclusions about the correlation between the quality of sex education and teen pregnancy and birth rates.

Poster 32
Title: Jerzy Grotowski and the Parallels of Buddhism
Author: Thomas Leidenfrost
Faculty Advisor: Laura Standley

Abstract: Many parallels within Buddhist ideology arose throughout my research into Jerzy Grotowski and his methods in creating theatrical performance. This approach in understanding the Polish director's ideas took on more spiritual connotations, as opposed to the materialistic and physical values normally associated with his work. Buddhism and Grotowski create similar frameworks in the search of truth through the form of self-discovery and experience.

Poster 33
Title: Steve Green Scholarship: UNITY
Author: Adam Tobin
Faculty Advisor: Spencer Moser

Abstract: I will be presenting on my work with the youth leadership program called UNITY. UNITY is a program established by the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition and has had great success in getting high school aged students from around Berkshire County to learn how to work efficiently in teams to tackle community service projects they create. I will discuss the practices of our sessions and point out the various elements which have
contributed in shaping and developing these young student leaders. I will discuss the projects which the students have tackled and discuss how these projects have shaped these young individuals and their sense of role in a community.

**Poster 34**  
Title: Optimizing Thomson's Jumping Ring  
Author: Dan Nesti  
Faculty Advisor: Adrienne Wootters

Abstract: Thomson's Jumping Ring is a demonstration of Faraday's Law, whereby a conducting ring placed over the extended core of a vertical solenoid will jump in the air when a circuit is connected to an AC power line. In addition, a small ring chilled in liquid nitrogen jumps much higher than its reduced resistance would suggest, but some larger rings will jump no higher upon chilling. A fair question to delve into, given these initial ideas, is as follows: what is the correlation of the jump height in aluminum and copper rings as a function of ring mass and how does it show a resonance that varies with mass and temperature?

**Poster 35**  
Title: Automated Aquaponics System  
Author: Louis DiNatale  
Faculty Advisor: Mark Cohen

Abstract: The Automated Aquaponics System is based on a robotics project that uses sensor readings to build artificial intelligence to perform actions. This system will use pumps to circulate water and air through a fish tank and PVC piping with plants inside them. The system will also check water temperature and the light levels of the area of the plants and fish. The most important sensor is the water level sensor in both the fish tank and the PVC piping. All this data will be updated to a feed so the information can be viewed remotely.

**Poster 36**  
Title: What Does a Coach Do, Anyway? Coaching and its Impact on Youth Sport Participation  
Author: Bryan Acton, Gabrielle King  
Faculty Advisor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: This study intends to examine the relationships between coaching behaviors, players’ perceived competence, player motivation, and individual player ratings of their coach. We administered surveys to 40 8-13 year old youth soccer players within a premier travel soccer league. After preliminary analyses, we found that, for the players, the more autonomy support they perceived from their coach, the greater their perceptions of soccer competence. We also found that male players rated their coaches (all male coaches) significantly higher than female players, in regards to their ability to provide encouragement to players. These results help illustrate some of the potential impacts that certain youth coaching behaviors have on players.
**Poster 37**
Title: Rate of Bubble Growth  
Author: Travis Tatro  
Faculty Advisor: Adrienne Wootters

Abstract: I measured the rate of growth of carbon dioxide bubbles in seltzer using a video microscope and graphing utilities, allowing for data to be taken precisely and accurately. The rate of bubble growth is temperature dependent. I have compared my experimental values with theoretical values at various temperatures, and I report my results.

**Poster 38**
Title: Can Bubbles Sink Ships?  
Author: Nicholas Bonatt  
Faculty Advisor: Adrienne Wootters

Abstract: This experiment addresses the phenomenon of ships sinking due to massive methane gas released from the ocean floor. I have modeled this phenomenon and measured the relationship between water/bubble density and the buoyant force on a model ship. The bubbles reduce the buoyant force by reducing the density of the water surrounding the object, thus causing the object to sink. Given enough current from the surge of bubbles the object will stay afloat.

**Poster 39**
Title: Japanese Fashion Trends and Their Cultural Significance  
Author: Nikki Kratounis, Ciara Gerena  
Faculty Advisor: Kailai Huang

Abstract: After experiencing Japanese fashion both firsthand and intimately, we found that the street style in places like Kanazawa, Kyoto, and Tokyo differ. We were, however, able to find cultural significance in all aspects of their fashion. Our poster will display a variety of Japanese people through personally taken photographs in an attempt to portray what it means to be Japanese and the juxtaposition of modernity and tradition apparent in their cultural identity.

**Poster 40/41**
Title: Legislative History of Title IX  
Author: Tyler Prendergast, Adam Larson  
Faculty Advisor: Patricia Sullivan

Abstract: The year 2012 marked the 40th anniversary of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in all federally funded education programs. This work demonstrates the long process of legislative changes and adoption in practice brought about by this law. Athletics has created the most controversy regarding Title IX, but gains in other aspects of education are notable.
Information for this project was gathered for purposes of a multi-media presentation to make Title IX information more accessible to the MCLA college community.
This presentation showcases the work of the nine 2013 MCLA ePortfolio Fellows in designing and building templates for their respective majors. The Fellows will discuss the merits of the ePortfolio to aggregate and present their respective major and program experiences to their best advantage when pursuing employment, graduate study, and other opportunities.

**Presentation IA-1:** Megan Norton

**Presentation IA-2:** Dawn Harrington

**Presentation IA-3:** Anastasia Abbruscato

**Presentation IA-4:** Samantha Ritcher

**Presentation IA-5:** Benjamin Raimer

**Presentation IA-6:** Patrick Kelly

**Presentation IA-7:** Tyson Luneau

**Presentation IA-8:** Stephan Rochefort

**Presentation IA-9:** Benjamin Alibozek

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**Special Session I-B: From Modern Preview to Post-Modern Practice in Literature and Film, Murdock 201 9:30-10:50 am**

**Faculty Sponsors:** Rosanne Denhard and David Langston

**Paper IB-1:**

*Title:* George Meredith’s Early Work: From the "Marriage-Tomb" to the "Love of Earth"

*Author:* Christopher Johnson

*Faculty Advisor:* Rosanne Denhard

Abstract: English writer George Meredith’s (1828-1909) early works, the novel *The Ordeal of Richard Feveral* (first published in 1859) and the narrative sonnet cycle *Modern Love* (1862) can both be read as partly autobiographical in that they reflect, characterize, and focus interest upon Meredith’s tumultuous life and tragic first marriage. My research into
Meredith’s work, including *The Ordeal of Richard Feveral* and *Modern Love* and other early poems is meant to bring attention to Meredith’s underrepresented presence in the currently-popular view of the Victorian literary canon. My research integrates primary source material such as Meredith’s letters, as well as critical work.

**Paper IB-2:**
Title: Considering Cognition: *Mrs. Dalloway* Through a Modern Psychological Lens  
Author: Ben Latini  
Faculty Advisor: Rosanne Denhard

Abstract: Cognitive dissonance is one of the most useful psychological theories in the study of the novel because the value at the core of the novel is in the way it can show us simultaneously what people do and what they think and feel. A great many human problems are caused by the fact that there is often a gulf between those two modes of being (doing and thinking). Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway* provides an excellent case study of cognitive dissonance in literature as the eponymous protagonist struggles with regret and tries to come to terms with the choices she has made.

**Paper IB-3:**
Title: Making the Victor Victorious: A Study of the Evolution of Fascist Imagery in Modern Cinema  
Author: Mary Marcil  
Faculty Advisor: David Langston

Abstract: In the past forty years, many popular films have utilized elements of plot and images that derive from the cultural artifacts produced by various fascist political movements that arose earlier in the century. Films from *Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, Batman*, and films directed by Quentin Tarantino and Sam Peckinpah repeat settings, character types, and dramatic sequences that draw directly from the iconography of the Ukrainian Iron Guards, the propaganda of National Socialism, and the films of Leni Riefenstahl. The effect on contemporary cinema is to establish dramatic consequences, authorize social commentary, and affect the audience’s perceptions of meaning.

**Paper IB-4:**
Title: Incitement to Discourse: The Popularity of Fantasy as a Reaction to the Harshness of Reality in Erotic Graphic Novels  
Author: Natasha Dalton  
Faculty Advisor: David Langston

Abstract: The imagined world of the contemporary erotic graphic novel challenges the theory of sexualized modernity that Michel Foucault outlines in his “history” of sexuality. Foucault’s theory suggests that in a scene containing sexual domination, those submissive would only be willing because they had been persuaded by the discourse of sexuality to enter into an unequal distribution of power. However, in popular erotic graphic novels, the submissive are ironically the dominant because they have arranged a discourse in which
their submission is discursively determined. I argue that this escape from the reality Foucault describes leads to the popularity of this genre.
Disclaimer: This presentation will contain sexually explicit images.

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

Paper IC-1:
Title: Slip, Slide, or Roll?
Author: Mike Testa
Faculty Advisor: Emily Maher

Abstract: Using an atomic force microscope, I investigated rolling and sliding friction on the nanoscale. This research has implications in improving mechanical lubricants and surfaces, as well as pathology. Friction seems like a simple idea, yet scientific literature on nanoscale friction is surprisingly lacking. In the macroscopic world, spherical objects prefer rolling over sliding; for nanoscale objects this is not necessarily the case. We are testing the hypothesis that size, surface chemistry, and elastic modulus dictate whether spherical nanoscale objects will slide or roll. In order to understand the conditions that cause nanoscale particles to transition between the two translational modes, we precisely manipulate these variables and measure their effects.

Paper IC-2
Title: Johnny has Two Daddies: An Evaluation of Gay Dads Raising Kids
Author: Devan Monroe
Faculty Advisor: Sharon Claffey

Abstract: Research on male same-sex parenting is minimal in comparison to other groups raising children (i.e. lesbian parents and heterosexual parents). The present study seeks to examine depressive symptomatology, stress levels, and relationship/marital satisfaction among cohabitating male same-sex partners raising children under 18 years of age. Participants recruited from same-sex parenting support groups in the United States will complete an online survey. Results are expected to demonstrate that depressive symptomatology and stress levels will be highest and relationship/marital satisfaction will be lowest when children are younger. The opposite is expected to be true when children are older.

Paper IC-3:
Title: Philosophy, Insanity, and Terrorism: Assumptions of Mental State and the Dismissal of the Unabomber
Author: Steve Danowitz
Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: From the late 1970s through the mid-1990s, American scientists, engineers, and other professionals in technical fields were terrorized by a bombing campaign undertaken by an elusive suspect referred to as the Unabomber. When the Unabomber was finally
captured and identified as Ted Kaczynski, many in the media and general public immediately pronounced him insane. These assumptions interfered with the fairness of Kaczynski’s trial and obstructed his writings from being considered as legitimate works of philosophy.

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

**Paper ID-1:**
Title: Poverty Amidst Plenty: Social Welfare and Tourism in Washington, D.C.  
Author: Catherine Chaput  
Faculty Advisor: Nancy Ovitzky

Abstract: Tourism is commonly known as one of the biggest and best stimuli for any economy. In most instances this is very true and can be supported with evidence. However, this perspective of looking only at economic gains of increased tourism fails to examine the poor living conditions of the local population in many tourist destinations. Washington, D.C. is the most notable example of a city in the United States where tourism is a major segment of the economy, yet where the poverty, income inequality, homelessness, drug use, crime, and even sexually transmitted infection (STIs) rates are among the highest in the nation.

**Paper ID-2:**
Title: Lockerbie: What Did It Mean for Libya?  
Author: Kayla Armstrong  
Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: The bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, occurred on December 21, 1988, leaving no survivors. With help from the FBI, Scottish police compiled evidence and investigated the bombing. Finding those responsible was difficult, as it took almost three years to find and indict two Libyan men, and more than ten to bring them to trial. Topics covered in this presentation include the evidence found, reasons why the bombing occurred, difficulties that ensued, how investigators were able to indict the men, the trial, and what verdicts the men received.

**Paper ID-3:**
Title: The Cultural Aging of *Peter Pan*: A Look at How Peter Pan Grew Through Time  
Author: Kimberly Domanico  
Faculty Advisor: Dale Fink

Abstract: J.M. Barrie’s *Peter Pan* offers fertile ground to investigate how children’s literature overlaps with other creative arts forms. From a 1904 stage play in London to a novel (1911), to contemporary films such as *Hook* (1991), *Peter Pan’s* central character, a boy who refuses to grow up, has proved irresistible. This presentation examines visual imagery from the various adaptations and interpretations of *Peter Pan* through the ages in different media. It considers what audiences and consumers may have perceived in this
narrative, and why this iconic boy has remained a part of our culture through so many generations.

Special Session II-A: Medieval and Renaissance Britain: Texts, Contexts, & Inspirations, Murdock 218
11:00 am-12:20 pm
Faculty Sponsor: Rosanne Denhard

Paper IIA-1:
Title: The Planning of The Westminster Tales: From Inspiration to Creation
Author: Kimberly Domanico

Abstract: Making the decision to write something is easy, and so is coming up with a general topic. It is refining the writing to make it a worthwhile piece that is the difficult part. This presentation explores the process of researching and planning The Westminster Tales by combining academic travel experiences with research. The piece is inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer’s The Canterbury Tales of the 14th century and is written as a collection of tales about the many of the kinds of people who attended the coronation of King Charles II in London at Westminster Abbey in 1661.

Paper IIA-2:
Title: To and From Temptation: An Essay on Comus, Paradise Lost, and Milton
Author: Catherine Obrzut

Abstract: Although John Milton composed A Mask Presented at Ludlow Castle, 1634 (known as Comus) and Paradise Lost decades apart, both works highlight an important discourse on temptation and sin that many others of that age contemplated their entire lives. Using numerous resources, the paper discusses the attributes the two works share in the context of Milton’s life and time. Similarities in characters and differences in genre are worth noting when comparing the two. Considering his religious beliefs, the essential message Milton expressed through these two texts is the power of temptation and the potential consequences of giving in to it.

Paper IIA-3:
Title: Milton and Education: Merging Old World Knowledge with New World Ideas
Author: Johanna Young

Abstract: John Milton’s epic poem Paradise Lost (1667) describes the temptation and fall of Adam and Eve, their ejection from Eden, and the power play behind it from Satan, God, Devils, and Angels. By writing in traditions that were already familiar to the educated reader, Milton was able to rewrite a biblical story and incorporate modern ideas into the text. In looking at his education and the education of the time, we can understand better how Milton and his audience understood the epic, which ideas were new, which were old, and which were a combination of both fused together as one.
Paper IIA-4:
Title: "O Brave New World": Staging The Tempest for a Modern Audience Using Elizabethan and 20th Century Theatrical Techniques
Author: Tyler Prendergast

Abstract: I am currently directing Shakespeare's The Tempest, a play which chronologically marks the end of the era of open-air London theatres. This project, which culminates a year of research that included academic travel to England, is an experiment in theatrical staging: I suggest that this production — by abandoning the prosenium arch and combining research on the context wherein the play was originally produced with the innovations of 20th century experimental theatre— engages a modern audience who otherwise may not have been fully open to experiencing a classic text. By interviewing audience members after the performance, I hope to prove this hypothesis.

Special Session II-B: Japan: Juxtaposition of Modernity and Tradition, Murdock 201
11:00 am-12:20 p.m.
Faculty Sponsor: Kailai Huang

Japan is an intricate blend of advanced technology and century-old traditions. The Land of the Rising Sun presents intriguing and challenging, yet delicious contrasts: ancient temples and futuristic cities, rice paddies and lightning-fast bullet trains, kimono-clad women and suit-clad businessmen, ramen noodle stands and Western fast food chains, ubiquitous manga and anime and Hollywood box office busters. Presenters in this session, who recently visited Japan in a travel course, will look into Japan's peculiar synthesis of the modern and the traditional through their experiences and observations. Their topics include gardens, architecture, anime/manga, social customs, foods, and street fashions.

Paper IIB-1:
Title: Japanese Architecture through the Ages
Author: Andy Martin, Sara Bouchard

Abstract: A comparison of traditional Japanese style buildings such as ryokan and various shrines and temples were examined and compared to modern architecture. The ascetics of Wabi-sabi and architectural innovations were observed and experienced through structures such as a traditional samurai house, the famous Ninja Temple, and the Gold Pavilion. The connection to nature, the idea of impermanence, the idea of silent suggestions, and simplicity were experienced first hand and used to describe not only the traditional architecture, but also the evolution of Japanese culture and architecture as a whole.

Paper IIB-2:
Title: Landscapes of Japan: A Look at Japanese Gardens
Author: Duncan Baxter, Fiona Wilson
Abstract: We observed examples of traditional Japanese dry and wet gardens, and will be examining how their culture has affected the composition of these gardens with their different purposes. The most notable wet garden that we visited was the Kenroku-en, said to be the most perfect example of the six Japanese principles of a perfect landscape: spaciousness, seclusion, artifice, antiquity, waterways, and panoramas. We also visited and will examine one of the finest examples of a dry garden, the Ryoan-ji in Kyoto. A traditional garden found in the home of a famous samurai will also be examined.

**Paper IIB-3:**
**Title:** Anime and Manga: A Culture Born  
**Author:** Connor Robbins

Abstract: Anime and manga are both highly popular staples in Japanese culture, being highly entertaining for both moderate and hardcore fanatics for their art style, stories, and other intricate parts of their phenomenon. Their influences and merchandise can be seen all over the country and have even reached far overseas. But what makes anime and manga so spectacular is that they have formed their own world with conventions, cosplay, and all sorts of events, creating a complex and amazing culture and society.

**Paper IIB-4:**
**Title:** Tanukis: Kami Kami Kami Kami Kami-Chameleons  
**Author:** George Dunbar

Abstract: Ritual and superstition are very pervasive concepts in Japanese culture. In Shintoism it is common to pray to shrines dedicated to particular aspects of life such as academic success and wealth. Many Kami (deities) and Yokai (ghosts) exist in Japanese folklore which are used to demonstrate certain aspects of the human condition. It is through these entities and their related shrines and rituals that a Westerner can gain a deeper understanding of Japanese culture by visiting these shrines in person and seeing the way people interact with them and the objects they would hold for intrinsic spiritual significance and value.

*Special Session II-C: Directing Class Mid-Term Project, Campus Center Dance Complex*

*11:00 am-12:20 pm*

*Faculty Sponsor: Laura Standley*

This performance was created for MCLA Theatre Program's Directing class as part of our mid-term class assignment. Using 5-10 actors, directing students were required to create an 8 minute scene in a 'found' or non-traditional performance space in which the action and tension built to a climax where something was either literally or figuratively lost. Besides having to include a long list of required ingredients, such as “a moment of everyone looking up” and “a moment of 15 consecutive seconds of top-speed talking,” students were required to work site-specifically in order to let the location feed the artistic possibilities.
'Name It'
Created and directed by: Benjamin Balon, Thomas Leidenfrost, and Mary Rose Petrozola

This piece has no concrete meaning, but in the words of director Anne Bogart, "Art, like life, is understood through experience, not explanations."

Location: Campus Center Dance Complex, Alcove above the Racket/Hand Ball Courts and Hand Ball Courts 2 & 3.

This 8 minute long performance will be run on a continuous loop between 11:00 am and 11:50 am, with audience filtering in and out of the "audience space" every ten minutes.

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

Paper IID-1:
Title: The Languages of Spain
Author: Macy Fredericksen
Faculty Advisor: Graziana Ramsden

Abstract: Spain is part of an autonomous community system that allows each region to elect a co-language along with the national language of Castilian. The majority of citizens in Spain speak multiple languages: Castilian and the language of their region or community. This inspired my research into the historic, political, social, and geographic reasons for the linguistic differences in certain areas of Spain. I have focused my study on the languages of Castilian, Basque, Catalan, and Galician.

Paper IID-2:
Title: An Eye for an Eye, A Tooth for a Tooth: The 1972 Munich Massacre and Operation Wrath of God
Author: Gregory James
Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: In the early morning of September 5th, 1972, eight members of the Palestinian terrorist group Black September climbed over the walls of the Olympic Village in Munich. What followed was one of the most high profile terrorist attacks in world history, with eleven members of the Israeli Olympic team taken hostage and eventually killed, all on international television. Though devastated, Israel sought retribution, and began Operation Wrath of God, a covert program of targeted assassinations. This presentation will examine what drove Black September to commit the Munich attack and whether Operation Wrath of God was successful in meeting its goals.

Paper IID-3:
Title: The Shaping of The Red Brigades By the Italian State
Author: David Boerman
Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly
Abstract: In 1978, the Italian terrorist organization Brigate Rosse (The Red Brigades), kidnapped and assassinated the former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro. The group, which operated primarily in the 1970s and 1980s, claimed the killing was part of their campaign to attack 'the heart of the state.' Spurred initially by the late 1960s university and the later, more widespread reform movements, they aimed to start a socialist revolution. This presentation will analyze how Italian political and social forces resulted in the formation and actions of the radicalized Marxist terrorist group The Red Brigades.

Paper IID-4:
Title: The (Uphill) Pathway to Zero Waste
Author: Catherine Chaput
Faculty Advisor: Elena Traister

Abstract: Reducing the amount of solid waste, a main side effect of industrialized society, should be an essential goal of modern governments. Preventing an item from being disposed of reduces air pollution from incineration and water pollution from landfilling by reducing the need for conventional waste removal techniques. This presentation will analyze the policies needed in order to minimize the amount of waste disposed of in Massachusetts, focusing on the continuation of the ban on new incinerators and increased recycling through updating the “Bottle Bill,” as well as discussing what actions citizens can take to achieve a zero waste society.

Paper Presentations II-E: Murdock 216
11:00 am-12:20 pm

Paper IIE-1
Title: Women and Journalism: How Gender Hinders the Work of Female Journalists in Today’s Society.
Author: Skyla Seamans, Ayaka Lanzoni
Faculty Advisor: Jenifer Augur

Abstract: In the field of journalism, female writers, editors, and anchors are underrepresented, underpaid, sexualized, and beautified. Not only do female journalists experience the pressure of deadlines, but they are pressured to fit into society’s mold of perfection which diverts the focus away from their work. Compared to their male counterparts, female journalists are also assigned fewer crucial stories to cover and make up much less of the decision making positions. This presentation looks at how female journalists are stigmatized because of their gender and what we can do as a society to change the plight of women in this domain.

Paper IIE-2:
Title: The Accuracy of Monte Carlo Simulations
Author: David Daniels
Faculty Advisor: Mark Cohen
Abstract: From radioactive decay to quantum mechanics, Monte Carlo simulations give us an understanding of probabilistic situations. I will show that the accuracy of the simulations is dependent on the size of a given sample. I intend to show that as the sample size decreases, the accuracy of the simulation decreases. I demonstrate this using two simulations that I have written describing two different probabilistic phenomena. I intend to demonstrate this by using two simulations I have written that describe two different probabilistic phenomena in physics. The first simulates the radioactive decay of a particle. The second simulates a quantum particle in a one-dimensional box.

**Paper IIE-3:**
Title: Cambodia: The Khmer Rouge Genocide  
Author: Erin Blight  
Faculty Advisor: Professor Jennifer Zoltanski

Abstract: I have devoted my semester to researching the genocide in Cambodia. In my paper, I examine this case of genocide through a truly interdisciplinary lens. I researched the psychological effects that the genocide had on survivors, and the purported mental state of the perpetrators. I examined why this genocide is not typically covered in public school curriculums, and surveyed MCLA students regarding their knowledge of the genocide. I also looked at this genocide from a literary lens, discussing the memoir *When Broken Glass Floats* by Chanrithy Him.

**Paper IIE-4:**
Title: The Oklahoma City Bombing: Motives and Targets  
Author: Benjamin Alibozek  
Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: This presentation explores the motivations and targets for the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols developed into home-grown terrorists because of their radical ideology, extreme aims, and desire for revenge against the American government. The terrorists were motivated by government actions in the standoffs at Waco, Texas, and Ruby Ridge, Idaho, as well as influenced by radical right-wing ideologies to commit their extreme act of violence and terror.
Keynote Address: Campus Center Gym  
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm  
**Lunch is provided**

In keeping with our custom of inviting successful and relatively recent graduates of MCLA back to campus to inspire current students, Evan Herrmann, MCLA Class of 2007, will be our Keynote Speaker this year. Evan graduated from MCLA in 2007, where he double-majored in Psychology and Sociology. He became interested in behavior analysis/behavioral pharmacology early in his academic career, becoming formally involved in research during his junior year. After graduation he accepted a position as a research assistant at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The following year he started graduate study as part of the University of Vermont’s Human Behavioral Pharmacology Laboratory. His primary research interests have centered on smoking cessation during pregnancy and HIV/AIDS prevention, diagnosis, and treatment among drug users. Evan will be completing his Ph.D. early this summer, and has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship with the Behavioral Pharmacology Research Unit at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

“Becoming a Behavioral Scientist”

The primary aim of my talk is to provide students with a chronological summary of my academic/research activities thus far. I'm going to focus on how the research that I became involved in while at MCLA helped me get into graduate school and inspired my current projects, which are related to 1) smoking cessation/nicotine withdrawal in pregnant women, and 2) HIV risk behavior among drug users.

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. Evan Herrmann will be available to answer any questions you have about his experiences both at MCLA and in graduate school. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn from someone who has definitely walked in your shoes!
Paper IIIA-1:
Title: The Attention That Seeks Us
Author: David Camilo

Abstract: Have you ever noticed how much your focus and what you engage in can lead you in how you live your life? When you are engaged and focused, other aspects around you lose your attention. You might even block out sensory functions. The world around us calls for our attention. The opportunity to engage in sensory noise is vast. Through digital photography, I will highlight how relationships and attention can cause us to gain a connection with what we choose to engage in and how it can also cause us to disconnect in other areas of our life.

Paper IIIA-2:
Title: Chaotic Existence
Author: Carrie Converse

Abstract: Life may be a reflective relationship between our interior and exterior environments. My artwork brings awareness to how thoughts, feelings, and actions can create our realities. As I began to explore my internal sense of this relationship, a desire for a world transformed to a mindset of enlightenment evolved. I present this insight through a series of acrylic paintings and up-cycling plastic into sculptural forms with the intention of making a positive change in my external world. I continue to research science and spirituality concepts, crochet patterns, and painting methods in order to continue incorporating these theories in my artworks.

Paper IIIA-3:
Title: Transformation in Gorgeous Dreaming
Author: Adam Duchemin

Abstract: During the struggles of life, dreams are always there to help. In dreams, our subconscious mind transforms our unsettled problems into imagery. No matter how realistic our dreams may seem, we are never our true selves; there is always a touch of surrealism in them. Like dreams, in my artwork I use mixed mediums like graphite, charcoal, threads, and collage to transform materials into the abstract and surreal. The work explores the beauty within dreams. The audience can witness the morphing within my pieces, which allows the viewer to escape reality and get a glimpse into my mind.

Paper IIIA-4:
Title: Welcome to the Void
Author: George Dunbar
Abstract: The universe is a vastly mysterious place and offers very few concrete answers. Add in the human element, and you are sent reeling into a spiral of philosophical questions. My intent as an artist is to examine the space where the human meets the infinite to make it visible. Centuries of artists have done this through religion, but as a resident of the modern age I will use the lens of science. My depictions of atoms and celestial bodies call attention to them, like my sculptures which harness physical phenomenon centered on time and light bringing them into human perspective.

**Paper IIIA-5:**
Title: The Human Portrait  
Author: Nicole Proulx

Abstract: People are interesting creatures. Everyone subconsciously knows this, but I want to bring this idea into consciousness. The inner workings of human minds confound us all, while looking at other people fills that need to try and understand. To fill that need I make portraits that incorporate the figure’s personality, delving into their character. My current body of work consists of realistic/idealistic painted portraits that, in a classically posed way, show how everyone is unique. Each individual portrait has its own personality but the consistent light against dark style and composition allows them to work together as a collective series.

**Paper IIIA-6:**
Title: From Past to Present: Story of Everyone  
Author: Eric Walsh

Abstract: Childhood has always been a big thing for me. I was always encouraged to follow my dreams, and I did just that. Looking back, I have noticed small things I did as a child affect things that I have done as an adult. Ironically, these have been mostly small and simplistic things. Using a variety of artistic mediums and even mixing them together, I create an homage to my time as a child from my viewpoint as an adult. Too many adults take childhood for granted. In order to know what we are doing today, we must look back to what we wanted to do as children.

*Special Session III-B: U.N. Security Council—An Audience Participation Presentation, Murdock 301  
2:00 pm-3:20 pm  
Faculty Sponsor: Bob Bence*

This special session will engage MCLA students in an understanding of the workings of the United Nations. The presenters will enact a "crisis committee" style meeting of the United Nations Security Council. This project will be interactive with audience members participating as member nations on the Council. The goal of this session will be geared towards experiencing the complexities of the United Nations and the important deliberative process in which ambassadors from the world’s nations participate.
Student Presenters: Stephan Rochefort, Ben Raimer, Steven Danowitz, Doris Behanzin, Gregory James, Dominick Cooper, Corban von Ouyl

Special Session III-C: Issues in Sociology, Murdock 213
2:00-3:20 pm
Faculty Sponsor: Diane Balduzy

Paper IIIC-1:
Title: Aging Prisoners' Concerns Towards Dying in Prison
Author: Sara Giovine, Adrianna Caruso

Abstract: The U.S. prison population is aging and because of this, death is real and may happen soon. This presentation will discuss the anxiety dying prisoners face and their end of life issues.

Paper IIIC-2:
Title: American Society's Avoidance of Death: Past, Present, and Personal
Author: Katherine Russell, Teresa Palano
Faculty Advisor: Diane Balduzy

Abstract: American society's views on death have changed over the past 50 years. This presentation will address these changes using historical and sociological perspectives. Personal examples will explore alternative approaches to the death and dying experience.

Paper IIIC-3:
Title: Childhood Obesity: Trends and Explanations
Author: Rachael Silvano

Abstract: This presentation looks at the issues surrounding childhood obesity, including which demographics are most affected and why. It also serves to debunk some popular myths regarding childhood obesity.

Paper IIIC-4:
Title: Crimes of the Heart
Author: Anyelin Antigua

Abstract: Throughout the semester in my capstone course Food, Nutrition and Culture, we have read several articles and watched films on obesity disorders and cultural expectations on food. For the undergraduate research conference I will be presenting the poster Crimes to the Heart. My poster presentation will focus on the cultural aspects of food and society. I will also go into depth discussing child obesity and the different consequences of obesity over the years on your heart. My presentation will be sponsored by Professor Diane Balduzy and it will be a part of special session food and society.
Paper IIID-1:
Title: Culture of Division: Language Policies of Québec and Their Effects on Demographics and the Future
Author: Tyson Luneau
Faculty Advisor: Robert Bence

Abstract: This presentation analyzes the linguistic policies enacted in Québec during the second half of the twentieth century and their effects on the cultural divide between Anglophones and Francophones living in the province. Looking closely at Bill 101 and other policies, this research explores the motivations for their enactment as well as their effects on Québec’s economy, demographics, and provincial future. This presentation, in analyzing these language policies, considers the complex relationship between Québec and Canada, as well as the historical conflict between language groups in cities like Montréal.

Paper IIID-2:
Title: What is Feminism?
Author: Corinne Blake, Brianna Vear
Faculty Advisor: Susan Birns

Abstract: There is a general stereotype that a feminist is a person who either hates men, burns bras and wears combat boots, or wants women to be "more than equal" to men. In our experience with a plethora of people, feminism is the notion that all people, no matter their sex, gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, class, or sexuality are created equal. Depending on the individual, there may be an activist requirement. When planning our project we set out to determine just how people define feminism, and why it has gotten such a negative reputation.

Paper IIID-3:
Title: MWC349 and the Evolution of Stars
Author: Caroline Bartlett
Faculty Advisor: Emily Maher

Abstract: How are stars formed? How do they die? By studying stars in varying stages of their evolution, astronomers have determined a basic outline of stellar lifetimes. However, not all stars are alike. In particular, a star named MWC349 is peculiar in that researchers are unsure of its age. Due to its behavior, they are sure it can only be either very young or very old, but not in between. I will discuss the experimental method used in this project and my contributions to the study of this star.

Paper IIID-4:
Title: The Cycle of Violence: Examining Two Bombings in 1970s Ireland
Author: Seth Drouin
Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: The violent struggle of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to force a British withdrawal consumed Northern Ireland for nearly three decades. In opposition to the IRA were the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and their loyalist supporters who fought to maintain Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom. This presentation will examine the causes and effects of two separate bombing incidents from these groups: the Bloody Friday bombings of 1972 perpetrated by the IRA, and the Dublin-Monaghan bombings of 1974 carried out by the UVF.

*Paper Presentations III-E: Murdock 216*

*2:00-3:20 pm*

**Paper III E-1:**
Title: Terror and Turmoil In Peru's Highlands: The Shining Path  
Author: Austin Sniezek  
Faculty Advisor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: The country of Peru experienced a period of extreme unrest from the mid-1970s through the late 1990s. The main cause was a terrorist organization known as the Sendero Luminoso, or the Shining Path. This presentation will examine the causes for civil unrest within the civilian population that led to the founding of the Shining Path as well as the reasons they were able to escalate on a tactical scale that allowed them to stay relevant for an extended period of time.

**Paper III E-2:**
Title: Helpmeets for the Lord: The Role of Females in the Quiverfull Movement  
Author: Margaret Gallaher  
Faculty Advisor: Jennifer Zoltanski

Abstract: The Quiverfull movement is a nondenominational Christian extremist movement. Followers are united in their resolve that married couples should shun any medical interventions that interfere with what they see as God’s pre-ordained plan for giving them as many children as he sees fit, that God calls upon all of us to live our lives as biblical men and women respectively, and that children must be taught to regard themselves as soldiers in God’s army. This presentation will focus on the role of females in the movement.

**Paper III E-3:**
Title: Phallic and Yonic Images as Catalysts of Conflict  
Author: Christopher Hantman  
Faculty Advisor: Graziana Ramsden

Abstract: This project involves an in-depth analysis of the symbols used in Oscar-nominee Guillermo del Toro’s films set during the Spanish Civil War, *The Devil’s Backbone* and *Pan’s Labyrinth*. The symbols are used in each film to connect the protagonist’s gender with their respective struggles during wartime.
Title: Contention and Controversy: The Politics of Archaeology in Israel
Author: Julia Ashton
Faculty Advisor: Sumi Colligan

Abstract: During the late 20th century, Israelis' political struggles with Palestinians intensified to include harsh controversy over the ownership of archaeological remains, and implicitly, definitions of national identity. This paper will explore the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians over shared archaeological space, and show how within ancient cities such as Jerusalem, Muslims, Jews, and Christians all try to use archaeology to serve their own political ends. In Israel, archaeology has become a national pastime, and this paper will question how individuals acquire their knowledge of antiquity, and thus explore how governments can control interpretations of history.
**Special Session IV-A: Philosophy Mini-Conference, Murdock 218**  
3:30-4:50 pm  
*Faculty Sponsor: Matt Silliman*

**Paper IVA-1:**  
**Title:** Why Did God Do That? The Hardening of Pharaoh’s Heart: A Passover Discussion  
**Author:** Joel Siskin  
**Faculty Advisor:** Matthew Silliman

Abstract: In the Passover story, God was responsible for bringing a series of 10 plagues to Egypt, aimed at persuading Pharaoh to release the Israelite people. God “hardened” Pharaoh's heart making him prolong the enslavement of the Israelite people. I will discuss the ethics of this decision. What are God’s reasons as a literary figure for doing this? How do we as readers and thinkers reconcile this fact with contradictory notions of God?

**Paper IVA-2:**  
**Title:** Philosophy: A Multimedia Experience  
**Author:** Kyle DeCarolis  
**Faculty Advisor:** David Johnson

Abstract: Too often I’m discouraged to hear from friends, peers, and passersby that philosophy is too complicated or difficult to understand. Fortunately, I find philosophy to be interesting, and the theories, concepts, and discussions that spring from it worth the work that I have to put in to grasp their meaning. It’s simple enough to prove that there’s no single form of teaching that produces the best results for all, but philosophy holds onto text-based media that tend to be unclear to most people. I propose that additional forms of media can only aid the public perception and understanding of philosophy.

**Paper IVA-3:**  
**Title:** Aesthetic Significations and Musical Semiotics  
**Author:** Corey Sloane  
**Faculty Advisor:** David Johnson

Abstract: This presentation will investigate the relationship between music, language, and human emotional states. I will critique theories which see music as a communicative mechanism for human emotions. I will detail how music has similar properties to spoken language but ultimately is only effective as a symbolic system. I conclude that music is not a language, but a symbolic order that conveys aesthetic properties. I will claim that music, while possessing an emotional element, is not emotional in content. Rather, it is the recognition of beauty in music that provokes an emotional reaction in the perceiver.
**Special Session IV-B: Special Matinee of *Agamemnon*, Venable Theater**

3:30 pm, followed by talk-back session with cast and crew

**Faculty Sponsor: Laura Standley**

THEATRE LAB is an emerging theatre company in residence at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. A living incubator, THEATRE LAB combines unlimited performance disciplines to create visually arresting and passionate theatre. THEATRE LAB works as a collective, defying the traditional process of theatre-making to help us discover what is essential and refashion our art-form. Using collaborative means, each work offers unique stylistic innovations that are deeply personal to the artists. THEATRE LAB is a theatre of limitless discovery. Our goal is to make work that will act as a catalyst, both for ourselves and our audiences, indelibly changing the way we view the world.

Each year THEATRE LAB chooses a new genre of theatre to examine. This year, we are exploring ancient tragedy as filtered through director Steven Berkoff’s unique vision of Aeschylus’ *AGAMEMNON*. In this search we are learning about Total Theatre, the physical styles of Lecoq, and Steve Paxton’s dance form of falling and lifting, contact improvisation. The work materializing is a concert-style spectacle of language and image that is guaranteed to stop the audience in their tracks.

Using physicality and spectacle, THEATRE LAB’s *AGAMEMNON* is a raw, in-your-face event depicting the return of the infamous king of Argos. An endless stew of twisted imagery and language, THEATRE LAB’s *AGAMEMNON* conjures the distortion and disturbia of those who thought war and sacrifice were a solution to their own fears and curses. It is a play about the heat of battle, as well as the fatigue, the marathon and the obscenity of modern wars.

Performances run April 17-20 and 24-27 at 8pm, April 18 at 3:30pm and April 20, 27 at 2pm. For tickets call MCLA Theatre’s Box Office at 413-662-5123.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This conference would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of all our talented student-researchers. Without exception, they have produced quality scholarship worthy of professional academic conferences and we congratulate them on their fine achievements.

The Undergraduate Research Advisory Board made up of faculty, staff, and students, began working on the conference in the early fall and should be recognized for their efforts.

**UR Advisory Board:**
Maria Bartini, Director of Undergraduate Research  
Ann Billetz, Associate Director of Undergraduate Research  
Julia Ashton ’14, Student Rep.  
Diane Louise Balduzy, SOCI/SOWK/ANTH  
Tom Byrne, PSYC  
Anthony Daly, HIST  
Rosanne Denhard, ENGL/COMM  
Max Dilthey ’13, Student Rep.  
Harris Elder, ENGL/COMM  
Maureen Horak, Library

Special thanks are given to Chelsey Burke and Ashley Berridge in Advancement for their exceptional conference planning skills in handling everything from refreshments to nametags to signage. Peter Allmaker in Computer Services was instrumental in preparing the online submission site that greatly facilitated the submission review process. Aaron Bienek and Carl Villaneuva also deserve our gratitude for being on hand to make sure all the classroom technology worked as well as possible. Leon Peters stepped in to create a banner and posters to help with publicity for the conference.

In addition, faculty volunteered their time to serve as moderators of paper sessions and our student representatives coordinated student volunteers to help with registration.

**Faculty Moderators:**
Shahnaz Abdullah, BADM  
Lisa Donovan, AMGT  
Justin Golub, BIO  
Liz Hartung, MATH  
Ely Janis, HIST/POSC  
Ben Wood, PSYC

**Cover Art Work:**
Meg Gugarty ’16

**Student Volunteer Coordinators:**
Julia Ashton ’14  
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Stephan Rochefort ’14