

MCLA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Thursday April 21, 2011



Lunch & Keynote Address

For Presenters, Faculty, and Staff
Featuring Brendan Gaesser
Campus Center Gym
12:30–1:45

Posters

Venable Gym
9–11 a.m.

Papers & Special Sessions

Murdock Hall & Venable Hall

9:30–11 a.m., 11–12:20 p.m.
2–3:20, 3:30–4:50



Office of the President

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 2011 Undergraduate Research Conference at MCLA! This annual event showcases the innovation of our students, as they demonstrate what they have learned through papers, posters, and performance. It also reflects the engagement, talent, and support of the MCLA faculty who work with students in the classroom and provide invaluable guidance as they develop and present their work.

Every year, the Undergraduate Research Conference demonstrates the scope and impact of the liberal arts, and the experiential learning opportunities available to students. I know that this year's conference will build upon the strong foundation established through previous conferences. Our annual conference has expanded in scope and impact over the years. This year, we continue the tradition established last year of the conference as a campus wide day of engagement. We're also building on the momentum of the highly successful Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) regional Undergraduate Research Conference MCLA hosted last fall, the first such COPLAC conference held in the northeast.

As you will see from this program, and from the work on view throughout the day, faculty from many disciplines participate in this important part of the undergraduate experience. They share their time and expertise with their students, and take great pleasure and pride in the process of discovery students experience through this work.

The Undergraduate Research Conference is a significant undertaking. Thank you to the steering committee members work throughout the year to organize the conference and ensure that this is a day of deep learning, discovery, and engagement.

Please enjoy the conference, and this glimpse into the undergraduate experience at MCLA.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Grant, Ph.D.
President

*Poster Session: Venable Gym
9:00 am - 11:00 am*

Poster 1

Title: Hoosic River Watershed Bacterial Source Tracking

Presenter(s): Ariana Chiapella, Rebecca Geraci, Mark Bushee, Jason Brown

Faculty Sponsor: Elena Traister

Abstract: The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recently lost funding. This has resulted in much of the Hoosic River watershed being left untested for bacterial contamination. Many of the waterways that have been tested so far were found to be impaired, but not every source has been identified. We have applied for a grant in partnership with the BRPC so that we can continue testing the unassessed tributaries and waterways in hopes of tracking the sources of E Coli impairment, and work with the encompassing towns to begin to find solutions to these problems.

Poster 2

Title: Alternative Spring Break in Belize: Planting trees and much more

Presenter(s): Lauren L. Antil, Perri Bernstein, Jason Brown, Kelley Bryant, Korinna Dennehey, Christopher Hantman, Sara Katz, Nicolas Mendez, Katelyn Moore, Nashua Rosa, Ashley White

Faculty Sponsor: Spencer Moser

Abstract: The eleven students who participated in the service and cultural exploration trip to Belize will share their experiences and learning. The poster and accompanying narratives will document the impact the experience had on the students- from personal growth, to acquisition of attitudes and skills, to gaining broader global perspectives to regional challenges. The poster presentation will also discuss other activities and learning, ranging from visiting Mayan ruins and learning Mayan history, to current educational and economic challenges young and old Belizean face, to the sustainable living practiced at Monkey Bay Center where the group stayed, to cultural and personal revelations the MCLA students experienced as a result of the trip.

Poster 3

Title: Speed of Light

Presenter(s): Jesse Hadcock

Faculty Sponsor: Adrienne Wooters

Abstract: In this experiment I obtained a value for the speed of light in water that was within 7% of the exact value. The apparatus used was like the Foucault apparatus (1850). This measured the speed along an axis of a laser incident on two lenses and reflected between a rotating mirror then a fixed mirror. A PASCO rotating mirror was used along with proper optical bench and supplies. A microscope collected the result and the measurement was taken on the order of micrometers. This experiment demonstrates the strength and consensus of the argument for relativity in modern physics.

Poster 4

Title: In God We Trust: Stress and Well-Being in Parents of Children with Mitochondrial Disease

Presenter(s): Rebecca Ober

Faculty Sponsor: Sharon Claffey

Abstract: While there are many childhood chronic illnesses which impact parental stress and religiosity, Mitochondrial Disease (MD) may have a particularly large impact on parental stress and religiosity. MD is an understudied chronic, genetic, multisystemic disease that occurs when the mitochondria do not produce enough energy to keep cells or organs functioning. Since MD symptomology varies from individual to individual, there is a high level of uncertainty in diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis. The present study will examine the relationship between visibility, parental stress, parental well-being, and religiosity for parents of children with MD.

Poster 5

Title: How The Sims is Challenging Gender

Presenter(s): Joanna Finfer

Faculty Sponsor: Amy Stevens

Abstract: The Sims series is challenging what the video game industry thinks about gender. From being a female in the military to being a male stylist, The Sims has evolved into a game where being gender-neutral is a new way to target an audience. In this poster, I will describe the construction (and deconstruction) of gender roles in this virtual world.

Poster 6

Title: Stalin's Starvation Campaign

Presenter(s): Karla Disla, Kelvin Marmolejos, Jessica Nestell

Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Zoltanski

Abstract: "Speaking for those who can no longer speak for themselves"

Poster 7

Title: Japan's Genocidal War on China

Presenter(s): Hailee Pasa, Colin Clement, Kate Merriman

Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Zoltanski

Abstract: During WWII, the Japanese committed atrocities on the Chinese people. This trifold poster describes three different aspects of these atrocities: The Rape of Nanking, Unit 731, and the use of Comfort Women.

Poster 8

Title: Cambodian Genocide

Presenter(s): Katelyn Monroe, Liz Baisch, Chris Hess

Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Zoltanski

Abstract: A deeper look into the contributions of the Vietnam War, the United States, and the Khmer Rouge in the death of one-third of the Cambodian population.

Poster 9

Title: Dirty Wars in Argentina

Presenter(s): Josh Chase, Shane Ortega, Oscar Melendez

Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Zoltanski

Abstract: The poster centers on the atrocities in Argentina in the so-called "subversive war" and the genocide that takes place under military rule.

Poster 10

Title: Genocidal War in Bosnia Hercegovina

Presenter(s): Kristin Gregory, Cari Krzeminski, Joe Parillo

Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Zoltanski

Abstract: The Bosnian Genocide occurred between 1992-1995. There were three main ethnic groups living in the former Yugoslavia together: the Croats, the Serbs and the Muslims. Ethnic conflicts were stoked by Serbian and Bosnian leaders which led to a genocide primarily in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Poster 11

Title: The Genocide in Darfur

Presenter(s): Samantha Randall, Catherine Snell, Angela Saltamartini

Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Zoltanski

Abstract: The genocide in Darfur is an ongoing guerrilla conflict and civil war centered in the Darfur region of Sudan. It is a conflict in which many have died, and thousands more will die due to a corrupt government and lack of intervention.

Poster 12

Title: Neurotransmitter control of tentacle contraction in the sea anemone, *Aiptasia pallida*

Presenter(s): Colin Sykes

Faculty Sponsor: Anne Goodwin

Abstract: The purpose of this study was to experimentally determine which neurotransmitters regulate tentacle contraction in *Aiptasia pallida*, a classic sea anemone. To test this question, tentacles were treated with specific concentrations of three neurotransmitters: serotonin, antho-RF-amide and epinephrine. Additionally, tentacles were treated with two neurotransmitter inhibitors to determine the function of certain neurotransmitters within *Aiptasia*. For all three neurotransmitters, tentacle contraction significantly varied among the level of concentration. I also found tentacle contraction to be dependent upon concentration for the serotonin inhibitor tested.

Poster 13

Title: Envisioning the Future of the Mohawk Theater

Presenter(s): Jenny Beers

Faculty Sponsor: Lauren O'Neal

Abstract: A renovated Mohawk could help support MCLA's flourishing arts offerings, and could act as an economic catalyst for the city, building on the success of Gallery 51. This poster presentation will display prototypes of programs, events, and activities that the Mohawk could provide, which would all contribute to a growing, engaging and dynamic

downtown. This vision, developed by students in the arts management program, evolved from a site visit to the theatre, readings and class assignments.

Poster 14

Title: Gender Role Issues in *Fefu and Her Friends*

Presenter(s): Lesley Zaya

Faculty Sponsor: Laura Standley

Abstract: The play, *Fefu and Her Friends*, by Maria Irene Fornes explores various gender issues that are prevalent in modern day society, as well as in the 1930s (when the play is set.) Through a rigorous rehearsal process coupled with intensive research, I will be studying these issues and how they relate to the characters and the time period of the play as well as current day. The issues that will be explored include are, but are not limited to, women's education, women in the professional world, and gender images in society.

Poster 15

Title: The Hall Effect in Semiconductors

Presenter(s): Ryan Barley

Faculty Sponsor: Adrienne Wootters

Abstract: This presentation will measure the electrical resistance of a semiconductor by placing a semi-conductor in a magnetic field and running a current through it. The Hall Effect generated by the current will show the sign of the charge carriers in the semiconductor.

Poster 16

Title: Study habits and Motivation

Presenter(s): Kayla Whitcomb, Allison Dickerson, Cassandra McMartin

Faculty Sponsor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: This study is interested in finding a possible gender difference between study habits and how study habits relate to GPA. In addition, we will examine whether males and females still choose gender-typical majors. College students will be recruited via e-mail to complete a 25 item survey about their academics through SurveyMonkey.com. The Approaches and study skills inventory for students (ASSIST) will measure the study habits of the individual and see if there seems to be a significant divide between sex and what approach they use.

Poster 17

Title: Evaluating Northern Berkshire Community Coalition Community Programs

Presenter(s): Amanda L'Etoile

Faculty Sponsor: Spencer Moser

Abstract: As MCLA's community engagement scholar I will be presenting the purpose, process and conclusion of NBCC's monthly forum meetings, Youth Leadership program and the Community Outreach Worker program as part of an evaluation of the Northern Berkshire Community programs.

Poster 18

Title: Self-Esteem in Online and Face-to-Face Relationships

Presenter(s): Kelsey McCullough, Karl Sims

Faculty Sponsor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: Every day, people communicate with each other face-to-face and/or through online networking. Our study will help us understand how individuals' self-esteem may differ based on their preferences for daily online versus face-to-face communication. All participants will be recruited through Facebook and MCLA's Student Announcements where they will be asked to take a survey through surveymonkey.com. We expect to find that people that communicate more through online services will be more likely to have lower self-esteem compared to those who communicate through face-to-face interaction. This study will help us better understand why people choose their preferred forms of communication.

Poster 19

Title: BDSM and Feminism

Presenter(s): Brianna Vear

Faculty Sponsor: Amy Stevens

Abstract: Since the time of the sex wars debate, in the late 1970s, feminists have struggled over defining women's sexuality and pleasure. At the heart of the debate is whether BDSM challenges or conforms to a patriarchal society. One set of theories claim that BDSM internalizes patriarchy and places it in the sacred place of the bedroom. The more "pro-sex" side of the debate claims that BDSM emphasizes consent and pleasure and has little to do with the patriarchy at all. As a feminist myself, I lay out the pros and cons of BDSM and create my own Feminist Theory.

Poster 20

Title: UMass Stem Cell Trip

Presenter(s): Daniel Sumy, Jesse Robillard, Brenda McGuinness, Ryan Watari

Faculty Sponsor: Ann Billetz

Abstract: Stem cells are cells that have not yet become a specific type of cell, a blank slate. When treated they can be induced to differentiate into many different types of cells such as nerve cells, muscle cells, heart cells, etc. The Stem Cell research lab at UMass Medical School is involved in culturing stem cells to make them available for other research labs to use in medical research. On the week of spring break four students from MCLA traveled to the lab to learn about the special sterile techniques used when handling stem cells, as well as how to grow and split cultures and analyze them for purity.

Poster 21

Title: Berkshires Wind Turbine Opinion Survey

Presenter(s): Suzanne Schumacker, Maxwell Yost, Kyle Gonthier, Sean Ezrol

Faculty Sponsors: Maria Bartini, Caroline Scully

Abstract: We are surveying a sample population of Berkshire County to learn about public perceptions of local wind turbine projects (including Hoosac Wind, Florida Mountains, the Brodie project, and various others). The goal of this survey is to provide a neutral and

encompassing 30-item Likert-type scale that will help participants identify with which views they most strongly agree; these may include topics such as wind turbines' impacts on aesthetics, environments, and communities. We believe that there will be a wide variety of differing views based on existing turbines and upcoming Berkshires turbine projects.

Poster 22

Title: Mexican Surrealism in *Fefu and Her Friends*

Presenter(s): Nicole Dunn

Faculty Sponsor: Laura E. Standley

Abstract: In Cuban-American, feminist playwright Maria Irene Fornes' masterwork, *Fefu and Her Friends*, the art of Mexican surrealist painters, particularly the works of Frida Kahlo, are echoed in the action of the play. Known as a gem in the canon of feminist theatre, the play is a provocative look at a group of women whose lives mirror the state of the female community. Many complicated and explosive themes are explored, and as a result, the play is often misinterpreted. An exploration of Frida Kahlo's emotional work helps to unearth this fascinating play and brings to life its startling questions regarding the nature of women's existence.

Poster 23

Title: Technology's effect on Romantic Relationships

Presenter(s): Amanda Marsh, Chelsea Petitt, Kayla Bromback

Faculty Sponsor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: Our objective is to measure relationship quality of Facebook-oriented relationships and person to person-oriented relationships. We will survey students aged 18-24 from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Recruitment of participants will occur through e-mail they will be asked to complete an online survey about their relationship quality. We expect a stronger positive correlation between person to person dating and relationship quality when compared to Facebook dating and relationship quality. The implications of study could possibly show how technology effects romantic relationships.

Poster 24

Title: Assessing Avian Species Richness in Relation to Human-Modified Landscapes

Presenter(s): Heather Porter

Faculty Sponsor: Dan Shustack

Abstract: Abstract: Increased human activity and urbanization has led bird species to alter the ways in which they select and use available habitats. We conducted modified transect surveys on three different sites of varying human disturbance (cemetery, forest, and residential neighborhood) to determine if modified landscapes offer higher quality habitats due to the stability associated with human maintenance. Simpson Diversity Index values were high during all five visits to the residential site. However, Diversity Index values for the forest were comparable. The cemetery consistently supported the highest total bird mass, however, the duration of each individual bird's stay was not considered.

Poster 25

Title: Effects of corrective exercise on Functional Movement Screen and Y Balance Test scores.

Presenter(s): Ryan Watari, Israel Diaz, Xhirley Gonzalez, Meghann Macek

Faculty Sponsor: Peter Hoyt

Abstract: Our purpose is to compare the effect of a personalized corrective exercise protocol based on an individual's Functional Movement Screen (FMS) score and the effect of a general corrective exercise protocol that addresses movement deficits, on scores of the FMS and the Y Balance Test (YBT) in collegiate athletes and dancers. FMS scores and YBT scores are collected before and after a 6 week exercise intervention protocol. Both tests are used to identify injury risk in the physically active. This study may enhance the evidence of reducing injury risk by identifying corrective exercise protocols that improve FMS and YBT scores.

Poster 26

Title: The Interdependant Effects of Temperature and Substrate on the Grow Rate of *Pseudomonas. Putida*

Presenter(s): Hadley Reynolds, Melissa Notarangelo, Daniel Sumy

Faculty Sponsor: Emily Mooney

Abstract: *Pseudomonas putida* has been studied as an efficient facilitator for biodegradation of crude oils in marine environments. Lack of studies exist that examine the efficiency of *P. putida* to degrade oil under varying temperature stress and environmental substrates. This study determined that efficiency by subjecting *P. putida* to three substrates. Thirty replicates were inoculated with the bacteria; half were subjected to room temperature, while the remaining half were placed in an incubator at 39°C for a period of one week. Respiration was determined by measuring the CO₂ production of each replicate daily with a CO₂ meter. Results showed no significant differences in respiration between replicates, most likely due to unsuitable substrate adhesion.

Poster 27

Title: Age, Gender, and Social Connections

Presenter(s): Samantha Chase, Megan Blocker

Faculty Sponsor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: Technology is an increasingly common form of communication in today's world. Our study will explore the differences between participants' face-to-face and technology-based relationships. Participants will be recruited through Facebook and MCLA's First Class. We expect to see a generation gap, with older generations placing more value on face-to-face friendships. We also expect to see a difference in gender, with women placing more value on both types of friendships. The results from this study will contribute to further understanding of why people engage in social networking as well as how they perceive and value their face-to-face and technological friendships.

Poster 28

Title: Substance Use in Academics

Presenter(s): Madison Hogan, Jacqueline Miller, Kyle Innis

Faculty Sponsor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: This study will try to answer two research questions, Is there a difference in academic performance between non-prescription/illicit stimulant users and prescription stimulant users? And Does the frequency and range of illicit drug use influence AP? Our study focuses on undergraduate students ages 18-24. The sample derives from students who meet those criteria and who elected to complete our anonymous web-based survey. We collected data on the students' academic performance, including GPA, perceived success, and interest in their studies. We expect to find that there will be a significant difference in academics between both groups.

Poster 29

Title: Youth Leadership

Presenter(s): Michael Ziemplak

Faculty Sponsor: Myles Whitney

Abstract: Research paper on Youth Leadership and a community service project on a Youth Leadership Retreat and Group for Local Youth with disabilities.

Poster 30

Title: Motivation within athletes

Presenter(s): Jaclyn Candelet

Faculty Sponsor: Pat Sullivan

Abstract: My research examines motivation in high school and college athletes. As motivation has directional and intensity components, this research specifically is concerned with the intensity dimension. That is, after choosing to participate in a sport, how hard is the athlete willing to work to be successful? In addition, the research examines the sources of motivation for each athlete, not just in their sport, but also in the classroom. Data are collected using a survey.

Poster 31

Title: Prague Treasures: A Journey to Medieval Europe

Presenter(s): Christopher Hess, Rebecca Yansak, Jenny Rosario, Carolyn Boyajian, Miles Thomas-Moore, Justin Vanderpoole, Jameek Clovie

Faculty Sponsor: Petra Hejnova

Abstract: This poster will examine Central European medieval structures and artifacts as they are experienced by tourists today. The authors - seven MCLA students - conducted their research during an experiential learning based trip to the Czech Republic in March 2011. Both visuals and text will be used to convey the investigative journey and the findings.

Poster 32

Title: Studying for the GRE: A Behavior Analytic Perspective

Presenter(s): Bee Kissinger, Bryan Acton, Cara Finch

Faculty Sponsor: Thomas Byrne

Abstract: Students who plan to further their education by attending graduate school are confronted with the task of preparing for the Graduate Record Examination. As many students can recall, preparation for such examinations is often matched by procrastination behaviors. As graduation approaches, gaining admission into the preferred graduate program often becomes a student's most important goal, and performing well on the GRE plays a critical role in its achievement. Using behavior analytic principles, we will analyze the obstacles many students encounter during this crucial step in applying to graduate school.

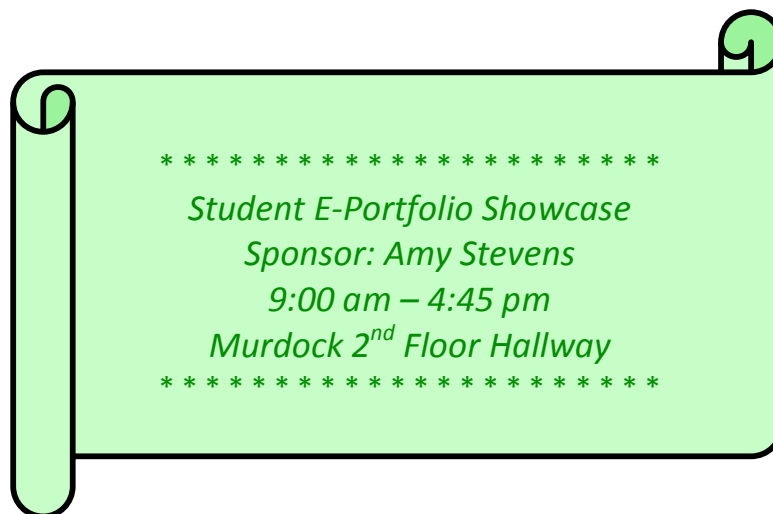
Poster 33

Title: Infantile Amnesia - Recalling Memories of Potty Training

Presenter(s): Kevin Seeley

Faculty Sponsor: Timothy Jay

Abstract: Infantile amnesia is the phenomenon in which we cannot recall events in infancy. Research suggests that the earliest memories are recalled around age 3-4 years, with some earlier memories being legitimate, but rare. Interestingly, there has been no research investigating memories of their potty training, which takes place around the ages of infantile amnesia. Present research aims to fill in this gap. We administered a survey to Introductory psychology students at MCLA and found that overall memory of potty training was quite poor. Emotional aspects such as rewards and punishments were recalled with greater confidence. Applications are discussed.



1. Paper Presentations

Chair: Ely Janis

9:30 am – 10:50 pm, Murdock 201

Title: The Oklahoma City Bombing: Motives and Effects

Presenter(s): Adam Tarsa

Faculty Sponsor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: On April 19, 1995 Timothy McVeigh drove a Ryder truck packed with explosives to the Murrah Federal building in Oklahoma City. 168 people were killed and hundreds more injured when the bomb exploded. The bombing was an act of homegrown terrorists with a plan to obtain certain political advantages while using the acts of our own government to fuel their rage. This presentation will argue that the Oklahoma City bombers were extremists motivated by extreme reactions to government behavior in the Waco and Ruby Ridge catastrophes.

Title: Anti Fascism Works

Presenter(s): Gordon Polglase

Faculty Sponsor: Laura Thompson

Abstract: Art is heavily linked to the emotions and opinions of artists. Few examples are more apparent than the combination of politics and art. Indeed, the emotional charge of an artist with a statement or an opinion is powerful. Few points in political art history so vividly show such self expression then the anti-fascist works of the 20th century. This presentation will show three different works by three separate artists (Beckmann, Szyk and Picasso) of various backgrounds and how they all shared common themes and messages in their anti-fascist works.

Title: Comparison of Numerical Methods for Differential Equations: Euler's Method vs Runge-Kutta Method.

Presenter(s): David Daniels

Faculty Sponsor: Alla Kucher

Abstract: In this talk, I present the results of my study, research and analysis of the differences between Euler's and Rung-Kutta methods for numerical integration to solve Initial Value Problems (IVP) for Ordinary DDifferential Equations (ODE). It is a work in progress to develop a computer program that displays numerically as a table and graphically Solutions to Initial Value Problems for Ordinary Differential Equations. To analyse accuracy of the solutions, I provide examples where both- the approximated numerical and exact analytical solutions are compared and visualized.

Title: 'That's Why I Sewed You Up': The Ronin Archetype in the Crime, Western, and Samurai Genres

Presenter(s): Niall Quinn

Faculty Sponsor: David Langston

Abstract: Dashiell Hammett's novel, *Red Harvest*, tells the story of a nameless detective who enters a city which is torn between warring sects and uses his cunning to pit the

corrupt factions against one another and rid the city of them. This literary work sparked a motif that would carry into film and influence some of the most celebrated works of numerous genres, including Akira Kurosawa's *Yojimbo*, Sergio Leone's *A Fistful of Dollars*, and the Coen Brothers' *Miller's Crossing*. This paper examines the adaptations of the ronin archetype from film to film and genre to genre.

2. *Special Session*

Artist Talks

Faculty Sponsor: Melanie Mowinski

9:30 am – 10:50 am, Murdock 216

Title: Artist Talk

Presenter(s): Ben Warren

Faculty Sponsor: Melanie Mowinski

Abstract: My art deals with perception of comics, as there is a common misconception of cartoons as entertainment for children. The characters and scenes created reflect topics that are adult in nature. The work is created from classical and modern drawing theories of form, composition, while incorporating theories from film and animation. The styles of the artworks are inspired by underground comics from the latter half of the 20th century. Note: no cartoons were harmed in the making of this comic.

Title: Artist Talk

Presenter(s): Brielle Rizzotti

Faculty Sponsor: Melanie Mowinski

Abstract: I am motivated by abstraction, color, and form. I create artworks that become catalysts for giving new life to unexpected materials. Line and shape are my initial components of focus. As those aspects come together, I shift my attention to color combinations appropriate to fill the empty spaces. I strive to create a sense of balance and harmonious movement by incorporating my connection to the number three. By using diverse combinations of materials and design approaches I create pieces which are unified along the themes of movement, balance, whimsy, and harmony. My work exudes feelings of play, discovery, and freeness.

Title: Unrooting Fairytales and Nursery Rhymes

Presenter(s): Danielle Christensen

Faculty Sponsor: Melanie Mowinski

Abstract: When I was growing up I was surrounded by fairy tales, nursery rhymes and riddles, and wondered about their historical background. Through the manipulation of ink in two-dimensional drawings and the use of tunnel books, I reconstruct the original stories visually. When people see my work I want them to remember when they were little and hearing or reading these tales for the first time. I use over-sized dimensions to evoke the immensity of the books read as a child. I am not only recalling my own childhood but hoping to stimulate the inner child in other people, too.

3. Special Session

*World in Crisis -- **Interactive Presentation***

Faculty Sponsor: Robert Bence

9:30 am – 10:50 pm, Murdock 218

Title: World in Crisis **Interactive Presentation**

Presenter(s): Tim James, Cat Chaput, Patricia Deoliveira

Faculty Sponsor: Robert Bence

Abstract: A discussion on the developing situation in North Africa through a simulated meeting of the United Nations Security Council. This presentation encourages audience members to participate in a brief model UN session, where we will discuss the events taking place in Libya and their significance in world politics. We will also look at the history and function of the UN, along with its recent activities.

4. Special Session

Student Reading

Faculty Sponsor: Abbot Cutler

9:30 am – 10:50 am, Murdock 301

Title: Poetry Reading

Presenter(s): Rebecca Lindamood

Faculty Sponsor: Abbot Cutler

Abstract: "I will be reading original poetry written in Abbot Cutler's Advanced Poetry Workshop. Titles: "421 Great Road," "Seed," "Marie," "Turtles All the Way Down" "In the Ruins."

Title: Poetry Reading

Presenter(s): Jason Peabody, Meghan Rose, Walter Bouchard

Faculty Sponsor: Abbot Cutler

Abstract: Students chosen by Abbot Cutler will be reading original poetry that we have written and/or have been working on in workshops at MCLA

Title: Poetry Reading

Presenter(s): Chris Satterlee

Faculty Sponsor: Abbot Cutler

Abstract: I'll be reading a few poems that were edited over the course of two semesters in Professor Cutler's two poetry writing workshops. I'll be selecting poems that I believe have had the most work and time put into them.

Title: Piqued Lapels

Presenter(s): Kimberly Domanico

Faculty Sponsor: Abbot Cutler

Abstract: "Piqued Lapels" tells the story about a lesbian having come to terms with herself as a person with a past. The story was drafted in several stages in various states until a tone and style arose that suited both the character and the story.

5. Paper Presentations

Chair: Mary Ellen Cohane

11:00 am – 12:20 pm, Murdock 201

Title: The Irish Republican Army of the 1960s

Presenter(s): Katherine Stanton

Faculty Sponsor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: The Irish Republican Army (IRA) was a terrorist organization that fought for Northern Ireland's freedom from Great Britain over much of the twentieth century. In 1969 the IRA underwent an ideological split, forming the "Official IRA" and the "Provisional IRA." The split took place mainly over disagreements on policies on abstentionism (refusing to participate in the government) and the combining of forces with radical left-wing organizations after armed conflicts across Ireland increased tensions within the IRA. After the split the Provisional Army became the major face of the movement as the Marxist beliefs of the Official IRA pushed many away.

Title: Neutrinos In the MINERvA Experiment

Presenter(s): David Eve

Faculty Sponsor: Emily Maher

Abstract: Neutrinos are one of the most abundant and least understood of the fundamental particles which make up our universe. The MINERvA experiment seeks to create a better understanding of neutrinos by making high precision measurements of their interaction probabilities, or cross sections. This talk will focus on the neutrino interactions that produce pions. For certain types of oscillation experiments, pion production can be a significant background.

Title: Puerto Rico, Colonialism, Terrorism, and Self-Determination

Presenter(s): Ricardo Arroyo

Faculty Sponsor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: Puerto Rico has had its colonial status debated politically since the Spanish-American War. Different political groups have organized around this national issue using violence as a tactic for liberation; they have been labeled as terrorist organizations by the United States. The labels are refuted by these groups. The most prominent, Boricua Popular Army, claim that Puerto Rico is a colonized nation and under international law that violence is permitted. This presentation will explore Puerto Rico's colonial status, the question of self-determination, and whether international law allows for violent struggle in the case of Puerto Rico and other similar world cases.

Title: The Righteous Obligation: John Brown's War on Slavery

Presenter(s): Thomas Mellone

Faculty Sponsor: Ely Janis

Abstract: John Brown protested slavery, ultimately sacrificing his life so that African Americans in the United States could experience equality. He believed that it was his divine duty, and his social responsibility to defend those who were subjected to slavery. He has been labeled in many ways: as a terrorist, and as a martyr. Before conclusions can be formed about him, however, it is important to understand why and how he fought slavery. This presentation discusses the factors that constructed this man and his morality.

6. Paper Presentations

Chair: Petra Hejnova

11:00 am – 12:20 pm, Murdock 203

Title: The Bond Differential Equation - Time Analysis and Solutions

Presenter(s): Andrew Polidoro

Faculty Sponsor: Alla Kucher

Abstract: With the world in the midst of a financial crisis, it is vitally important for the public to understand the Mathematics of financial securities, such as bonds, stocks, and mutual funds. In this paper I use the Bond Differential Equation to analyze bonds value as a function of time in variable financial conditions, where interest rate, coupon payments, and lifetime of the bond change. I use functions to describe these changes during the life of the bond and how they affect the bond value.

Title: Literary Journalism

Presenter(s): Andrea Whitney

Faculty Sponsor: David Langston

Abstract: Literary journalism is a special kind of journalism, combining techniques from traditional reporting and the creative literary practices. However, the entire story must be as close to truth as possible, in order to maintain the integrity of the story. This genre is also sometimes called creative nonfiction. Many authors have made this style famous in years past including Stephen Crane, Truman Capote and Hunter S. Thompson. Gonzo journalism is another branch of this style, made famous by Thompson, following much of the same style, with a few added characteristics. This paper analyzed the authors' use of the style.

Title: Two Women, Five Freedoms, Sixteen Square Feet of Skin

Presenter(s): Juliana Matthews

Faculty Sponsor: Ely Janis

Abstract: Emma Goldman (anarchist and feminist) and Mary Harris Jones (socialist and labor union organizer) both used unconventional methods to make a difference and were unusually outspoken women for their time. "Red Emma" and "Mother Jones" worked to

publicize and obtain better working conditions for the plight of unskilled laborers in the U.S. during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and created carefully sculpted public personas to get their message across. This paper will examine what they had in common, how they were different, and the similarities and differences present within their political philosophy.

7. Special Session

A Multi-Method Approach to Understanding School Bullying

Faculty Sponsor: Maria Bartini

11:00 am – 12:20 pm, Murdock 216

Title: Parental Perceptions (on School Bullying and Other Social Behaviors)

Presenter(s): Samantha Chase, Abigail Lindamood

Faculty Sponsor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: Bullying is a prevalent and rising issue in schools around the United States. Little research has been conducted regarding parental knowledge and attitudes towards bullying. In this study, parents will complete an online or paper survey designed to measure their knowledge of and attitudes toward bullying and other prosocial and antisocial behaviors in grades K-8. We expect to find that on average, parents will underestimate the prevalence of and have subdued attitudes toward bullying and other antisocial behaviors. We hope that the results from this study will assist schools in their bullying prevention efforts.

Title: Teachers' Perception of Bullying in the Elementary Grades

Presenter(s): Kevin Seeley, Colby Klein

Faculty Sponsor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: A successful bullying-prevention strategy must consider the existing attitudes that its target community has about bullying prevalence and importance, as well as the satisfaction concerning current anti-bullying efforts. With this in mind, teachers in a Berkshire County elementary school were administered a survey that measures these attitudes. We expect that teachers may overestimate their abilities to address bullying on the playground, and may not consider bullying to be a large issue. In this section, we compare teacher and parent attitudes, as the difference has not been fully investigated by past research. Significant differences are expected, and applications to future research are discussed.

Title: Observation and Service Learning: Impacting the Community

Presenter(s): Devan Monroe, Jenna Gancarz, Jessica Kiernan

Faculty Sponsor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: With the passing of the new Massachusetts law against bullying in schools MCLA Psychology students are collecting observational data at a local elementary school. This observation is done as a service learning project to provide the school with information on how their primary age children interact at recess time. Preliminary data will be presented.

The finished data will aid the school in creating and implementing a comprehensive intervention program. During this presentation you will gain insight on primary age social behaviors and the importance of service learning projects.

8. Special Session

*From Continental Exile to "The Convent of Pleasure":
Margaret Cavendish's 17th-Century Textual and Material Self-Fashioning*
Faculty Sponsors: Rosanne Denhard, Dawn Shamburger
11:00 am – 12:20 pm, Murdock 218

Title: *From Continental Exile to "The Convent of Pleasure"*

Presenter(s): Shelby Giaccarini, Laura Krebs, Kristen Lafond, Katelynn Larson,
Alex Marshall, Steven O'Connor

Faculty Sponsor: Rosanne Denhard, Dawn Shamburger

Abstract: The life-writings of Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle (1623-1673) afford opportunities to study Margaret and William Cavendish as exiled English Royalists on the European continent. Students from the Medieval and Renaissance British Drama class and an independent study in historical costume collaborated on primary-source research, exploring how strategies of textual and material self-fashioning--practices relevant throughout Margaret Cavendish's life--were articulated during exile and afterward, including "The Convent of Pleasure," Cavendish's play focusing on the complex interplay of courtship and marriage. The students' research and creative collaborations merge contextual research, performance experiments, and an imaginative rendering of historical costume

9. Special Session

Study Abroad Experiences
Faculty Sponsor: Graziana Ramsden
11:00 am – 12:20 pm, Murdock 301

Title My Summer in Ecuador

Presenter(s): Hilary Perks

Faculty Sponsor: Graziana Ramsden

Abstract: This past summer, I volunteered through the FEVI program in an indigenous community in Ecuador. In such a small, tightly knit community, it was easy to immerse myself into the local culture. I worked with children the majority of the time, teaching them English every morning and leading them through fun activities in the afternoons. FEVI sponsored weekend trips for volunteers and I visited different historical and cultural sites. Although I enjoyed that very much, it was the small community where I lived that had the greatest impact on me.

Title: The State of Catalonia

Presenter(s): Nicholas Raby

Faculty Sponsor: Graziana Ramsden

Abstract: This presentation centers on my personal experience in Spain as a study-abroad student. During my 7 months in Barcelona, I attended the Pompeu Fabra University, where I took various courses in language and culture, and in language-based disciplines, all in Spanish. I also had the opportunity to travel through Spain and through Europe, which made me realize the importance of sustainable living and global travel. This experience provided me with academic and professional prospects as well as with a cultural awareness that can only be achieved through personal experiences foreign to those previously experienced.

Title: Stepping Outside the Textbook

Presenter(s): Kimberly Capriola

Faculty Sponsor: Graziana Ramsden

Abstract: Last spring 2010 I took a travel course called the Arts of Medieval and Renaissance Britain, which took my class to the United Kingdom over spring break. The beauty of such a travel course enables students to explore first-hand a dimension of the study content that would otherwise be limited in the containment of a traditional classroom setting. Naturally, traveling abroad opens up additional content and experiences for students that are likewise restricted through mere textbook learning. This travel component also enabled me to realize personal goals that had long been established, thus laying a foundation for future fulfillment abroad.

Title: My Belgian Experience

Presenter(s): Hawa Umarova

Faculty Sponsor: Graziana Ramsden

Abstract: In this presentation, I will discuss and analyze my study abroad experience in Belgium. This experience was both challenging and rewarding because I expanded my academic horizons with courses in History, Business and Creative Arts and because I was able to immerse myself in Belgian culture. I was also able to travel and witness examples of the oldest civilizations in the world. Finally, I met other students from the US and from all over the world, which made my five months in Belgium the most memorable of my life.

Title: Study Abroad in Valencia

Presenter(s): Kara Ward

Faculty Sponsor: Graziana Ramsden

Abstract: Experiencing life in another culture is a rare opportunity which I was lucky enough to go through. I spent six weeks in the third largest city in Spain - Valencia. The experience was more difficult than I expected; although American culture and Spanish culture are much more similar than they were in the past, they are still quite different. Adjusting to these differences took much longer than I expected. Despite the difficulties, my

time in Valencia was wonderful. I learned a lot about Spanish culture and the Spanish language. I met people I will never forget. I saw places more beautiful than I could imagine. I would like to share my experiences in a panel with a few other students who were lucky enough to study abroad as well.

10. Special Session

Shakespearian Monologues

Faculty Sponsor: Laura Standley

11:00 am – 12:20 am, The Murdock Lawn

(Murdock 320 if there is bad weather)

Title: Monologues: Shakespeare's major characters

Presenter(s): Michael Barry, Lily Cardaropoli, Jackie Coughlin, Sam Cournyn, Michael Dearn, Jimmy Dunn, Brittany Gerber, Alexa Hebard, John J. Hurley, Jonathan Kinney, Kimberly Kirchner, Josh Lapierre, Thomas Leidenfrost, Boston Livingston, Amanda Monick, Robin Russell, Leandra Sharron, Benjamin Warren

Faculty Sponsor: Laura Standley

Abstract: The course, Advanced Acting: Shakespeare, presents an exploration of Shakespeare's major characters with performances from *Taming of the Shrew*, *Winter's Tale*, *Timon of Athens*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Richard III*, *Julius Caesar*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Henry V*, *Pericles*, *Measure for Measure*, *King Lear*, *Midsummer Nights Dream* and *Henry IV, Part One*.

11. Paper Presentations

Chair: Lauren O'Neal

11:00 am – 12:20 pm, Murdock 322

Title: The Intimate Life of Emma Goldman

Presenter(s): Chelsea Levine

Faculty Sponsor: Ely Janis

Abstract: Emma Goldman, the famous social reformer and social critic, became an anarchist by allowing herself to be influenced by others. This paper examines how her beliefs were shaped by her early childhood, her relationship with working-class and radical activists, and her deportation to the Soviet Union in 1919. During a period of great upheaval in American history, Goldman's political ideas were continuously reshaped by her exposure to the key events and people of her time. By being open to other people's lifestyles, beliefs, and views, Goldman was able to craft her own unique brand of American radicalism.

Title: A Spectrum of American Romantics

Presenter(s): Aurora Cooper

Faculty Sponsor: David Langston

Abstract: The American Romantics of the nineteenth century span a spectrum from light to dark regarding their relationship with Nature. I have placed six literary figures on this spectrum and intend to defend my reasoning behind each placement. In conclusion, I will explain how the nature of this spectrum helped America define its own voice in nineteenth century literature.

Title: Comedy in *Full Metal Jacket*

Presenter(s): Matt Mignone

Faculty Sponsor: David Langston

Abstract: The tone of Stanley Kubrick's film, *Full Metal Jacket*, has often led people to read it as a dark comedy focused on the brutal and dehumanizing effects of military organization. However, found throughout are subtle implementations of various principals of comedy. By using diverse elements of the comedy genre coupled with depictions of extreme violence, a duality between the two arises that ultimately subverts conventions of the traditional war genre.

Title: Failures of the Red Army Faction

Presenter(s): Stephen Kullas

Faculty Sponsor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: This presentation analyzes West Germany's Red Army Faction (RAF), also known as the Baader-Meinhof group. Born from the New Left movement in the 1960s, the RAF viewed the West German state as fascist, and its American allies as imperialists. The group achieved some early success, but their fortunes declined rapidly with the capture of its key leaders, Andreas Baader and Ulrike Meinhof. The RAF's terrorist campaign ultimately failed; their actions in fact gave the government more power over leftist groups because they failed to pass along a cohesive ideology to the group's subsequent generations.

Lunch

(for Presenters, Faculty, and Staff)

Keynote Speaker: Brendan Gaesser

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, Campus Center Gym

In keeping with our custom of inviting successful and relatively recent graduates of MCLA back to campus to inspire current students, Brendan Gaesser will be our Keynote Speaker. Brendan graduated from MCLA with major in psychology and is pursuing graduate work in Cognitive Neuroscience at Harvard.

How to Get “There” from “Here”

Brendan Gaesser, '07

As an undergraduate at MCLA, I developed a keen interest for psychological science studying taboo words and adolescent aggression under the tutelage of Dr. Jay and Dr. Bartini, respectively. During the summer I worked as a lab tech recording neurons in cats at the University of Rochester. Although this time bolstered my understanding the connection between the mind and brain, I realized less invasive methods were more to my liking. In 2007, I arrived at Harvard as a Ph.D. student in the Psychology department specializing in Cognitive Neuroscience. I've conducted studies investigating the relationship between memory and imagination identifying how these processes operate in healthy young and older adults as well as in degenerative brain patients. My work has been published in a national journal, book chapters, and presented at international and national conferences. By understanding how memory enables imagination, I hope to better understand creativity, problem solving, diseases of imagination, and refine our ability to distinguish between genuine memories and fabricated events

12. Paper Presentations

Chair: Graziana Ramsden

2:00 pm – 3:20 pm, Murdock 201

Title: Realism in American Film

Presenter(s): Matthew Marra

Faculty Sponsor: Graziana Ramsden

Abstract: Using films such as "Winter's Bone" I will explore and discuss the reemergence of realism in American films. A presentation will include an in depth look into what realism truly means, how American film has evolved, the current form of American film and a comparison between realism in films and other forms of film.

Title: 'The Jungian Thing': The Duality of *Full Metal Jacket*

Presenter(s): Julia McDonald

Faculty Sponsor: David Langston

Abstract: Stanley Kubrick portrays analytical psychologist Carl Jung's theory of the existence of the anima as a factor in warfare through visual themes in his film, *Full Metal Jacket*.

Title: Brownian Motion and the Boltzmann Constant

Presenter(s): Benjamin Guinness

Faculty Sponsor: Adrienne Wootters

Abstract: The Boltzmann constant is critical to the field of thermodynamics. This paper covers an experiment performed in the MCLA Physics lab to calculate it using experimental data, retrieved via the observation and measurement of Brownian motion (the random movement of small particles) in a microbead solution. For the experiment, various digital tools were used, and the experimental methods and metrics necessary to the retrieval of usable data will be discussed in full.

Title: The Black Panthers in the Media During the 1960s

Presenter(s): Kenneth Borter

Faculty Sponsor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: This presentation looks at media coverage and portrayals of the Black Panthers, one of the most radical groups in the most radical decade of social change in the 20th century United States, the 1960s. The Black Panther Party, started by Bobby Seale and Huey Newton, was an organization that fought for the rights of African Americans, but were portrayed as a threat to America's national security. The Panthers were portrayed negatively in the mainstream media because of their highly militant appearance, use of violence, and the demand for attention in their own media outlets.

13. Special Session

Marine Biology

Faculty Sponsor: Anne Goodwin

2:00 pm – 3:20 pm, Murdock 203

Title: Healthy vs. Diseased Hard and Soft Corals in Two Bays at St. John U.S. Virgin Islands

Presenter(s): Morgan Chichester, Cassandra Lillie

Faculty Sponsor: Anne Goodwin

Abstract: In St John the coral reefs are diminishing rapidly. Coral reefs are important ecosystems in the oceans and they are beginning to die off for multiple reasons, one being diseases. Some diseases infect hard corals, some soft corals, and some infect both coral types. Our study was designed to determine if there was a difference between the number of diseases on hard and soft corals in two bays. We identified corals and diseases reefs at shallow sites. From these observations we hope to better understand the decline of the reefs and the future effects of diseases on Caribbean reefs.

Title: A comparative study of two types of sea grasses between two bays at St. John, USVI.

Presenter(s): Jeanette Boucher, Daniel Hassett

Faculty Sponsor: Anne Goodwin

Abstract: Sea grass beds are very beneficial as a food source, nursery habitat and protective cover to many organisms. Factors such as bacteria and algae can affect sea grass growth. The purpose of this study was to compare bacterial and algal growth in the turtle grass and manatee grass beds in two bays at St. John, USVI. Three transects per sea grass bed were photographed then the affected areas were measured. The sea grass beds may reflect the health of the local ecosystems in USVI.

Title: Plankton density and variety in vegetated and unvegetated sites of St. John, USVI

Presenter(s): Danielle Morrissey, Christina Shepley

Faculty Sponsor: Anne Goodwin

Abstract: Plankton is the basis of all marine food webs throughout the world. Broadly defined plankton is all organisms that live in the open water of the ocean that are weak swimmers. Although this can include species such as jellyfish we were focused on microscopic organisms. We compared the plankton in both vegetated and unvegetated habitats of Little Lameshur Bay, St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. There was much more plankton variety in the unvegetated habitats than the vegetated, however the overall plankton density was higher in the vegetated sites. Vegetation may therefore be important in maintaining plankton diversity.

14. Special Session

New World Voices

Faculty Sponsor: Ben Jacques

2:00 pm – 3:20 pm, Murdock 216

Title: Creative Interpretations

Presenter(s): Aurora Cooper, Carli McGurn, Kristen Lafond, Derek Skrine

Faculty Sponsor: Ben Jacques

Abstract: Students will present original interpretations of New World poets, Walt Whitman and Langston Hughes. These include art illustrations, reading of poems "in the vein of," and American Sign Language interpretations.

15. Dance Performance

Faculty Sponsor: Michael Dilthey

2:00 pm – 3:20 pm, Murdock 218

Title: Modern Dance

Presenter(s): Natalie Pozzetti, Rachel Leblanc. *Supplementary performers:* Robert Fogwell, Adam Genest, Christopher Rodick, Rebecca-Jo Schwetz, Michael Vogt

Faculty Sponsor: Michael Dilthey

Abstract: Through the Composing for Dance class, Natalie Pozzetti created a modern dance piece for Rachel Leblanc (A student from the Dance II class). The music consists of a solo piano part and cello part. Live instrumentalists accompany Rachel Leblanc's dance.

16. Special Session

Invisible Communities in Berkshire County, MA and Beyond

Faculty Sponsor: Frances Jones-Sneed

2:00 pm – 3:20 pm, Murdock 301

Title: Gerrit Smith and the Underground Railroad

Presenter(s): Katherine Stanton

Faculty Sponsor: Frances Jones-Sneed

Abstract: This paper investigates the activities of Gerrit Smith and the Underground Railroad movement in Petersboro, NY. Smith was an abolitionist known for his support of runaway slaves. This paper will focus on some of the activities of Smith and others to assist runaway slaves.

Title: Women's Movement in Berkshire County, 1974-1989

Presenter(s): Kelsey Hanlon

Faculty Sponsor: Frances Jones-Sneed

Abstract: This paper is an investigation of women in Berkshire County during the second wave of feminism. It will compare their activities with the activities of women in other Massachusetts communities and the broader movement in the United States.

Title: The Knights of Crispin and the French Canadian Community in Berkshire County

Presenter(s): Thomas Barnes

Faculty Sponsor: Frances Jones-Sneed

Abstract: This paper discusses the influence of the Knights of Crispin on the French Canadian community in the Berkshires from 1867 through 1890. It will also discuss how the strikes organized by the Knights of Crispins influenced the French Canadian population and their migration patterns into the Berkshires.

Title: Chinese Immigration to the Berkshires, 1840-1900

Presenter(s): Anderson Boone

Faculty Sponsor: Frances Jones-Sneed

Abstract: This paper examines Chinese migration from the west coast of the U.S. to the Berkshires in 1840. It will explain why the migrants came and their treatment once they were here. It will especially focus on Lue Gim Gong.

Title: Blacks in the Great Depression in Williamstown, MA

Presenter(s): Matthew Borkowski

Faculty Sponsor: Frances Jones-Sneed

Abstract: This paper focuses on blacks during the Great Depression in Williamstown, MA with a focus on the autobiography of Oscar Greene. Mr. Greene's autobiographical account of growing up during this time will be compared with other Africans in the state and nation.

17. Paper Presentations

Chair: Rita Nnodim

2:00 pm – 3:20 pm, Murdock 322

Title: Roots of Terror: Pakistan and its struggle with Militant Islam and the Modern World

Presenter(s): Nicholas Altonaga

Faculty Sponsor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: This presentation seeks to answer this question: why has Pakistan supported militant groups such as the Taliban and Al-Qaeda? For decades the Pakistani government has covertly supported militants in Kashmir, Afghanistan, and within Pakistan itself. These groups remain strong despite many efforts to destroy them. To answer these questions, Pakistan's failure to create strong democratic institutions, moderate political parties, and friendly regional relations will be discussed. The failures on these points have led to an overly influential military, an ineffective legislature and to the rise of radical education systems which have undermined Pakistan's ability to function as a nation-state.

Title: Effects of School Climate on Teachers' Perceptions of Efficacy and Motivation

Presenter(s): Erica Gaizetis

Faculty Sponsor: Maria Bartini

Abstract: A sample of 80 Berkshire County teachers completed an online survey to assess their perceptions of student bullying. Items on the survey related to their teaching experiences, professional development about school bullying, perceptions of school climate and classroom management and knowledge of their school's current bullying policies. Statistical analyses should yield a positive correlation between school climate and efficacy, such that schools with established bullying prevention plans and a positive climate should have teachers with higher feelings of self-efficacy and intrinsic motivation. This study should shed light on the importance of teacher attitudes in future bullying research.

Title: Early Terrorism of the Ku Klux Klan

Presenter(s): Alex Hogue

Faculty Sponsor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: The Ku Klux Klan ravaged areas of the southern United States from 1865 to 1880 and also from 1918 to 1927, creating terror for minorities. Was the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) a terrorist group or just another fanatical gang? This presentation will examine this question, providing arguments for and against calling them a terrorist organization, together with examples of their extremism. I will also explore these time periods briefly to explain both the popularity of the Klan and the reasons for its decline.

Title: Michael Frayn's *Headlong*: A Psychological Perspective

Presenter(s): Devan Monroe, Kristen Rubano

Faculty Sponsor: Rosanne Denhard

Abstract: Michael Frayn's *Headlong* offers a complex and meaningful psychological component uncommon in most modern novels. The main character, Martin, serves as

narrator and thus receives the most psychologically complex characterization. Packed with substantial elements of art history, *Headlong* showcases Martin's neuroses in outrageous situations that push even the reader's mental boundaries. The relationship of Martin and his wife, Kate, are also examined in the context of spousal social support. *Headlong* is a fast-paced, art-historical thriller with almost unparalleled psychological character development. Our aim is to unpack the novel, but maintain the novel's mystery.

18. Paper Presentations

Chair: Terrie Pratt

3:30 pm – 4:50 pm, Murdock 201

Title: Kurosawa and Kubrick: A Study of the American Renaissance

Presenter(s): Nicholas Smith

Faculty Sponsor: David Langston

Abstract: Stanley Kubrick and Akira Kurosawa complete a full circle of the philosophy of the nineteenth century American Renaissance. Kubrick believed the human condition to be opaque. Evil and violence are natural and human. In contrast, Kurosawa saw the world as transparent and the messages of his films are more uplifting in contrast to Kubrick's bleak existentialism. Finally, exploring the themes from two films by each director will help create a full circle. Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange* represents his nihilistic view on humanity where all hierarchy is flattened which is in contrast with his most hopeful film *2001: A Space Odyssey* which finds Dave Bowman becoming the Star Child. Kurosawa's *Ikiru*, is his most endearing film recapturing the time loss in the face of death juxtaposed against *Rashomon*, the film where Kurosawa steps into the opaque and shows how absolute truth does not exist. The two filmmakers filmography together form the perfect yin and yang, the cynic with a spot of hopefulness against the hopeful with a spot of the cynic in him.

Title: The Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103

Presenter(s): Thomas Court

Faculty Sponsor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: On December 21, 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 passengers, crew, and residents on the ground. This was the single deadliest terrorist attack involving civilians up to that date. It changed the way we looked at terrorism. In the aftermath the world looked at possible suspects while investigators pieced together the sequence of events leading to the culprits. I will address whether the conviction of Libyan operative Abdelbaset al-Megrahi provided justice for the victims. I will also look at the repercussions of his compassionate release in 2009.

Title: Jerzy Grotowski

Presenter(s): Jonathan Kinney

Faculty Sponsor: Laura Standley

Abstract: Jerzy Grotowski, through his unique use of physical, textual, and vocal aspects of performance, rose to become a legend in the theatrical world. Through his examination of what is necessary to a theatrical performance, Grotowski started new trends and schools of thought within the ever-changing world of the performing arts. Any true student of theatre, no matter their personal inclinations, should have at least a minor understanding of Grotowski's ideas, as they are a real milestone in the evolution of theatre.

Title: Genocide in Rwanda

Presenter(s): Peggy Gallaher, Chelsey Ciolkowski, Connell Brown

Faculty Sponsor: Jennifer Zoltanski

Abstract: This session will focus on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda. Presenters will pay particular attention to the influences of colonialism and media on the genocide, as well as Rwanda in the aftermath of the genocide. Psychological and sociological forces behind the Rwandan genocide will also be discussed.

*19. Special Session
Convergent Media in Journalism
Faculty Sponsor: Jen Augur
3:30 pm – 4:50 pm, Murdock 203*

Title: Convergent Media in Journalism

Presenter(s): John Deming, Dan Sheehan, Colleen Smith, Nathan Pichette, Jameek Clovie, Ed McCormick

Faculty Sponsor: Jen Augur

Abstract: Five students from Prof. Jen Augur's Issues in Journalism class will discuss the evolution of convergent media in journalism and its effect on the profession. How journalism is presented has evolved over the past 30 years from basic newspapers to a broader spectrum of sources including Web sites, video, photo images, podcasts, and polls. Convergent media has profoundly dominated our culture as well. Panel members will discuss how they used a convergent media platform for class projects, sharing their experiences and opinions.

20. Special Session

Philosophy Mini-Conference

Faculty Sponsors: David Johnson, Paul Nnodim, Gerol Petruzella

3:30 pm – 4:50 pm, Murdock 218

Title: An Inconsonant Importance: Aesthetics, Art, and Beauty

Presenter(s): Jacob Wheeler

Faculty Sponsor: David Johnson

Abstract: Aesthetics, as a philosophical discipline, is suffering from an exaggerated importance consonant not with criteria of classification but with a fetish forged by years of tradition: beauty. Beauty should not be considered a descriptive criterion for the designation of art status. This paper attempts to demonstrate such by a historical survey of artistic theories and by framing the question within new conceptualizations of key concepts such as 'aesthetic,' 'beauty,' and even 'art.'

Title: Shadows of Marx: Class Struggle in 21st Century America

Presenter(s): Edward Manak

Faculty Sponsor: David Johnson

Abstract: Discussions of Marxism and socialism have largely fallen out of favor among modern political discourse. The term "socialism" has become a taboo word, popular among some commentators as a political attack against those who put forward ideas even bordering on social justice. Some academics even claim that American society has moved past the notion of "class." This idea is mistaken. This presentation intends to show Marxist ideas of the political economy as applied to our current economic and political schemas, and begin to illustrate the continuing need for dialogue on class in economic, political, and philosophical discourse.

Title: A discourse on Jean Paul Sartre's existentialist view – "existence precedes essence" and its relevance to the contemporary, metaphysical concept of the person.

Presenter(s): Brendon Tomasi

Faculty Sponsor: Paul Nnodim

Abstract: According to Sartre, a human being first encounters oneself upon thinking - presumably subconsciously - surges outwards into the world, and defines him/herself afterwards. Sartre's thesis that existence precedes essence implies that humans have no predetermined essences. While not denying the impediments emanating from the human condition, a person's essence is determined by how he/ she lives one's life, not by human nature. Sartre's claim goes against traditional metaphysics and religion, which see existence as the instantiation of essence in humans. Sartre says "we are condemned to freedom" to discover and define our personal essence.

*21. Special Session
The Sociology of Food
Faculty Sponsor: Diane Balduzy
3:30 pm – 4:50 pm, Murdock 301*

Title: Slow Food: Taking a Step Back

Presenter(s): Jennifer Rolenz

Faculty Sponsor: Diane Balduzy

Abstract: The slow food movement is dedicated to embracing food in its natural form while taking a step back from the mass produced synthetic food on the market. It is not to reject mass produced synthetic food totally but to examine the practices behind it and return to a healthier, better quality food.

Title: Topics on the Sociology of Water

Presenter(s): Cassandra McNary

Faculty Sponsor: Diane Balduzy

Abstract: Water is a larger part of life than many humans care to know about. We all know that our bodies are largely composed of water and that it is required for sustenance. Unfortunately humans need potable water in order to survive, and this is becoming more difficult to find by the minute. This is a discussion focused on the explanation of the struggles humans face as potable water is depleted from the globe, in developed and peripheral countries alike, as well as offer possible solutions.

Title: Sustainable Urban Agriculture

Presenter(s): Kris McLaughlin

Faculty Sponsor: Diane Balduzy

Abstract: Sustainable Urban Agriculture means growing food in the city. It can be on buildings or in vacant lots; "sustainability" is reducing one's impact on the environment I will focus on the Science Barge which is totally sustained by the environment and uses no non-renewable energy sources. Sustainable Urban Agriculture can impact the environment, the economy as well as how people can get their food.

Title: Food Waste: A Global Epidemic

Presenter(s): Rebecca Ober, Malaysia Goodnow, Dale Veratti Jr.

Faculty Sponsor: Diane Balduzy

Abstract: The USDA recently reported that 91 billion pounds of food go to waste a year in the United States, a number that has been increasing. With increasing food waste, it is shocking that one in six Americans are struggling with hunger as reported by the nation's food pantries. The present video will briefly look at the food waste epidemic at a national and global level. Local solutions to food waste will also be explored as a locally run co-op works to cut back on food waste.

22. Paper Presentations

Chair: Ingrid Castro

3:30 pm – 4:50 pm, Murdock 322

Title: The Ulster Volunteer Force and Violence in Northern Ireland

Presenter(s): John Mullen

Faculty Sponsor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), a Protestant Loyalist paramilitary group, has been an active terrorist organization "defending" Protestants in Northern Ireland since 1912. The UVF's goal is to maintain Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom. Their most active period of terrorism was between the 1970's and the 1990's when they used shootings and bombings to kill hundreds of people. Their excuse for these attacks was that they were protecting the Protestant community from the Irish Republican Army (IRA), but their true goal was revenge.

Title: Hezbollah: Born Among Flames

Presenter(s): Chris Skutnik

Faculty Sponsor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: Hezbollah was not created by a simple philosophy: The group originated in Israeli-dominated Lebanese territory during the early 1980s and was influenced by both Shi'a-Islamic intellectuals hailing from Iraq and Iran as well as Syria's on-again, off-again political and military manipulation. Springing from the ashes of the nationalist and secular Afw,j al-Muq,wama al-Lubn,niyya (AMAL) group, specific Islamic intellectuals and Shi'a nationalists reformed the organization after their own ideologies. With this new organization, suicide car-bombings, kidnappings, and assassinations against Israeli and Western targets ensued, all with the purpose of removing Israel and Western influence (specifically the UN peacekeepers,) from Lebanese soil.

Title: Who Can Commit Terrorism?

Presenter(s): Tim James

Faculty Sponsor: Anthony Daly

Abstract: In the last fifty years, acts of terrorism have gained increasing prominence across the globe. Yet, despite the frequency of these incidents and the attention they receive from governments and media, "terrorism" remains an ambiguous idea with many possible definitions. This presentation will look at specific acts in Latin America, South East Asia and the United States as a means of objectively defining and understanding "terrorism." The ultimate aim of the presentation is to answer the question, "can only terrorists commit terrorism?"

23. Special Session

Fefu and Her Friends

Faculty Sponsor: Laura Standley

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Venable Black Box Theater

Title: *Fefu and Her Friends*

Presenter(s): Nicole Dunn, Lesley Anne Zaya, Sarah DiMarino, Leandra Sharron, Jackie Coughlin, Lily Cardaropoli, Amanda Monick, Jackie Gianetti

Faculty Sponsor: Laura Standley

Abstract: Students from the Fine and Performing Arts Theatre program present *Fefu and Her Friends* by Maria Irene Fornes. Set in 1935, the play is a quietly provocative look at a group of women whose lives mirror the state of the female community. Meant to be presented in an actual house, rather than a traditional theatre space, the audience visits Fefu's home, sitting among the characters as if flies on the wall, and in the second act are lead around as if touring the house with the rest of her guests. The play's challenging themes will be explored in a post-performance discussion with the cast and creative team as well as Sue Birns from MCLA's Women's Center. Directed by Laura Standley; costumes designed by Dawn Shamburger.

24. Special Session

Close Encounters with Harlequin & Dance Company

Sponsor: Lauren O'Neal

5:30 pm, MCLA Gallery 51, Main Street

The 2011 Undergraduate Research Conference Steering Committee

David Langston, English/Communications (Chairperson)

Diane Balduzy, Sociology

Maria Bartini, Psychology

Ann Billetz, Biology

Thomas Byrne, Psychology

Anthony Daly, History

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Emily Mooney, Biology

Melanie Mowinski, Fine and Performing Arts

Paul Nnodim, Philosophy

Lauren O'Neal, Fine and Performing Arts

Graziana Ramsden, Modern Languages

As a committee, we would like to congratulate our talented student-researchers and their faculty sponsors and to thank them for their hard work. We would also like to thank the many people across campus who helped to make this day possible; special words of gratitude to Ashley Berridge, the Director of Special Events and Conference Planning and Amy Stevens, the web manager.