Happiness, Unhappiness, and the Good Life

Moderator: Dr. David Salvaterra

Location: Academic Resource Center, 402

Disney Princesses & the Good Life
Amanda Runde
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Amanda Osheim

What is the good life? If you’re a Disney princess, it’s getting married to your true love and living happily ever after. My research focuses on the detrimental aspects of this view of the good life due to the fact that it instills harmful beliefs in viewers of these movies, especially for the young girls that watch them. These harmful beliefs include the fact that girls are taught that they need a man in order to have a good life, that they need a man to save them, and that life after marriage is going to be a happily ever after. Freud’s theory of wish fulfillment is used to help explain why people, especially young girls, cling to this detrimental view of the good life. Conclusions are given to how people can combat this view of the good life that has infiltrated society and how Disney needs to make changes to how they portray females.

Acute Antidepressant Actions of Ketamine in Treatment-Resistant Depression
Jacalyn Russ
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kate Cooper

Depression is a mood disorder that can affect how one feels, thinks, and behaves, which can lead to emotional and physical problems. According to the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, 6.9% of adults in the U.S.—16 million—had at least one major depressive episode in the past year. Ketamine is currently used as an anesthetic medication to put patients to sleep for surgery and to prevent pain and discomfort during certain medical tests or procedures. However, recent evidence suggest that ketamine can have rapid antidepressant effects for patients who have been diagnosed with treatment-resistant depression. The aim of this experiment was to explore these acute antidepressant-like effects of ketamine on the behavior of antidepressant-resistant and antidepressant-responsive rats and explore the possibility of a blood-based biomarker of depression which would streamline the process for finding an effective treatment. The experiment was done by using an animal model system of depression and treatment-resistant depression and
the pharmacologically verified forced swim test to determine the efficacy of ketamine. A significant decrease in immobility time was observed in socially isolated animals pre-treated with saline or ACTH following ketamine treatment suggesting that ketamine may have rapid antidepressant effects. This project was done in fulfillment of the Mayo Clinic Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program in the translational neuroscience laboratory under the direction of Susannah J. Tye, PhD.

“The Darkness of Robert Frost: The Confusion and Despair in Nature and Humanity”
Jacob Butlett
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. James Pollock

My presentation will explore the sublime in the poetry of Robert Frost, “a terrifying poet.” With nature imagery, Frost treats poetry as structured art that houses the sublime in the mood of his work. As such, he creates writing and reading experiences brimming with “controlled violence,” or terror, and joy. Frost has even said that he wants his poems “to grab people by the throat.” “Desert Places,” “‘Out, Out—,’” and “Design” contain such an effect. The joy that Frost and his readers feel is not controlled by the poem’s terrifying storylines, but rather controlled by “emotional distance”—that is, the knowledge that Frost and his readers are safe from terror because they are observing the terror on the page, not living it. Without that distance, the joy disappears, leaving only sheer terror. Also, Frost wants his poems to create “a momentary stay against confusion.” By creating terror in poetry with artistic structures and tones, Frost ultimately grants his readers “a clarification of life”—all while having “a hell of a good time…writing [his poems].”

Challenges in Sport
Moderator: Dr. Jacob Heidenreich
Location: Alumni Campus Center, Mary Alexis Room

Streaks in Baseball
Anthony Flattery
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Matthew Rissler

The topic of streakiness is very popular in the sports world. Announcers and fans use phrases like “on fire”, “in the zone”, “going through a slump”, or “just having trouble focusing” to describe players’ performances all the time. This is extremely evident in the sport of baseball and specifically in hitting. This presentation explores hitting streaks from the 2013 Major League Baseball and the 2014 Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference seasons. Patterns and distributions of the results of plate appearances throughout these two different levels of play are compared to the patterns and distributions that would be expected from similar random
occurrences in order to investigate whether or not players from either of these two leagues display any characteristics of what fans would refer to as streakiness.

Sport Marketing Association Case Study: Marketing Ticket Packages
Andrew Wampler, Austin Overman, Marykathryn Halm, Megan Tews, Jake Brock
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Matthew Garrett

Presentation and work performed by Sport Management students at the annual Sport Marketing Association conference in Philadelphia this past fall. The presentation takes an in depth look at the problems many colleges are facing in regard to season ticket sales. Students analyzed and modified ticket packages for a fictional university facing very real problems. Students competed head to head with other schools from around the country and brought home first place after being judged by industry professionals.

The Cost of Free Throws
Dalton Graham
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Smith

My proposal consists of an academic research project concerning the perceptions of low-income high school male athletes with regard to the attainability of a future career in professional athletics. After reviewing the pertinent, scholarly literature, I hope to gauge the general norms of such a relationship, should any have already been found. I am interested in these perceptions because I believe they impact domestic economic values in a direct and unfortunate way. Annually an estimated 200,000 black high school basketball players compete each year for an athletic scholarship to a Division I NCAA college/university. Long story, short—30 players are given guaranteed rookie contracts each year at the professional level, in the NBA. Keeping in mind the Loras’ dispositions, I believe this project would provide me with a chance to scrutinize abstract research findings while providing me with a clearer look into the life-conditions of an unfamiliar genesis. I hope to provide detailed accounts of the economic impact of amateur athletes failing to reach a profitable professional level. I am excited and anxious to see what information I discover during the course of my work.

Beauty
Moderator: Dr. Kathrin Parks
Location: Alumni Campus Center, Arizona Room

“Beauty Within”
Ashley Pudil
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kevin Koch

"Beauty Within" is a creative, nonfiction narrative written by Ashley Pudil during her 2015 JTerm class, Writing the Midwest Landscape. This narrative recalls the author's first experience regarding the winter season, an experience that all people can relate to. However, the author finds the "beauty within" the scenery that captures her attention and changes her perspective. Through the description of her hometown's landscape, readers follow the author on her journey as she transforms from a foe of winter to friend.

Reader Response/Semiotic Approach to Reading Eavan Boland’s Poetry
Emma Horst
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Andrew Auge

This presentation is based on a paper I wrote last semester in my Literary Criticism class. The paper looks at Eavan Boland's poem "The Woman Turns Herself into a Fish" from the lens of the reader response/semiotic approach to criticism. The main argument in this piece claims that Boland's poem displays how females in society today rid themselves of the true potency of womanhood by attempting to conform to impossible social expectations. To support my claim, I first read the poem like prose then analyze instances of semantic and syntactic deviance within the poem that in turn display the negative effects of females conforming to society. I then relate the piece to my own personal experience. Finally, I plan to expand upon my paper and incorporate one other Boland poem: "Making Up", which is a pro-makeup poem. Comparing these two pieces will make for an interesting view of women in society.

Beau Soir (Beautiful Evening), a Performance Presentation
Elizabeth Dickhut
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Swanson

Published in 1880, “Beau Soir” by Claude Debussy is an excellent representation of the historical, social, and intellectual ideologies of the 19th century. Understanding the context of the composer, as well as the historical situation, helps unravel the deeper meanings that are not readily apparent to the average listener. This piece is an excellent example of Debussy’s repertoire and personal influences. Ideally, this presentation will also help the audience to further understand the complex inner workings of music in general, as well as actively apply that knowledge to other performances and pieces. Specifically, presenting on Debussy’s creativity and individuality, which is reflected in his ‘shocking’ inappropriate music for the era, helps the audience to further appreciate and grasp the development of music. This presentation will also involve a performance of the piece by the presenter, allowing for active learning and instantly applying the information that is presented.
Death and Violence
Moderator: Dr. Jacob Kohlhaas
Location: Academic Resource Center, 202

“When Life Was Beautiful”
Andrea Berns
Advisor/Mentor: Prof. William Jablonsky

An excerpt (TBD) from my novella-sized senior thesis illustrating the aftershocks a young violinist experiences after a traumatic rape. Complete with metaphors, unsettling imagery, and puppet strings, the reader follows Emma as she loses her pride, her innocence, and, ultimately, her sanity.

Voices for the Unspeakable: Boland’s and Forche’s Poetry as Witness for Traumatic Pasts
Mary Agnoli
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Andrew Auge

How can a society begin to rebuild after traumas of colonialism or genocide? How does one begin to speak about these seemingly unspeakable moments? Leading trauma theorist, Cathy Caruth has found that one way in which to do so is through Testimonial Literature. Furthermore, one version of this type of literature is "Poetry as Witness." Two authors, Eavan Boland and Carolyn Forche, have been two such witnesses for Ireland and El Salvador, respectively. Through their poetry, Boland and Forche give voices to the unspeakable.

Constitutionality of the Authorization for Use of Military Force and the War on Terror
Gabriela Herrera
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Darr

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 became a facilitator for a drastic transformation in the way the United States conducted foreign policy. One of the ways in which foreign policy was most significantly changed and affected was the role of the Executive authority pertaining to the War on Terror. The topic that is central to this thesis is the relationship between the constitutionality of the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) and the authority of the Executive branch. Does the Authorization for Use of Military Force in 2001 adhere to the Constitution regarding the powers laid out in Article II concerning Executive authority? There can be a historical argument made regarding an imperial president and Article II powers. The methodology will be a comparison of this idea of an imperial presidency over time with regards
to AUMF. The wars compared to the AUMF of 2001 will include the Civil War, Vietnam War, as well as the potential AUMF regarding ISIS in the Middle East.

**Nature and Culture**

Moderator: Dr. David Shealer

Location: Center for Dubuque History – Academic Resource Center – 1st Floor

A Vision of a Sustainable World
Alli Settanni, Patricia McCarthy
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Roman Ciapalo

As a culminating presentation to the course cluster, Environmental Ethics and Global Warming Fact or Fiction, Tricia McCarthy and I facilitated an interactive activity discussing sustainability. The title of the presentation was A Vision of a Sustainable World, influenced by an article written by Lester Brown, Christopher Flavin, and Sandra Postel and we focused on a college campus. We asked our classmates to draw their ideal college campus in the year 2030, considering all aspects discussed over the semester. As they worked, we prompted them with considerations of housing, food services, transportation, recreation, and academic opportunities for a campus population of two thousand. We spoke about the authors’ predictions in regards to energy sources, energy efficiency, and waste reduction and how they look on a college campus. We asked our classmates to revise their drawings to include these features and facilitated discussion about what we can do now on campus to promote sustainability in the future. We would love the opportunity to present these ideas with more of the student body and faculty at this year’s Legacy Symposium in order to continue the discussion on sustainability in the world.

“The Magic in Our Backyard”
Ava Lalor
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kevin Koch

"The Magic in Our Backyard", a video essay by Ava Lalor, depicts all the experiences the author had in her backyard throughout the Midwest seasons. Winter ice rinks, spring gardens, summer pirate ships, and fall leaf piles all created worlds and adventures that she shared with her family. "Without the seasons, my imagination would have grown dull," she writes. Visualized through pictures taken in her J-term course "Writing the Midwest Landscape" and her personal adventures, "The Magic in Our Backyard" shows the beauty of the Midwest seasons through the perspective of a child’s memories.

Evolution of a Water Conscious Culture at Loras College (Honors Project)
Melissa Wachuta, Magdalena Saenz Ruiz, Joel Schmidt, Antonino Erba
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Darr

We are a group of Junior Honors students who have been working on a three year community-based learning project. The focus of our project is Water sustainability and conservation. Through our research on water usage and local and global water concerns, we have concluded that it is necessary to make positive change in as well as raise awareness on the issue of how we use our water and how we take it for granted. The project has been shaped through research, both traditional and working with community partners, and has become a two-part program. We recently received a grant to install dual-flush converters to a number of toilets here at Loras College and will be implementing an awareness campaign which includes a residence hall competition. The grant was supplied by Sustainable Dubuque, and additional help has come from our community partner, the DMASWA.

Economic Ideology and Consequences
Moderator: Dr. David Cochran
Location: Headwaters-Academic Resource Center, 1st Floor

Money and Political Liberties: The Supreme Court, Liberalism, and Republicanism
Andrew David Clark
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Darr

Normative conceptions of democratic practices and political liberties inform how politics is conducted in the real world. The justification of institutions and practices are couched upon ideals of liberty and freedom. Nowhere more is this the case, in the United States, in the interpretations of the Constitution found in decisions of the Supreme Court. A particularly salient example of this is the Court’s decision in Citizens United v. FEC (2010). It is salient because of the immediacy of its impact (on the following election cycles) and because of the questions it raises about freedom of speech and other political liberties. My research question: does the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizen’s United v. FEC (2010) represent the correct relation of political spending and normative democracy and, if not, what is the correct theoretical justification for limiting political spending? Attention will be paid to the major figures of 19 and 20th century political theory, namely, John Rawls, Robert Nozick, Michael Sandel, and Karl Marx. Empirical concerns will also be addressed (i.e., level of spending and its effect on the political practices of the United States).

Patterns of Resistance: Raymond Carver’s Opposition to Neoliberal Ideology
Anna Speltz
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Andrew Auge

This literature capstone project addresses the controversial question of whether the fiction of Raymond Carver perpetuates neoliberal ideology (the prevailing ideology of modern capitalism) or is instead interested in the politics of change. The presentation draws on a variety of voices from Marxist critical theory, such as Raymond Williams and Pierre Macherey, to establish a pattern of three distinctive means through which Carver’s works resist the neoliberal ideology. Examining four works from Carver’s mid-career – “Vitamins,” “Are These Actual Miles?” “What Do You Do In San Francisco,” and “Collectors” – the presentation will delve into the complicated and oftentimes subversive dialogue between the works and the dominant discourse, arguing that the works ultimately expose the limitations of neoliberalism. The presentation will also discuss the implications of these oftentimes overlooked forms of resistance and the significance of literature as an agent in exposing ideological narratives.

Sea World: A Whale of a Tale
Morgan Dolan, Abbie Gentz, Brett Graham, Shaunna Weber
Advisor/Mentor: Prof. Karen Sturm

SeaWorld purchased a whale named Tilikum, knowing that the whale had already killed one person. While held in captivity at SeaWorld, Tilikum, the Killer Whale, took the lives of a park visitor in 1999 and a trainer in 2010. Tilikum is a prized breeder whose genes are in 54% of the whales at SeaWorld. SeaWorld continued to profit from holding the whale captive and providing their employees with dangerous working environments.

Language Matters
Moderator: Dr. Dana Livingston

Location: Academic Resource Center, 101

Banned Literature in the Loras College Community (Honors Project)
Noelle Henneman, Timothy Nass, Micaela Fosdick, Anne Evans, Sienna Seas
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. John Waldmeir

This project examines the effects that banned books and censorship have had on the Loras community throughout the years. We will present on this history of censorship as it pertains to Loras College as well as how this history converges with the Catholic Church. Specifically, we look to inform the student body about this history with banned literature in our own Loras College Library. As a part of this presentation, we will include our experiences with creating a catalogue within the Loras College Library of once-censored books that are in the library. Through this presentation, we hope to ultimately convey the impact of literature on a community.

“Tarantula”
Hallie Hayes
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. James Pollock

The proposed presentation would be comprised of an oral reading of an excerpt of five poems from a twenty-five page collection entitled "Tarantula," created in fulfillment of the requirements for the Loras College creative writing thesis. The poems range in subject from nature to war, and from pleasure to guilt, all with the quest to explore human identity as a grounding theme.

“Implications of Language Connotation in American Foreign Policy”
Caroline Rainey
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Darr

The United States government has long been known for strong representative democracy and giving a voice to the people. Throughout its history, the U.S. has been involved in foreign affairs; explaining and rationalizing its actions to spread the ideals of freedom, liberty and justice with people across the globe. Generally, these initiatives and military operations are justified and supported by the American people because of strategic media coverage designed to reinforce the positions and actions of the government. The importance of language usage and word connotation in American politics cannot be understated. This project will be look at the implications of political language used by the government and media to portray involvement abroad. Analyzing the depiction of American involvement abroad as it relates to rhetoric used to describe these events of American imperialism, I focus on the imperialist tendencies of the United States. Present day case studies are used to demonstrate the theory. Research will include political
rhetoric and ideas of linguistic relativity, current event news, social media and public opinion surveys. I expect results will show that the media intentionally chooses words with specific connotations to justify further action or involvement abroad.

Oral Presentations: Session II: 10:15-11:15am

Music

Moderator: Dr. Angela Kohlhaas

Location: Alumni Campus Center, Mary Alexis Room

‘Come Get My Mattress, I’ll Keep My Soul’: SNCC’s Musical Progression Through the Freedom Rides and the Albany Movement
Elizabeth Dickhut
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kristin Anderson-Bricker

At Parchman Penitentiary in 1961 James Farmer witnessed the coining of the phrase “It’s not the mattress, it’s your soul” when the prison guards threatened to take away their beds if the Freedom Riders keep singing. The music of the Civil Rights Movement can be explored in a number of ways. However, the use of music as a mobilizing tactic, consciously or unintentionally, by organizations such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is an area that needs further research. Historiography usually centers around the Albany Movement, but due to other resources, specifically the unique collection of microfilm Loras College has acquired, this area of study can be expanded further. Microfilm, along with books and original, primary research, leads to the conclusion that during the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement, specifically the sit-ins, SNCC unconsciously used music at both the local and national levels. These subtle beginnings of music were apparent in the Southern jails after the sit-ins, as well as during and after the Freedom Rides, leading to the intentional implementation of freedom songs during the Albany Movement.
Time, Travel, and Tourism: The Commodification and Evolution of Irish Traditional Music
Emmalyne Smith
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Roy Carroll

Traditional music has been an essential part of Ireland's history, identity, and place for centuries. While Irish traditions have changed in wake of globalization, so has the shape of the musicality of Irish Traditional music. As something that has undergone much skepticism and suggested lack of authenticity as it is stripped of its instruments, essence, and quality, trad has been transformed over the years and has been researched by not only ethnomusicologists, but the musicians themselves. This study will examine the evolution of traditional Irish music, often termed 'Irish Trad', and its transformation instrumentally and vocally. In addition it will be focusing on the change in styles of singing vocally as well as the evolution of instruments in relation to modern day Irish trad music and the influence of tourism on these significant modifications. This paper will explain the reasons for development and hybridization in one of the most eclectic music genres, as it has been influenced not only within the country but globally as well. It will examine various opinions and perspectives on Irish Traditional music, focusing on rising tourism rates from 1990-2008 and the mass marketing industry that took place during this time.

Fractals and Their Relationship to Music
Kimberly Anderson
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Angela Kohlhaas

The research project investigates the relationship between fractals and music. Fractals are structures that appear in mathematics and nature that display the same pattern at different levels. The structure of music can have the same self-similar patterns as fractals. A fractal’s dimension measures its complexity. We have explored many different methods of calculating the fractal dimension. We used the different methods to find the most effective way to find the fractal dimension of a piece of music.
Romance and Reproduction

Moderator: Prof. Nancy Zachar Fett

Location: Academic Resource Center, 402

Mr. Darcy and Mr. Knightley: The Transformation from Selfishness to Selflessness
Katelyn Franzen
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Erin VanLaningham

Is wealth enough for men to attract suitable female partners? Using Jane Austen’s characters of Mr. Darcy from Pride and Prejudice and Mr. Knightley from Emma, I unravel this question. Mr. Darcy and Mr. Knightly are wealthy, but their fallibility of selfishness keeps their love interests of Elizabeth and Emma, uninterested in marriage. By the end of the novels, Mr. Darcy and Mr. Knightly transform into selfless, more appealing men. This transformation demonstrates how the power of love can change a person and reinforces the patriarchal system. Darcy’s selfishness is seen in his refusal to dance with Elizabeth, his display of pride, and his breaking up of Mr. Bingley and Jane. Mr. Knightley shows his selfishness through his embodiment of a patriarchal figure who attempts to change Emma to his liking. Mr. Darcy and Mr. Knightly begin to transform when Elizabeth and Emma visit their estates: Pemberley and Donwell Abbey. After the visits to the estates, Mr. Darcy pays off Mr. Wickham’s debt and bribes Mr. Wickham to marry Lydia. Mr. Knightley dances with Harriet and offers to move to Hartfield after he marries Emma. Clearly, in Austen’s novels, wealth wasn’t the only attractive trait to women; selfishness was.

Oviposition Site Preference of Drosophila melanogaster: Influences of Rearing Conditions and Food Toxicity
Mike Dietzel
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Fred Schnee

Oviposition site preference is an important decision that affects the fitness of Drosophila melanogaster. Many variables affect oviposition behavior. For example, it is known that females tend to seek environments similar to their rearing conditions and avoid environments with heavy metals such as cadmium chloride (CdCl2). However, the relative importance of these factors is not clear. In order to examine this question we set up fly stocks reared on a food source containing 0.1mM CdCl2 or without CdCl2. During testing, females were placed in a chamber containing 3 plates with and 3 without CdCl2. Eggs were counted after 15 hours and an ANOVA was used to compare egg laying patterns. Initial results suggest that while flies reared on trace amounts of CdCl2 oviposited on the plates containing CdCl2 significantly more than the females with no previous exposure to CdCl2, both groups still showed a significant avoidance of heavy metals. Our results suggest that quality of oviposition site, and in particular, avoidance of heavy metals, is a predominant factor in the oviposition behavior of Drosophila.
Romantic Relationships: The Triangular Theory of Love Applied to College Students
Rachel Fitzgibbon, Amy Trapani, Katherine Edwards, Chelsea McCarraher
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Mary Carol Harris

The research team investigated romantic relationships at a small, co-ed, private Catholic college in the Midwest. We used Sternberg’s (1986) triangular theory of love to analyze attitudes and behaviors regarding the earliest stage at which sex is introduced into a committed romantic relationship. This theory says that complete love includes three components: commitment, intimacy and passion. Our study focused on the presence or absence of the commitment component of this theory. Our findings showed that the students’ attitudes and behaviors demonstrated a lack of commitment. We distributed questionnaires to eight classrooms chosen using a stratified random sample method. The data of 125 respondents was analyzed through frequency tests, cross tabulations, and correlation tests to find relationships between attitudes and behaviors regarding premarital sex within and outside of committed romantic relationships. We hypothesized that there would be a discrepancy between attitudes and behaviors. This was not supported by our data. Our results showed that students’ behaviors regarding premarital sex within and outside of committed romantic relationships reflected their attitudes and that there was a correlation between them. In addition, we compared attitudes and behaviors of men and women to see if there was a difference between their responses.

Religion, Faith, and Implications
Moderator: Prof. Brad Cavanagh
Location: Wahlert Curriculum Library

The Test of All Ages: Models and Struggles of Interfaith Harmony
Emily Nelson
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Dana Livingston

For centuries, humans have been working to find peace and harmony with one another despite differences of culture, race and religion. This presentation will highlight research findings tracing interfaith relations dating from fifteenth century Spain to the relations among today's believers and non-believers in Latin America and the United States. There will be a specific focus on interdenominational Christian relations primarily in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Dubuque, Iowa. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of various models of interfaith cooperation that have developed in the past fifty years.
Religious Orientation and Personal Outlook in Dubuque
Michelle Kavanaugh, Samantha Eckrich, Sara Alfayoumi, Rebecca Edwards, Kathryn O’Brien, Anna Speltz
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. John Eby and Dr. John Waldmeir

“Religious Orientation and Personal Outlook in Dubuque” is a collaborative student-faculty research project examining the impact that orientation around religion has on the way citizens perceive people and perspectives they view as different. The purpose of the “Religious Orientation and Personal Outlook in Dubuque” project is to reveal new information about the city’s religious climate and use the data as a means to form interreligious peace education and engagement in the Dubuque community. It relates intentionally to the city’s hospitality initiatives as well. In light of the recent increase in violence towards religious minorities and tension between groups of different perspectives in the United States and abroad, the project emphasizes the importance of exposing latent discomfort with pluralism generally and especially with non-Christian minorities in the local Dubuque community.

Applying Biblical Exegesis to the Application of the Death Penalty
Miriam McKee
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Amanda Osheim

My presentation will explain the results of a biblical exegesis class project on the interpretation of Matthew 13:24-43 which contains three parables: The Wheat and the Weeds, The Mustard Seed and The Leaven. In the second part of the presentation, I will describe how Christians can apply the moral message of these parables to evaluating the use of the death penalty in the United States. In my argument, I will examine direct references about the death penalty from the Bible as well as the views of Pope St. John Paul II and Avery Cardinal Dulles. I will come to a conclusion about whether the death penalty can be morally applied by the government as a consequence of criminal activity.
(Re)Building Dubuque

Moderator: Dr. Kristen Thompson
Location: Center for Dubuque History- Academic Resource Center, 1st Floor

Marketing Research for the Dubuque Millwork Collective
Amanda Elsen, James Collins, Nicholas Coleman, Vanessa Wismeier, Tyler Livingston, Jonathan Moore
Advisor/Mentor: Prof. Patrick Marzofka

What does the Dubuque community know about the Dubuque Millwork Collective? How strong is the Millwork brand? What can be done to improve the Dubuque Millwork Collective’s marketing efforts? The 2014 fall semester, Marketing Research class at Loras College conducted a semester long research project to help benefit the Dubuque Millwork Collective located in the new renovated Millwork District in downtown Dubuque, Iowa. Four research objectives were accomplished through this research project: awareness, sources of information, behavior, and a Millwork brand analysis. The quantitative research for this study was conducted through a questionnaire that contacted subjects through random number dialing in the Dubuque community. One-on-one interviews were used to compile the qualitative research component of the research project. The study discovered a low level of awareness but a high likelihood to volunteer in the future and great opportunities for the Millwork brand. The research has implications for the future marketing decisions of a variety of nonprofit organizations.

“La Petit Nuit”
Theresa Collins
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kevin Koch

This essay is a work of creative non-fiction. More specifically, this work is a memoir narrative essay set to video that seeks to tie together the history of Julien Dubuque, the town’s namesake, and the folklore associated with him. The narrative seeks to understand the interaction of folklore within history or fact with lore well also including a personal narrative that helps to blend both history and folklore together.

Neighborhood Connections (Honors Project)
Kaitlin Phillips, Andrew Wampler, Bailey O’Brien, Jacob Frank
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Salvaterra

In an attempt to foster a meaningful connection between Loras College and its neighbors, our group has conducted various forms of research and established vital community connections in order to develop ways in which Loras College and its surrounding community can better serve
one another. Our group will share what we have found to be the needs of the community, comparisons with other colleges and universities who successfully maintain a relationship with their local community members, and potential steps for moving forward with a program(s) for implementation that will help to make Loras College more integrated with its surroundings. The City of Dubuque and the local neighborhood association has assisted us in developing our project and establishing the needs of our local community.

Identity, Individuality, and The Arts

Moderator: Dr. Andrew Auge

Location: Academic Resource Center, 202

“Poetry is a Rube Goldberg Machine”
Margaret DeGrand
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. James Pollock

“Poetry is a Rube Goldberg Machine” is a collection of poetry I have written during my last year at Loras College as a part of my Creative Writing Thesis. The poems range from an elegy for a mouse to a one-sentence satire on the sleeping habits of a college student. Throughout the work, I explore the idea of poetry as being like a Rube Goldberg Machine – that is to say, while it can be extravagant, poetry can still fulfill an essential cathartic role. This presentation will be focused on the performance of select poems from my thesis.

A Roadmap to Her Revisionary Journey: Virgil’s Aeneid and the Poetry of Eavan Boland
Hannah Way
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Andrew Auge

This capstone essay focuses on the poetry of the contemporary female Irish poet Eavan Boland. Boland repeatedly turns to the Aeneid as a foundation, a starting point, a symbol throughout her poems. Yet, why should Boland, a woman looking to carve out a space for her female voice, repeatedly turn to this very masculine myth? I answer this question in a number of ways. One important area of my paper deals with Adrienne Rich’s call for revision, of “seeing with fresh eyes, of entering an old text from a new critical direction” However, I wanted to focus this presentation on what I thought was the more original area of my paper. I make the argument that through her Aeneid poems, Boland constructs a miniature, poetic autobiography, which can be read as a roadmap. Although they were written after In Her Own Image, Boland’s Aeneid poems offer a retrospective look into her maturation as a writer, a process which led to this revolutionary work. I will be specifically addressing four different poems, all written after her revolutionary collection, “In Her Own Image,” which incorporate the Aeneid, specifically book XI of the Aeneid, Aeneas’ descent into hell.
Exploring the Reactions to Young Adult Literature  
Taylor Lancaster  
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Lisa Garoutte

This research examines how readers respond to Young Adult literature. Specifically, are novels interpreted in ways that support the readers’ world view? Do they prefer novels that are consistent with prevailing social norms? How do they react when their own perspectives and experiences are challenged within the literature? Qualitative content coding is used to seek out patterns in reviews from Amazon.com’s Top 5 rated YA novels to consider how readers make sense of both the literature they read and the world around them. In doing so, the research contributes to the sociology of literature, and provides for a deeper understanding of how and why literature is consumed. Young Adult literature offers insights into understanding society that is replicated through the responses of the reviewers; the texts and review responses are another layer that represents the social norms of society.

Treating and Mistreating Illness

Moderator: Dr. Biniv Maskay

Location: Alumni Campus Center, Arizona Room

Cancer Stem Cells in Treating Glioblastoma Multiform Brain Cancer
Patricia McCarthy  
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Susan Crook

In this talk, we present an extension of the work of Kogan, Forys, and Kronik (Kogan, et al. 2008). Our work incorporates the cancer stem cell hypothesis in the study of treatment of Glioblastoma Multiforme by immunotherapy. We propose an abstract model of nonlinear ordinary differential equations and show existence of coexistence, recurrence, and cure steady states. We perform stability analysis and present sufficiency conditions on treatment parameters to ensure a globally asymptotically stable cure state. We then present a biologically accurate example of the model that showcases the abstract theory. We conclude with numerical simulations that utilize the Dirac delta function to realistically model administration of the immunotherapy treatment.
Physician Assisted Suicide: Is it ethical?
Tabetha Corrigan
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Janine Idziak

This past January Term I took the course: The Theory and Practice of Bioethics. As a Neuroscience major on the pre-med track this is bioethics are a vital part of my education and will be an important part of my career as a physician. Further, with the legislation being proposed and in several states passed legalizing Physician Assisted Suicide this is a situation I may very well encounter. Thanks to the research project I completed for my January Term course I have learned a great deal about this topic especially how it relates to medical professionals specifically physicians insofar as how the legalization of Physician Assisted Suicide will affect the profession, how physicians feel about the topic, and the ethical concerns related to this issue. This is important research that I am proud of having conducted and feel should be shared with others as everyone physician or not will likely find themselves in a situation where they need to have an opinion on this topic and I feel the research I’ve conducted is important to share in order to better inform others about it.

Indifference and Ebola
Mary Dodson
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Amanda Osheim

My reading of existentialist author Albert Camus and Catholic theologian James Keenan identifies the primary source of indifference as fear. Fear is the overwhelming emotion which allows many to justify their inaction—indifferent individuals are merely bystanders. The implications of my research are promoting awareness for the problem of indifference and the need to combat indifference daily in order to build positive relationships and a more caring world. Specifically, indifference and Ebola are both crippling diseases and the crisis of Ebola is exacerbated by the crisis of indifference. Indifference within the context of Ebola is evident with the United States’ lack of generosity in sending resources to affected countries. This is due to the U.S.’s fear of spreading Ebola which ultimately costs innocent lives.
Travel

Moderator: Dr. Anne Marx Scheuerell

Location: Alumni Campus Center, Mary Alexis Room

Loras College Service Trips Panel Presentation
Colleen Kuhl, Hannah Way, Andrea Enda
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Colleen Kuhl

Loras College Service Trips are experiential learning opportunities that come highly recommended and well-reviewed by Loras College students and alumni. For many years, teams of Loras students have been traveling to various areas of the country (and internationally) to stay and serve for a week with one of our partner communities during College breaks. There is a good deal of preparation and reflection that goes along with these team efforts. The student trip coordinators offer a format for evening team reflection discussions that help student participants consider the connections between service and Catholic Social Teaching in each of their experiences. For this year’s Legacy Symposium, a panel of service trip participants will share information about and discuss this process, as well as, some of the long term considerations for the life-changing learning that happens as a result of participation in Loras College Service Trips.

Factors influencing study abroad choices
Vanessa Wismeier
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Dana Livingston

International education is a hot topic in the United States right now with the percentage of students studying abroad before graduation still under 10%. I will explore the reason students study abroad in the U.S. and Spain and how their reasoning differs, paying special attention to the element of international internships and service. While being abroad many students want more than just a few months touring their host country, they want to make a difference. The number of students participating in international internships is on the rise with globalization at its peak. I will discover why these are some of the key factors pushing students to study abroad.
“We Should Turn Around”  
Ava Lalor  
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kevin Koch

“We Should Turn Around” by Ava Lalor recalls an adventure gone wrong. While vacationing in the hills of Wisconsin, the author and her family venture on a hike at Governor Dodge State Park, despite her reluctance to tempt the rainy weather. Growing up, her father taught her to appreciate the rain. Through a humorous series of events, this experience tests their bond.

Dubuque Experiences
Moderator: Dr. Naomi Clark
Location: Center for Dubuque History- Academic Resource Center, 1st Floor

“This Swiss Valley: Untouched By Time”  
Amanda Fitzpatrick  
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kevin Koch

This video essay, titled 'Swiss Valley: Untouched By Time', was done as a final class project for Dr. Kevin Koch's J-Term Course, Writing the Midwest Landscape. The photography as well as inspiration for the meditative essay came from four winter hikes the class participated in, one of which was done at Swiss Valley Nature Preserve. This video essay combines light research with my personal reflections/feelings/thoughts regarding the area I have not only grown up in, but still currently reside.

A Timeline For Peace (Honors Project)
Colin Halbmaier, Patricia McCarthy, Mary Agnoli, Kalli Miner, Douglas Zabler  
Advisor/Mentor: Prof. Bradley Cavanagh

A Timeline For Peace is one of the senior year honors research projects. Over the past three years, we have done research into what makes a community--specifically Dubuque--a peaceful place, and the results have surprised us. Our city has a long history of both peace and violence, including racial discrimination, riots, and KKK activity. Some of these instances have continued to this day, and will continue to shape Dubuque's future if not acknowledged. Our project seeks to create an educational resource for peace-building community leaders to help educate the public about this history in hopes of paving the way for a brighter future.
Our Service Project began at Lincoln Elementary through St. Mark Youth Enrichment. We worked with the kids by playing games, getting to know them, and helping with homework. The most important thing that we as a group took away from this project was that service is all about the ones being served. The kids that we were fortunate to get to know now have a special place in our hearts and it was through our frequent and dedicated service that those relationships were able to develop.

Cooperation and Problem Solving
Moderator: Dr. Susan Crook
Location: Headwaters-Academic Resource Center, 1st Floor

Teacher Inquiry
Amanda Runde, Emma Horst, Rachel Timmerman, Kyle Leeson
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Hilarie Welsh

Teaching is a field that is constantly changing and developing. One new and progressive teaching strategy is teacher inquiry, where a teacher identifies a problem in his or her classroom and works to find a solution to the problem through multiple forms of data collection. This is a new and exciting method of teaching because rather than outside researchers telling teachers how to run their classroom, the teachers themselves take charge and research on a day to day basis. Over the course of the semester, students in their clinicals in a local high school worked with their cooperating teachers to develop an inquiry project in their classrooms. These research intensive projects focused on different themes, such as formative assessment, student centered learning, motivation, and the incorporation of the Kodály method. The student researchers developed conclusions on these themes and learned a new method of teaching that has been proven to enhance teaching in the classroom and overall improve student learning.

A Paramount Problem
Nathan Maiers
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Matthew Rissler

A Paramount Problem: A local business, Paramount Ambulance, came to us with a problem related to limiting the amount of overtime paid to employees in order to reduce costs. Being mathematics majors, we had a very interesting view on how to solve this type of problem. We
looked at the scheduling of employees and tried to determine the most appropriate schedule based on the distribution for the wait time between calls and the duration to resolve the call. Our intent of this math modeling was to build a simulation to test different hypotheses.

CAMP (Camper Administrative Monitoring Program)
Ty J. Wittman, Skylar Purifoy, Michael Mangialardi, Jacob Frank
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Michael Thompson

CAMP (Camper Administrative Monitoring Program) is a web based program that is designed to assist the check in/check out process for Sports Camp. This program will make it easy for the counselors and camp directors to check in and check out the day campers quickly. The system will track the time, counselor/director, who the camper is checked out to, and the camper upon check in or check out. There will also be automated analysis processes that will send an email report every morning and evening informing the directors of any unusual situation.

Social Divides
Moderator: Dr. Kristin Anderson-Bricker
Location: Academic Resource Center, 202

Acts of Defiance: "A Castaway" as Response to "My Last Duchess"
Nora Zerante
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Erin VanLaningham

Seen in tandem, the dramatic monologues “My Last Duchess” and “A Castaway” can be viewed in conversation with one another, “A Castaway” as a response to “My Last Duchess”. The portrait of the Duchess in “My Last Duchess” and Eulalie’s diary in “A Castaway” become symbolic of, as critic Kathy Psomiades would agree, the most standard binary opposition in the Victorian Age: the public versus the private (43). Illustrating reversals of private and public artifacts, the poems play with typical assumptions about the public and the private sphere. The painting in “My Last Duchess” is supposed to be a public artifact, but the duke has it veiled—privatizing the object. Eulalie reads and re-examines her diary, something meant to be kept in private, but Webster makes this private experience public through poetry. Browning and Webster use these acts of defiance to challenge the limitations set up by the Victorian ideology of separate spheres. These manipulations illustrate a unique perspective on the Victorian public experience. Thus, the poems seen together create a poetic dialogue that speaks to the centrality of poetry and its aid in defining the public sphere; ultimately, “A Castaway” when viewed as a response to “My Last Duchess” can be seen as a vehicle for enhancing public dialogue.
Constitutionality of Same-Sex marriage
Andrew Sittari
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Darr

The assessment of the constitutionality of same-sex marriage is incredibly important in the realm of modern American politics. The United States Supreme Court will be hearing four new cases regarding equal access to marital rights in four different states, and the decisions, which will arrive most likely in late June of 2015, will be some of the most highly contested rulings in recent American history. Research utilized in this presentation will include several previous Supreme Court decisions regarding marriage rights, especially Loving v. Virginia and Hollingsworth v. Perry, as well as different state’s supreme court rulings on the issue (including the state of Iowa’s Varnum v. Brien). The extent of discrimination against those seeking to enact same-sex marriage will be investigated, as well as the social impacts of same-sex marriage, as these factors are crucial to the Supreme Court’s upcoming verdict. I will be using a combination of primary and secondary source analysis, looking at case briefs and majority and dissenting opinions of the Supreme Court on several cases, along with many scholarly analyses and reviews of said cases. It is my thesis that my research will support the constitutionality of same-sex marriage in the United States.

Debating "Starmichael": A New Light on Stokely Carmichael as SNCC Chairman (1966-1967)
Daniel Schueller
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kristin Anderson-Bricker

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was a student led civil rights organization from the 1960's-1970's. The organization adhered to the ideology of nonviolence from 1960-1966. Stokely Carmichael became chairman of SNCC in 1966 and helped formulate their new Black Power message. Carmichael led SNCC by spreading their new message, gaining support, and raising funds. He also led SNCC by directing personnel actions, creating policy, and community organizing. Historiography fails to demonstrate these aspects of Carmichael's chairmanship. Instead, they have focused on Carmichael's rhetoric, public persona, and controversy. This research fills this hole in the historiography. Carmichael utilized rhetoric to spread SNCC's new Black Power message, raise funds, and gain support. He directed SNCC personnel on a number of SNCC matters and in SNCC offices around the country. He created policy in regards to the Meredith March, Black Power message, and SNCC organizational structure. He also directed community organizing in various state projects and denied speaking requests to continue organizing. Carmichael's leadership evolved consciousness and changed how people understood the world. He was a civil rights leader that is mostly forgotten or unknown. He deserves to be regarded among the names of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. The majority of this research was conducted and written using the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee Papers, 1959-1972. This is an unpublished primary source. Primary sources including memoirs of SNCC personnel and secondary source historiography was also used.
Ways of Leading

Moderator: Dr. James Pollock
Location: Wahlert Curriculum Library

“All That My Grandmother Passed On To Me”
Hallie Hayes
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kevin Koch

The proposed presentation would consist of reading aloud a six-page essay. The essay, entitled, "All That My Grandmother Passed on to Me," is a creative nonfiction memoir piece that reflects on my relationship with my grandmother, and the effect it has had on my identity today.

Higher Standards for the Devoted Leader
Erin O’Donovan
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Ginny Maurer

This case study will examine the affect that the program, Future Talk, has on a sixteen-year old, African American’s work and service ethic. Future Talk focuses on creating young leaders based on these attributes. Marvelus has encountered many obstacles in his young life including his father’s incarceration, negative peer pressure, and living with the stereotype of being black. Through an illustrative research method, the researcher will gather and analyze information about the program, and its impact on Marvelus’ leadership skills. The researcher has known and worked with Marvelus for nearly a year. She has established a positive, mentor relationship with both he and his family. Interviews will take place at Hempstead High and the Dubuque’s Multicultural Family Center, home of Future Talk. The researcher plans to interview and videotape a school official, a Future Talk representative, a family member, and Marvelus. Data will be gathered about their impressions of how the skills and resources of the program have affected his decision-making, school performance, and family relationships. Once interviews have been reviewed, and analyzed, the researcher will share this information, along with presenting the video at Legacy Symposium. It is the hope that Marvelus will also present at Symposium.

Money and Justice: How Campaign Finance Regulations Influence the Judiciary Branch of Government
Jim Albee
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Darr

How has the recent developments in the regulation of campaign finance altered the Judiciary branch of government? Campaign finance rules and regulations have changed drastically over the years and with it so has the political landscape. The emergence of judicial campaigns is recent and is growing rapidly.
When judges campaign they are open to influence from whoever decides to support them. The campaign process and everything that comes with it has great ramifications. This issue is of great importance because the Judiciary branch, through the process of Judicial Review, has the final say in any disputed matter. Judges are supposed to be insulated from the public opinion. If donors influence their opinion then our system is being corrupted. One of my focuses will be to research the intended relationship between the Judiciary branch and the other areas of government. The use of statistical information on campaign contribution amounts, donors, and recipients will be one of my main resources.

Creative (Business) Solutions

Moderator: Dr. Scott Scheurell

Location: Academic Resource Center, 402

What’s the Trade-Off? Fair Trade in the Local Community (Honors Project)
Elizabeth Dickhut, Lina Rodriguez Araujo, Tucker Brady
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Dana Livingston

Globally, fair trade is a sustainable trade system that seeks to improve the equity between producers and consumers. In order to localize this effort, the main goal of the Fair Trade Honors group has been to promote socially sustainable tendencies at Loras and throughout the community. Through research and service, this goal has developed further through a partnership with the Dubuque Food Co-op. This presentation will therefore encompass the efforts made to promote awareness, exposure, education, and social responsibility through fair trade. Included will be concrete examples of specific marketing, tabling, and events hosted in order to connect Loras College students and faculty with fair trade. Another emphasis throughout the presentation will be how the introduction of cultural competency enhanced the understanding of the original project, as well as shaped the tone of subsequent events, interpersonal relationships, and group dynamics. Also integral to this effort has been the Loras dispositions of active learning, reflective thinking, ethical decision making, and responsible contributing. This connection will be further emphasized and explained in relation to the local fair trade efforts.

“Runaway Field Walks”
Clarice Kies
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kevin Koch

Runaway Field Walks is a memoir-narrative piece, focusing on relationships. It is a creative non-fiction story about walks that this girl went on with her father when she was younger. Grown up now, her and her father decide to go on a walk that day. On their way back, they decide to move their horse from the pasture, into the shed. However, the horse gets away, and the story focuses
on her getting him back. Her relationship with her father has influenced how she deals with the horse.

John Deere and the Two-Tier Payment System
Riley Cavanaugh, Lucas Jacque, Nicholas Petruzzi, Isaac Sturm
Advisor/Mentor: Prof. Karen Sturm

John Deere has been an American manufacturing company since 1837. Deere has been a booming corporation, but profits began to decline in 2007. In order to prevent many plants from closing down, John Deere contracted with the United Auto Workers to install a two tier wage system. This system includes paying veteran workers their traditional wages and new workers receive a lower wage. This has created a system of equal work for unequal pay.

Oral Presentations: Session IV: 2:20-3:15pm

Education
Moderator: Dr. Eric Eller
Location: Academic Resource Center, 402

Colonial Impact on Kenyan Education
Kaitlin Phillips
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Benjamin Darr

Can British colonial education policies be the cause of a broken education system in one of their former colonies? As part of an assignment for Politics in the Developing World, this presentation highlights a research paper done regarding the impact of British colonialism on the education system of Kenya. The presentation covers an analysis of the educational policies of British colonialism and the stage these policies created for the Kenyan education system today. The project also does a cross examination of Tanzania’s education system as evidence of the widespread impact of British colonial education not only on Kenya but throughout its African colonies. The cross examination draws striking comparisons between Kenya and Tanzania that suggest the poor education of Kenyan students today can be largely attributed to British policies.
The Job Skills Program at Area Residential Care is an opportunity for individuals with disabilities, who are interested in obtaining a job, gain hands on experience. I had the chance to teach these students various skills to enhance their knowledge of workplace. Students in the program displayed an overwhelming improvement as they applied their knowledge of social, technology, and employment skills throughout the summer. Everyday interactions in class, the community, and test scores showed the students improvement. New opportunities were presented to students as they learned more about technology and continued to build on their previous skills. Students gained the skills to navigate through programs on the computer, iPad, and internet. The students’ employment skills were enhanced through field trips, speakers, creating a resume, and developing a cover letter that would assist them with future employment. Students in the Job Skills Program were able to gain more confidence in the workplace, community, and build self-advocacy skills to succeed in the workplace.

“Rotting Snow”
Samantha-Anne Schmidt
Advisor/Mentor: Prof. William Jablonsky

The piece, “Rotting Snow”, is a revisionist fairytale of “Snow White”, adding elements of horror to the classic story. Beginning the tale with Snow White already dead, the story shows that not all fairytales end happily ever after. After being reawakened through magic, Snow White is immediately forced into preparing for a wedding she does not want yet is unable to decline. Having been brought back from the dead, her body continues to slowly decompose, never having truly come back to life. The prince, a royal who is less than charming and more concerned with beauty, loses his interest in marrying the former beauty before locking her away.
The Ability of Water-Induced Wrinkled Skin to Grip Wet Surfaces
Jason Derby, Matthew Anderson, Levi Hongsermeier
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Shealer

Human skin wrinkles when wet, but this wrinkling is restricted to fingers and toes. Although the functional significance of water-induced wrinkling is not agreed upon, the most widely accepted possibility is that the wrinkling is an adaptive response, providing an advantage when gripping wet objects. The fingers and toes are the two main areas of the body that grip objects and surfaces, so the adaptive significance of wrinkles forming in wet conditions would be improved grip. We specifically tested whether or not wrinkled skin provides better grip than dry skin on wet surfaces. This was done by measuring grip strength in wrinkled and unwrinkled skin conditions on various surfaces using a force meter. Significantly improved gripping ability with wrinkled fingers would support the theory of an adaptive response, and we found that water-induced wrinkling of fingers resulted in significantly better grip strength for each of three objects. Thus, the findings suggest that water-induced wrinkling is an adaptive response to improve grip strength in wet conditions.

“Popcorn Thunderstorms”
Taylor Lancaster
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kevin Koch

Ever wondered why certain memories are remembered so vividly? Why do individuals hold onto some memories while others are forgotten? The essay, Popcorn Thunderstorms, is a memoir piece that encompasses the idea of traveling through time using fragmented memories in terms of a collage effect. With each new memory triggered by the environment in the surroundings of the previous moment, the transitional effects using onomatopoeia—in the form of thunderstorm sounds—strings together the collective meaning of the memories; central to the experience, there are other hints throughout the piece that suggest to readers how the memories are connected—just follow the whirlwind of popcorn, the changing air of thunderstorms, and I’m running through time, once again, past old and familiar landscapes.
As a newly formed organization, the DuHealth Committee has been working to provide events to educate the Loras community and get them excited about living healthy lifestyles. This Honors senior project presentation will help to show our progress in the last four years and the research it took to get to this step. Also what we have learned through observations on campus, what we plan to do next, as well as get input into what the campus is looking for in improvements. We will overall gain promotion for our organization and discover new ways to move forward.

Time, Space, and Other Oddities

Moderator: Dr. Glenn Pohland
Location: Academic Resource Center, 202

“Turnt Tuesday”
Rhian Whitehurst, Jennifer Brouch, Thomas Ameche, Jenna. Lueken, Morgan Marshall
Advisor/Mentor: Prof. Glenn Pohland

We made a movie for our class, Music in the Movies, our music highlights important features and demonstrates the skills we learned in class about music placement in a movie. This movie is a twist on Freaky Friday, but with a boyfriend and a girlfriend who switch places. They have to spend a day in each others lives in order to understand each other and fix their relationship.

An Excerpt of "Like It Was Tomorrow"
Colin Halbmaier
Advisor/Mentor: Prof. William Jablonsky

“Like It Was Tomorrow” is a piece of fiction written for the Fantastic Fiction class here at Loras. The piece was inspired by the use of time travel in various media, including the novel The Time Traveler’s Wife and video game Life Is Strange. This story follow Kristin Robertson, a college student fixated on past memories. She meets June Arthur, who quickly demonstrates that her memories work unlike anyone else’s; rather than thinking of the past, she “remembers” the future. The result brings Kristin out of her past, but can she help June regain her memories? Because of the length of this piece, the reading will be reduced to a short excerpt.
Markstrat Online: How to win a competitive J-Term Computer Simulation
James Daly, Miles Canady, Brady Williams, Kyle Cluskey, Nathan Even
Advisor/Mentor: Prof. Patrick Marzofka

During the 2015 J-Term, a class of Loras college students competed in an online computer simulation. The simulation which is called Markstrat is a popular marketing strategy simulation used by many undergraduate and graduate schools worldwide. The setting for the simulation is in the (B2C) business to consumer market. The highly competitive simulation incorporates R & D decisions, portfolio analysis, marketing research, sales forecasting, marketing strategy, advertising, production, sales and distribution analysis. The student teams had to develop an initial Big Idea for winning the simulation through the preparation of a detailed marketing plan. Over the course of 12 sets of decisions, the students were forced to adjust their Big Idea through the use of a continually updated SWOT analysis. One group (Team Timeless) relied on a clear Big Idea, effective teamwork and detailed quantitative analysis to win the simulation.

Local Environments
Moderator: Prof. Deone Merkel
Location: Alumni Campus Center, Mary Alexis Room

Community Gardens (MOI Research)
Clarice Kies
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Erin VanLaningham

A research paper describing the importance of a community gardens. How it helps build support within the community, and the different ways a community garden can be build. Even in large cities, and apartment buildings. This paper also shows that it is beneficial for people, not just from a health standpoint, but also for building relationships, and understanding the environment.

“Snowfall”
Ashley Pudil
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kevin Koch

Snowfall, a video essay by Ashley Pudil, is a creative work read in front of a backdrop of photography in a video format. The almanac organized work highlights and parallels the beginning, middle, and end of winter to sunrise to sunset. Each section of the work highlights a time in the author's life where the beauty of winter was discovered. The photography backdrop
contains images from the author's hometown as well as areas around Dubuque, including Mines of Spain and Swiss Valley to capture the essence of winter's beauty.

Sustainability at Loras (Honors Project)
Emily Nelson, Veronica Andraski, Margaret DeGrand, Emmalyne Smith, Morgan Rea, Jacalyn Russ
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Aditi Sinha

As the Senior Honors sustainability group, this presentation will be the culmination of our 3 years of research focused on analyzing and finding solutions to environmental sustainability problems encountered by the Loras College community. In our presentation we will discuss our research findings as well as the knowledge and skills acquired through our community-based learning experiences. These experiences were hands-on projects and activities through which we sought to further our research on sustainability at Loras while also serving and engaging the community through the establishment of a campus garden and an online sustainability office.

Change in Community
Moderator: Dr. Christopher Budzisz
Location: Headwaters- Academic Resource Center, 1st Floor

Making Space: Empowering Change (Honors Project)
Sara Hahn, Samantha Eckrich, Blake Gibney, Juanita Bustamante Escobar, Kathryn Hermanas
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Hilarie Welsh

This Honors Program project has been a form of community outreach and learning at several Dubuque locations. For over a year nearly every month our Honors group learns, teaches, and interacts with a new form of technology provided by the Carnegie-Stout Public Library, bringing the new media to both the Dubuque Boys & Girls Club and the Multicultural Family Center and the teens there. Through this program, our group hopes to foster creativity and productivity in our students—and ourselves. This oral session will be a compilation of reflection on what we have learned and experienced over the course of this project both in and out of the classroom.
Perhaps the most sacred American right is the right to vote. In recent decades, the American voter has experienced an assault on accessibility at the polls. Any effort making voting more difficult should be looked at with skepticism and analyzed to ensure it is solving or preventing a real problem. The research encompassed in this project reviews efforts by states to implement voter ID laws and the resulting effects those efforts have had on the voters. Through interviews with legislators, activists, voters and think-tank policy wonks, this project seeks to answer exactly what the effects of voter ID initiatives are on voters and whether or not voter ID laws are logical public policy solutions. Looking at election data across time broken down by demographics and the success rates of these policies will also highlight the long-term effects on American voting. I believe curbing electoral participation of certain groups of people will be revealed as the primary effect of these laws. Further, the results of this project will likely support the argument that voter ID laws do not solve the virtually nonexistent problem of election fraud and, in fact, are repugnant to the principles this country was founded on.

“A Century of Perspectives”
Jill Liebforth
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kevin Koch

This short photo essay carries a thematic concept of local history tied into personal experience. The video features The Mines of Spain State Park and the history surrounding the area including the several groups of people who settled in the area throughout the 18th and 19th century. The photos and narrative explain the history of the Sauk Tribes that called the park home as well as the arrival of Julien Dubuque in the late 1700s. The photos then take the viewer through the perspectives of each group and their use of the land. The historical elements of the essay are then reflected into my own experiences of the Park.
**Justice, Business, and Service**

Moderator: Prof. Karen Sturm

Location: Alumni Campus Center, Arizona Room

Loras' Valder Scholarship: the Value of Service Learning
Hannah Way, Mary Agnoli, Tyler Raymond
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Anastacia McDermott

The three Valder Social Justice Award winners from last year will present on the value of having service learning experiences at Loras. Because of the scholarship, each of the students was able to work in a social justice related field working toward systemic change. Hannah worked at the Brother David Darst Center for Social Justice in Chicago; Mary worked at USCCB in Washington D.C.; Tyler worked at Metro Catholic of Ceder Rapids. While each of these experiences differed, the opportunity to engage in long-term service learning provided the students with insights into the non-profit world, a way to develop skills necessary for working in the field, and fostered personal growth, understanding, and passion.

Nike’s Outsourcing for Cheaper Costs
Erin Hosch, Anna Gualandri, Allison Kula, Jordan Stecklein
Advisor/Mentor: Prof. Karen Sturm

Nike has been the #1 shoe manufacturer in the world for the majority of their existence, with strong sales and increasing net incomes. To achieve these results, Nike using outsourcing for cheaper costs. Poor working conditions have been reported at the outsourcing factories. Nike has been accused of exploiting factory workers in Asia. A 1991 report documented low wages and poor working conditions in Indonesia. Abusive practices were also reported in 1997 in a factory in Vietnam. Nike’s outsourcing for cheaper costs creates ethical issues with the labor conditions.
Faculty Presentations I: 3:30-4:30pm

**Race-Rhetoric-Religion**

Moderator: Dr. Michael Jarcho

Location: Center for Dubuque History- Academic Resource Center, 1st Floor

Contextualizing Competition Theory: Lynching, Gendered-Racism, and Elite Whites
Dr. Lisa Garoutte

Sociological work on lynching typically relies on competition theory to explain where and when lynching was most likely to occur. This theory suggests that working class whites are most likely to lynch when they perceive economic or demographic threat from African Americans. While such analyses offer important insights into lynching, the singular focus on working class whites may limit our ability to fully explore both the spatial patterning of lynching and the relevant ideological dimensions at play. Here, I examine the historical context of lynching events: who was lynched, why, and where. Consideration is given to the role of elite farm owners, reliance on African American tenancy, and the race and alleged offense of the lynching victim. Results suggest that consideration of gendered and raced ideologies, along with the organizational base of elites, is necessary to our understanding of these violent crimes.

When Silence is Mightier than the Pen: “Colorblind” Rhetoric in American Social Policy
Dr. Naomi Clark

This presentation is an invitation to consider how silence has been strategically used to shape public arguments. Specifically, this presentation—drawn from a chapter that traces key arguments about American social policy in the twentieth century—exposes the central role “colorblind” language played in systematically denying impoverished African Americans equal access to New Deal-era welfare benefits. A key text referenced in the presentation is the testimony of George E. Haynes before the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee in 1935. Haynes, representing the Federal Council of Churches, unsuccessfully implored the Committee to include a non-discrimination clause in the legislation, referencing compelling data that showed the absence of a non-discrimination clause was essentially permission to discriminate on the basis of race. Haynes’ analysis of the bill demonstrates how systematic discrimination can be promoted by apparently “colorblind” language. Fulfilling Haynes’ predictions, many states and local municipalities went on to establish their own “worthiness” tests that disproportionately prevented African Americans from accessing the resources available to their white neighbors. Although much of this discrimination was rectified in the 1960s during the Civil Rights era, the legacy of this racial discrimination lives on public discourse surrounding social policy today.

Created or Eternal? The Debate about the Qur’an and the Diversification of Islam
Dr. John Eby
There is little awareness outside of academic circles about the pivotal stage in Islamic history, the 9th and early 10th centuries, even amongst Muslims. The Mutazilite Controversy, however, evolved into the most formative period in the history of Islam. Out of this controversy emerged Shi‘ite theology, clarification on the role of the intelligentsia, and a rejection of philosophical speculation amongst Sunnis in favor of a definitive swing toward traditionalism. This traditionalism continues to impact Muslim responses to modernity. This presentation will discuss the concept and first stages of the creation of a new Reacting to the Past game centered on this Qur‘anic controversy in early 10th century Baghdad. Part of this project has been to begin translation of a pivotal Arabic text that has never before appeared in English.

Campus and Student Cultures

Moderator: Dr. David Oostendorp

Location: Headwaters-Academic Resource Center, 1st Floor

The Art of Failure in the Classroom
Dr. Jacob Heidenreich

In this talk we will look at the role failure has in the learning process. In particular, we will discuss how one can take advantage of the constructive benefits of student’s experiences of failure in the classroom while avoiding the de-motivating pitfalls that usually accompany it. We will apply material from several books to the classroom. In his book The Art of Failure Jesper Juul investigates the important role constructive failure has in motivating players to keep playing video games. In the book Thinking Fast and Slow, Daniel Kahneman investigates (among other things) how failure changes our thinking process. In Mindset, Carol Dweck discusses how our view of learning impacts how we react to failure, and what are better and worse ways to react. Let’s talk about how to teach our students to fail well!

Digital Practitioners? Analyzing Technology Use among Social Work Students
Prof. Brad Cavanagh

This presentation covers a study of web-based technology utilization among undergraduate social work students. The study included a sample of 108 students at two small, private Midwestern liberal arts colleges. Students were given an assignment presenting a generic practice scenario they may encounter in the field – finding information and referral resources for a client. Students then completed a survey that gathered information regarding their use of web-based technology, and how they utilized web-based technology to complete the assignment. Findings suggest the majority of students located adequate information on behalf of the fictional client, primarily through the Google search engine. Data also show that personal computers and laptops were the preferred devices for students despite high ownership of handheld devices. Finally, students indicated social media use is a primarily recreational pursuit, with limited utilization of such platforms for professional applications. The presentation will offer suggestions for further research and classroom application of the findings.
Faith Fluency: Word and Experience in Spiritual Life at Loras
Fr. Wm. M. Joensen, Ph.D.

Students and those who support them encounter diverse religious traditions and practices, and seek opportunities to make informed choices for their own personal beliefs and values associated with faith. To speak of faith "fluency" suggests familiarity with human speech and communication, and with communication between God and human beings. Most major religions claim some form of divine initiative to communicate to and through human beings. Christians maintain that God's word reveals God and reveals us to ourselves. While the faith community is not identical with the academic community, both are loci where words are profusely abundant—sometimes to the point of saturation! The challenge for Spiritual Life is to serve as catalyst and companion of the dynamic between word and experience. Staff and students can serve as interlocutors with those who faith commitment and fluency is all over the map, helping to supply and translate words that will allow persons to make sense--of God, and themselves. Together, we can translate meaning for a mystery already at work in human lives. Before anything else, it is incumbent to truly listen with humility and reverence. And this listening posture is fostered in the context of providing experiences that will awaken a receptivity to word, to not only hearing about God, but to enable persons to be awakened to God speaking to them and through them. The goal is that students, staff and faculty become more able to help discover what God has granted them, being called out of themselves to engage those from whom they feel different or even previously separated--and at minimum, to form a newfound bond of respect and relationship. Loras Spiritual Life offers provides programming and ministry that accents the "word" dimension, as well as activities and experiences to which the word is joined through reflection, prayer, and our "portfolio" of life. This presentation will trace items in both categories and their synthesis, noting that faith fluency is not a progressive scale where one necessarily "graduates" from one item to the next, but a dynamic formation process into which many pass in-and-out and back again.

Movements

Moderator: Dr. David Speckhard

Location: Alumni Campus Center, Mary Alexis Room

Toward Computational Modeling of a Cell
Dr. Adam Moser

Understanding the organization and movement within the cell is a primary goal of biophysical chemistry. While models exist that accurately describe biomolecule interaction, these models are too complex to apply to systems as large as a cell. This presentation describes the continued development of a coarse-grain model for proteins, specifically the addition of phosphorylated amino acids. This model is applied to the LAT protein, which is part of the immune response. This research was done as part of the FUTURE in Biomedicine program at the University of Iowa.
Choosing Barabbas: Popular Motivation in the Gospel According to Mark
Dr. David Pitt

When Pontius Pilate gives the crowd the choice between Jesus and Barabbas, the crowd chooses Barabbas - despite having hailed Jesus as the messiah during his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As scholars examine the crowd's choice, many questions have arisen: how historically accurate is this element of the account? who was the historical Barabbas? what motivated the crowd's reversal of opinion about Jesus? This presentation investigates these issues and proposes the argument that the account of Barabbas, while likely drawing upon historical connections, is more theological than historical - its central function is a further probing of the question posed by Jesus in Mark 8:27, "Who do people say that I am?" Ultimately, I believe that the interpretative key to the question has to do with the language of "sonship." Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah is the Son of David, Barabbas is (literally) the Son of the Father, and the crowd hails the one who comes "in the name of David our father." Does the crowd ironically hail Jesus in a case of mistaken identity? Most fundamental, however, when Christians today sing the song of the crowd, which Messiah is being hailed?

Generalized Augmented Happy Numbers
Dr. Susan Crook

What makes a number a happy number? Is it sitting on the beach with no cares in the world or is there more to it than that? In this talk, we'll mathematically define happy numbers. We'll explore some of their properties and look at generalized happy numbers to see if we can extend any of these properties. This work was done collaboratively with other undergraduate math faculty at a Research Experience for Undergraduate Faculty this summer at the American Institute for Mathematics, so there will also be a short plug for REUs.

Poetry and Place in Music

Moderator: Dr. Jean Merrill
Location: Alumni Campus Center, Arizona Room

Musical Expression in the Songs of Hugo Wolf
Dr. Jennifer Swanson

Three songs by Hugo Wolf, Mignon I, II, and III, reveal how the composer used the elements of music to express the emotion and imagery conveyed in great poetry. During the winter of 1888-89, Wolf composed 51 songs to texts by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. Among the first poems that he set that winter were those from the novel "Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre" (The Apprenticeship of Wilhelm Meister). One of the most important features of Goethe’s novel is the lyric poetry sung by Mignon, described by Eric Sams as “full of secrecy, grief, and yearning for love and homeland.” These three texts cannot tell Mignon’s whole story, but with the addition of Wolf’s musical interpretation we can acquire a deep understanding of her feelings, and perhaps our own as well. Wolf uses the musician’s most basic tools—rhythm, harmony, and melody—to effectively express the most basic human emotions: love, sorrow, and fear. Goethe’s texts are full
of meaning by themselves, but music, which can go where words cannot, gives them greater intensity and depth.

Hollers, Hymns and Dirges: People, Place and Song
Dr. Roy Carroll

In commenting on the relationship between human beings and “place,” author Wallace Stegner, in his book “Where the Bluebird Sings to the Lemonade Springs” states that: “. . . a place is not a place until people have been born in it, have grown up in it, lived in it, known it, and died in it – have both experienced and shaped it, as individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities, over more than one generation.”
To this description I propose that music, and, equally important, music making - vocal and instrumental, provides another vibrant expression of that relationship. More widely known as the creator of fictional composer P. D. Q. Bach, composer Peter Schickele provides an authentic example of this expression of people and place through his collection of eight folk songs arranged for piano solo. Published in 1989 but composed over a span of approximately 30 years, these original arrangement reflect Schickele’s lifelong interest folk song, especially the body of song rooted in the soundscape of the central Appalachian area of the eastern United States. These songs have migrated across regions, following the westward pathways of European settlement expansion in north America, including those leading to the upper Midwest. Spanning both sacred and secular genres, Schickele’s settings respect the straight forward, direct, and economical nature of each selection. His respectful and creative musical artistry – gained over a life time of discipline specific growth, provides listeners with an opportunity to hear this music – and know a place – with new and richer perspective.

Verismo in Musical Theatre - Attaining Realism in DOGFIGHT the musical
Dr. Bruce Kotowitch

The verismo operatic tradition of post-Romantic period is associated with Italian composers Mascagni, Leoncavallo, and Puccini. There is a movement in American Musical Theatre that draws on verismo elements. Verismo in opera began in 1890 with the first performance of Mascagni's Cavalleria Rusticana. The style is distinguished by realistic – often violent or deviant – depictions of everyday life, especially the life of the contemporary lower and struggling classes. Loras College's spring production of DOGFIGHT represents this style in the genre of musical theatre. Set in November, 1963 San Francisco three young marines are about to be shipped out on their first deployment. The night before leaving state-side they participate in the ritual of the DOGFIGHT. They each are to find the ugliest woman to bring to a private party at a local bar. Officers vote and the ugliest date wins the marine a large cash price. The contest is a secret held by the marines and each woman becomes an object of shame and ridicule. Private Eddie Birdlace brings the unassuming Rose to this gathering. Rose learns of this secret and is devastated. The marines keep their binge going all night. However, Birdlace begins to reconsider his actions and behavior and a relationship begins to develop with Rose. The musical is a study of peer pressure, bullying, the culture of hooking-up, human dignity, and equality. Through lecture and recital/live performance by the cast, elements of the work will be presented displaying how music and script deal with this real life problems. Discussion of compositional styles and trends in musical theatre will delineate differences in differing thought as to the purpose of this medium in modern culture.
Mortality-Nature-War

Moderator: Dr. Jonas Meyer

Location: Center for Dubuque History- Academic Resource Center, 1st Floor

Just War Theory and Killing Innocent Soldiers
Dr. David Cochran

The presentation is based on my on-going research on the morality of war. It looks at the ethics of killing when it comes to ordinary soldiers caught in a war not of their own making. The concepts of innocent and guilty don’t line up very well with the categories of civilian and soldier in the actual conduct of war, which has created a long-standing problem at the heart of just war theory. I’ll present this problem, the main ways thinkers have tried to solve it, and why these efforts are all inadequate.

“Chasing Black Hawk”
Dr. Kevin Koch

"Chasing Black Hawk" is a 15-minute video essay based on retracing--by car--the 500-mile path of the 1832 Black Hawk War. The text is a reworking (and condensing) of earlier writings I have done on the Black Hawk War, and includes a narrative element as I follow the path during a bitter winter spell. The video involves motion photography of the places encountered along the way.

Low Adult Survival Estimates for Black Tern Populations in the United States and the Netherlands: Implications for Conservation of a Declining Species
Dr. David Shealer

The Black Tern (Chlidonias niger) breeds in freshwater wetlands in the Northern Hemisphere. Both the North American subspecies (C. n. surinamensis) and the Eurasian subspecies (C. n. niger) have experienced significant declines over the past 50 years. Habitat loss has been implicated as the initial cause of the decline of both subspecies, but population demographics also may be important. We used encounter histories of banded birds and mark-recapture models to estimate the annual survival probability of adult Black Terns for two populations in the U.S. (Wisconsin and Maine) and one population in the Netherlands. Survival estimates for the three populations were strikingly similar (Wisconsin: 0.66 [0.05 SE]; Maine: 0.68 [0.05 SE]; Netherlands: 0.67 [0.08 SE]) and considerably lower than estimates reported for other tern species. Together, these results indicate unusually high adult mortality, which is most likely occurring in the wintering areas or on migration, and suggest that management tactics directed toward this species only at breeding sites may be insufficient to aid its recovery.
Widening Poetic Voices

Moderator: Dr. Hilarie Welsh

Location: Academic Resource Center, 102

Sources for Early Eucharistic Praying: Methodology and Implications
Dr. David Pitt

This proposal is intended to serve as an update regarding my 2013-2014 O'Connor Chair research concerning the history of Eucharistic praying. My work on updating and revising a historical collection of Eucharistic prayer texts has resulted in expanding the number of selections from the first centuries of Christianity from 3 sources to 15 sources. Only one of these additions is due to the recent discovery of a text; the other 11 concern issues of historical methodology. Of particular interest among the new additions will be the 3rd century prayer from the Martyrdom of Polycarp, in which the bishop utters a prayer paralleling other Eucharistic texts while he is being burned, and those who see him die are given a vision, not of a burning man, but of bread baking. Also of interest will be the three prayers from the 3rd century Acts of Thomas, where clearly Eucharistic prayers are spoken that do not correspond to traditionally accepted texts. While this presentation largely concerns the historical foundations for an expanded vision of what "constitutes" Eucharistic praying in the first 300 years of the Church, it will conclude with some observations about the value of these historical precedents for contemporary Christian practice.

Editing the Poet Daryl Hine
Dr. James Pollock

I have edited (and written a critical preface for) a volume of selected poems by the Canadian poet Daryl Hine (1936-2012) for The Essential Poets Series published by The Porcupine's Quill, a literary press in Canada. The book (entitled The Essential Daryl Hine) is scheduled for publication in May, 2015. Hine was the editor of Poetry magazine in Chicago from 1968-78, and the friend of several well-known American poets of his generation, including James Merrill, Richard Howard, and John Hollander. Hine has been described by the influential American critic Harold Bloom as "a great, and greatly neglected, artist," though his fifteen books of poems and five volumes of translations from ancient Greek and Latin were praised by critics and other poets, and he was honored with Guggenheim, Merrill, and MacArthur Foundation fellowships, among other prizes. My presentation will briefly make the case for Hine as a poetic virtuoso, a poet of learned wit, formal and rhetorical mastery, and cosmopolitan sensibility--one of the strongest Canadian poets of the twentieth century. I will summarize his life and career, describe the central critical insights of my preface, and read aloud and briefly discuss two or three of his short lyrics. I will be happy to answer questions about the process of editing the book, as well.
A Breadth First Introductory Course in Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Dr. Daniel Neebel

In an effort to better prepare electrical and computer engineering students, the Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Department at the United States Air Force Academy created a breadth-first introductory course to give students this view as a starting point in their education. A thorough review of the curriculum revealed primary knowledge areas that the students need early in their education in order to better prepare them for the depth of a rigorous ECE curriculum. This knowledge includes, but is not limited to, Radio Frequency (RF) communications, RADAR and electronic warfare, analog circuits including power generation and distribution and digital circuits and systems. The review resulted in the development of a breadth-first introductory course to motivate and inspire the students to dig deeper into topics they will see later in the curriculum. Through early exposure to a broad set of knowledge and simulation/laboratory techniques, students can begin to develop intellectual curiosity and intuition about how electrical and computer systems work and, in the process, see the fun and excitement in electrical and computer engineering. The presentation will describe the course and curriculum briefly and then discuss how this work applies to programs at Loras College.

Sport Management Alumni and the Sabbatical Process  
Dr. Matt Garrett

This project will discuss the methodology of a recent sabbatical entailing a review of sport management alums serving as young professionals in and out of the sport business industry. The project’s goals, objectives, and hypothesis will be identified. A critique of the methodology, both in the context of established research protocol and as part of a semester-long sabbatical, will be presented. The study’s results will not be presented at this session.

Promoting Student Success and Retention  
Mr. Garth Rubin

The purpose of this presentation is to present to faculty, staff, students and community members concepts for student retention. Students might not be aware of how integration of classes from different instructional fields can lead to a broader understanding into how they are motivated. How does a history course taken in high school help in the understanding of a college level science course? The awareness of efficacy in the learning process can greatly improve the student’s ability to have a positive, successful education. Assessing student learning outcomes, not just in grades but by viewing completed work in a portfolio can illustrate to the student the “bigger picture” of their education and this in turn can motivate the student as they master course content.
Diversity-Sexuality-Identity

Moderator: Dr. Susan Stone

Location: Academic Resource Center, 202

Diversity, Learning and Student Success, AAC&U 2015 Conference Highlights
Dr. Valerie Bell and Dr. Kathleen Jeffries

This presentation shares knowledge gained at the 2015 Conference of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. The Conference addressed issues related to excellence and inclusivity for diverse cohorts of students currently attending colleges and universities. Highlights from two workshops, Social Identity and Success: Exploring the Collegiate Experiences of LGBTQIA and Students of Color and Leveraging Latin@ Student Strengths to Foster Student Success as well as various conference sessions will be presented.

To Be Desired: Christian Spiritual Friendship A Spirituality of Intimacy for Persons with Same-Sex Attraction
Fr. Robert Gross

If you are a gay Christian can you have intimate relationships with others and remain faithful to Jesus? In my presentation I intent to offer another category of intimacy that has been lost in our overly sexualized culture. Christian Spiritual Friendship that is classically articulated by St. Aelred and deepened by Sts. Francis de Sales and Jane de Chantal can offer another way of expressing deep communion with others while at the same time honoring and living by Christ’s teaching about marriage. In the presentation I will outline three points: First, I will unfold the nature of spiritual friendship in the Christian spiritual tradition; second, I will apply spiritual friendship to the realities of identity, loneliness, and shame that many gay Christians face on a daily basis; third, I will offer a process of discernment to choose and enter into spiritual friendship. Spiritual Friendship is an untapped treasure that could help gay Christians who want to remain faithful to the Catholic Church’s teaching about homosexuality while at the same time offering an avenue where the human heart’s desire for intimacy is met.
1. Does personality have anything to do with taste for art?
Isabella Irurita
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Julia Omarzu

The intent of my research is to determine if there is a relationship between personality and liking for particular styles of art. Rentfrow and Gosling (2003) have argued that taste in music is related to personality. In my previous research (2014) I found similar evidence of relationships between personality and preferences in art. However, in this earlier study I did based off of Rentfrow and Gosling’s (2003) procedure, I showed the participants the names of the genres and movements that each piece belonged to. In this new study, people are still rating examples of artwork, specifically visual art, but they are not being told to what movement they belong to. Therefore, in this research the expected outcome is to find similar personality patterns related to preferences for visual art without the bias that the names of the movements might have created.

2. If time pressures affect stress, can stress affect time perception?
Clairee Schneider, Kyzer Moore, Kody Massner, Austin Miller
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Sara Bagley

Area: Biological Psychology Problem: The purpose is to identify whether varying levels of cortisol from a stressor or control task can influence time perception. It is hypothesized that if participants are exposed to a psychophysical stressor that increases cortisol levels, then they will have an inaccurate perception of time when compared to participants exposed to a control task.
Procedure: Forty male participants will be randomly assigned to receive the warm or cold water task. Cortisol samples are obtained before and after the water task from saliva. Each participant’s ability to perceive time will be measured by a time perception task that will be administered before and after the water task. Results: Collected data will be analyzed using a 2 Time x 2 Group repeated measures ANOVA. We expect to find for the second time perception task, those with elevated cortisol will show a deficit in time perception estimates, compared to those with normal cortisol levels. Conclusions: The information gained may give insight in the physiological underpinnings of stress and its impact on time perception. In circumstances where people are under high stress, it is important to know whether time perception is altered.

3. Music and Movement (Honors Project)
Kayla Barnes
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Julia Omarzu

Music therapy is an emerging field of research, and is becoming a more common practice in medical some settings. Many facets of music, such as instrument playing, singing, dancing, composing, or simply listening, are involved in music therapy. There are many proposed benefits of physical therapy with the use of music, although for many, these benefits are not clearly seen due to the still developing field. Many questions can be addressed in the field of music therapy with movement related concerns. Does it improve efficiency of movement for athletes? Can it help with the prevention or reversal of diseases? Do certain conditions benefit more than others
with the use of music therapy? These are just a few examples of questions to be pondered. The purpose of this project is to research and gather information on the topic of music therapy in relation to improving movement related issues. The goal of this investigation is to find out who in the Dubuque community would most benefit from information pertaining to music therapy, whether it be physical therapist, coaches, or athletic trainers, and present the results to them to hopefully assist in their professional practices.

4. Psychedelia - San Francisco, 1965-69
Matt Dargis, Tom Fluegel, Mike Pizzello
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Paul Kohl

This poster session is the work of students in the Identity/Community in Rock & Roll course and consists of examinations of specific times and places in rock music history in which the music coincided with a sense of growing community. Artifacts and examples will be part of the session. Includes examinations of Motown, the British Invasion, California Folk-Rock and Psychedelic Rock, Disco, early Rap/Hip-Hop, Heavy Metal, and Grunge.

5. Heavy Metal - California, 1982-87
Jennifer Brouch, Josh Link, Matthias Palmersheim, Connor Schreck
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Paul Kohl

This poster session is the work of students in the Identity/Community in Rock & Roll course and consists of examinations of specific times and places in rock music history in which the music coincided with a sense of growing community. Artifacts and examples will be part of the session. Includes examinations of Motown, the British Invasion, California Folk-Rock and Psychedelic Rock, Disco, early Rap/Hip-Hop, Heavy Metal, and Grunge.

Miriam McKee
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Wendy Romero

This poster presentation covers the results of my research into the career of American graphic designer Paul Rand. An examination of Rand’s early experiences, his revolutionary design philosophy, and his wide-ranging and innovative body of work establish his leadership in transforming modern graphic design. His design philosophy, along with his determination to learn, provides much inspiration not only for designers, but also for non-artists. Learning about Rand’s thought process exposes artists to a powerful approach to design theory. Furthermore, a study of Rand’s body of work illustrates the practical application of his ideas and theories. People who are not designers can also benefit from an introduction to Paul Rand because his drive and determination were remarkable. Also, design is everywhere and it is useful to understand it better.

7. Strength Over Stigma (Honors project)
Jillian Knott, Jennifer Andrysczyk, Aleah Erenberger, Katelyn Franzen, Erin Weaver
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Michael Jarcho

The mission of the organization of Strength Over Stigma is ending the stigma of depression by specifically targeting adolescents in middle school. We want adolescents to know that ‘it’s okay
to say you’re not okay.” In our research, we noticed that this age group had many factors that contributed to their high rate of depression. By targeting this age group, we hope to break down the stigma of depression by making it more acceptable to talk about this mental illness and to ask for help. By spreading awareness about depression at a younger age and creating open lines of communication on the topic earlier, we can help students get the help they need sooner. After learning more about depression we noticed a lack of outreach programs focused towards middle school students. Our main goal is to reach out to the community, starting with Dubuque, Iowa, and create programming for this particular age group. We hope to reach out to local school counselors and school psychologists in order to create an engaging presentation.

8. Can Social Exclusion Elicit Both Psychological and Physiological Effects in Humans?
Taylor Keeney, Tucker Brady, Jocelyn Awe
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Shealer

Social exclusion can elicit a negative psychological response in humans. Studies involving physiological responses, however, are rare. We hypothesized that heart rate would be significantly affected by social exclusion and that it would correspond with psychological symptoms. Participants (n=12) were subjected to a virtual ball-tossing game (Cyberball) in which they were eventually excluded. Heart rate (HR) data were collected continuously throughout the game, and psychological questionnaires were given both before the game and upon its completion. Participants significantly showed an initial decrease in heart rate and then followed by an increase as the game progressed as well as significantly lower scores on the Impressions Questionnaire following Cyberball-simulated social rejection. The results of this experiment supported that social exclusion can exert both physiological and psychological effects on people who are subjected to it.

9. Facebook and Friendship: Social Penetration Theory Applied to College Students
Megan Kelchen, Emily Nelson, Ashley Wenthold, Jenna Lueken
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Mary Carol Harris

This research study is focused on the topic of Facebook use and its effects on friendships among college students. It discusses the definition of friendship developed by Giddens (1991) as cited by McBride & Bergen (2008) and the role of self-disclosure within friendship as discussed by Chen & Nakazawa (2009). Furthermore, it explains the social penetration theory developed by Altman and Taylor (1973) and uses the theory as a foundation for answering the research question: “Does Facebook provide a platform for sustaining and strengthening friendships among college students?” Finally, the paper presents the research findings of researchers Wenthold, Nelson, Kelchen and Lueken and provides an analysis which discusses the evidence to support and refute the hypothesis that Facebook assists in sustaining and strengthening friendships.

10. Effectiveness of Stop Smoking Campaigns
Benjamin Pregler
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Smith

For my senior economic seminar project I will be conducting economic research in an attempt to see how effective stop smoking campaigns are. Many studies have been done on the costs associated with smoking and there is plenty of data available on the costs of campaigns. I would like to combine these two topics and see what kind of results emerge. Information will be gathered from number of years added to life, productive years added, and avoided medical
expenses when comparing the cost of different campaigns to the results for each. I would expect that any of the effective campaigns will have an extremely low cost when compared to the results.

11. How Much for a Can? The Economic Cost of Smokeless Tobacco
Mitchell Johnson
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Smith

What is the economic cost of using smokeless tobacco, often called chew or dip? This project aims to answer this question, both epidemiologically and econometrically by retooling studies from the World Health Organization (WHO) to compute the economic costs associated with smoking cigarettes and making the equations used by the WHO applicable for smokeless tobacco. This question is a significant one due to the fact that the usage rates of using smokeless tobacco are rising in the United States, especially young males. It is also significant because virtually no studies have been done to analyze the economic impacts of using smokeless tobacco have been conducted and the few that have been lumped in with studies on smoking cigarettes as well, making the results of using smokeless tobacco difficult to access.

12. Epidemics and Economics
Gina Dacy
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Smith

Investigating the economic impact of epidemics is one of the most under-researched topics in economics. I am studying the specific long and short term effects that an epidemic can cause, concentrating on the impact on commerce. My research is focused on the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic in China and Hong Kong, and the long-term effects of HIV/AIDS.

13. Synthesis of PDZ TIAM2 YFP plasmid
Emily Gudenkauf
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Speckhard

The long-term goal of the project is to develop a cancer drug as well as enhancing our understanding of signal transduction pathways. The focus was on the TIAM1 (Tumor Induction and Metastasis) protein with its PDZ domain. It is known that TIAM1 activates the GTPase Rac1 which causes the spread of cancer. We were looking at various peptides that bind to PDZ with the goal of finding a peptide to block the binding pocket and therefore block the signal that causes cancer to spread. In the process we would also learn about the signaling of PDZ and other domains like it. The project was started at the University of Iowa by Dr. Fuentes and is being continued at Loras. We are currently working on coming up with a more efficient way to track the interactions between peptides and PDZ TIAM1. My assignment was to make the protein PDZ TIAM2 YFP. Others in the group were making proteins containing peptide binding partners with BFP. The goal was to successfully make these proteins and track their interactions using FRET.

14. Fluorescent Proteins in DNA Plasmids
Jack O’Brien
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Speckhard
TIAM 1 is a protein often found in cancers that have spread to different tissues. Little is known about TIAM 1, but we do know there is a protein interaction domain, PDZ. By creating a PDZ plasmid with a fluorescent protein and a binding partner with a different fluorescent protein we can look at the interaction using FRET. This method is cheaper and quicker than NMR. Observing these interactions could lead to information regarding the role TIAM 1 plays in cancer metastasis.

15. Antibacterial effects of essential oils on E. coli growth
Thomas Rose, Matthew Anderson
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Aditi Sinha

A wide variety of plant derived essential oils are known to have antibacterial and antibiotic effects. We tested the effects tea tree oil and clove bud oil had on E. coli growth using the Kerby Bauer disc diffusion method. Tea tree and clove bud oils were chosen because previous research showed these oils have been useful against bacteria similar to E. coli. Both these oils are components of commercially available mouth-rinse and other oral hygiene products and may be effective against gingivitis. We found that clove bud oil showed a significantly larger zone of inhibition of E. coli than tea tree oil and the mixture of the two oils. Zones of inhibition caused by clove bud, tea tree, and the mixture of both of these oils were significantly different than the control. We can state that further research should be conducted on the efficacy of these oils against other gram negative and positive bacteria.

16. Keratin 5 and Keratin 14 Mutations in Epidermolysis bullosa simplex
Samantha Petlicki
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kate Cooper

Epidermolysis bullosa is a genetic condition that causes the skin to be very fragile and to blister easily. Minor injury or friction can cause blisters and areas of skin loss. The most common subtype of epidermolysis bullosa is epidermolysis bullosa simplex (EBS). The mutations are on the genes encoding keratins 5 and 14. Keratins make up intermediate filaments in epithelial cells. The goal of this research was to optimize protocol for extracting and creating cDNA from a patient and control samples, as well as determine the mutation in the patient and possible verify the mutation in her other afflicted family members. I tried to compare the patient’s DNA with my normal DNA. RNA was isolated from cheek cells and cDNA was created from it. After polymerase chain reactions were done with the product being run on a gel electrophoresis a minimal amount of bands were depicted. A sample of the bands were extracted and sent for processing. Overall the bands were inconclusive and further experimentation is needed to compare the DNA samples.

17. Snow Plow Robot
John Butzow, Dennis Butzow
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Danial Neebel

Does shoveling snow get too labor intensive? Are you tired of being out in the cold getting rid of the snow? Well, how about having a robot do it for you. We will have an R C truck that will be programmed to raise and drop a plow. It will be remote controlled so that it will not run into obstacles or people. The plow will be built either from a snow shovel or 3-D printed. It will be able to plow at least 2 inches of snow at a width of at least 12 inches. It will be able to back up
without dragging snow with it. It will also have a LED light attached to the top of it for night plowing. We have also had the idea of making possible universal attachments so that you could do other chores other than removing snow.

18. FC X100 (Floor Cleaner Xtra 100)
Luciano Ricotta, Kevin Kisolo
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Danial Neebel

Have you ever been fed up of cleaning floors? Cleaning up after a dinner party or simply find it too time-consuming? Well, finally the world’s advancements in technology has allowed us to create robots to perform these tasks for us. Vacuuming, mopping, and cleaning floors has always been one of the essential requirements of owning a house or apartment. Our project consists of building a robot that is able to clean floors by vacuuming and sweeping. This robot will be made out of cheaper materials that will be sustainable and cost-friendly. While saving you money, allowing you to work on other things, and reducing your stress-levels by a significant margin, this robot will be quite handy in every household.

19. Loras College Solar Power Initiative (Honors Project)
Maria McGreal, Haylee Schiltz, Danielle Stromert, Mary Phillips, Ellie Horst, Louisa Pavlik
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Andrew Auge

The Loras College Solar Power Initiative began started off as an idea from Loras College English professor, Dr. Andrew Auge. Dr. Auge always had an interest in creating awareness around anthropogenic (human-created) climate change, and seeing students working on behalf of environmental issues. Our goals are to promote awareness for the need of greater sustainability efforts on the Loras College campus both by the administration and student body, collaborate with those already working to create a more sustainable future through initiatives at Loras College and within the Dubuque community, and see installation of a solar power panel on the Loras College Campus before or during the Spring of 2017.

Dan Hosch, Regan Takes, James Collins
Advisor/Mentor: Prof. Hugh Graham

We will give a presentation of our business simulation and our experiences while going to San Francisco. We met with top executives to learn the keys to their success.

21. New Orleans, Louisiana Spring Break Service Trip
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Colleen Kuhl

After venturing away from campus and having an unforgettable experience the participants of the 2014-2015 Service Trips hope to display what they experienced on their respective trips. In hopes of sharing with the Loras College Community, we are looking to have each team present a different poster presentation on their trip. This will allow the participants to share with their
peers and others their findings of taking a week to give of themselves in the form of service. We hope that this will spark an interest in others to serve as well as to learn about what other Duhawks have done. The posters will be created by the Service Trip Student Coordinators Andrea Enda & Hannah Way and will be presented by the participants of the trip.

22. Glenmary Mission, Tennessee (Grainger County) Service Trip
Rachel Furlong, Emma Smith, Amanda Rodriguez, Haley Wiederholt, Kayla Barnes, Abigail Kirchner, Rachel Moser, Nicholas Dreska, Benjamin Breitbach, Katherine Edwards
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Colleen Kuhl

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23. J-Term REL 212 Sacred Spaces
Alyssa Maty, Sarah Koetz, Callie Owens, Peter Novak
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Pitt

The religious studies j-term course called Roman Catholic Sacred Spaces taught by Professor David Pitt, explored various spaces throughout the archdiocese of Dubuque, as well as the archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, and the dioceses of Madison, WI, and St. Cloud, MN. In the course of 3 weeks, our class interpreted how the importance of the placement of the Eucharist, altar, ambo, baptistery, tabernacle, seating, reconciliation space and devotional spaces become the sign of the pilgrim Church on earth and reflects the Church dwelling in heaven. Therefore, looking at these elements present in numerous Catholic Churches, our class determined how each building referred to the living temple, in which the Christian community gathers to hear the word of God, to pray together, to receive the sacraments, and to celebrate the Eucharist. From our experiential learning, we developed a renovation plan for Christ the King Chapel at Loras College that displays the functions that we would like to use to represent the Loras community fully.
1. Group participation: Do introverts and extroverts interpret technological distractions differently?

Kelsey Wieneke, Mary Phillips
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Lisa Grinde

Technology is beneficial for many facets of daily living, but by dividing individual attention, it also has the potential to interfere with face to face interaction and group dynamics. In a culture that emphasizes extraversion via social media and group interaction, we examined if there was a difference between how introverts and extroverts viewed and perceived group dynamic when one individual was utilizing social media during an interactive and cooperative group activity. We expected that introverts would have a greater negative perception of a group dynamic, when someone was utilizing social media, than extroverts. We recruited participants from PSY 101. For each group, we added one confederate, who remained constant throughout the study, making a total of 4 individuals in each group. In total, we gathered 10 experimental groups and 10 control groups. The group members completed a group task, in which they had 7 minutes to work together to construct an enclosure or device to protect a raw egg when it was dropped from 6 feet. Following the egg drop, participants completed the McCroskey introversion/extraversion personality survey (McCroskey, 1998) and rated how they felt the group process and group members worked. We found no significant differences between introverts and extroverts.

2. Parental Views on the Importance of Technological and Natural World Experience

Morgan Meyer, Alison Dalton
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Lisa Grinde

Children are spending an increasing amount of time with technological devices, and decreasing amount of time in nature. The purpose of this study is to identify parental attitudes and influences regarding the importance and “use” of these two variables during the first three years of their child’s life. We hypothesize that parents are more fearful of nature than of technology in regards to their child’s development and believe technological knowledge is more important than natural world knowledge. We hypothesize a positive correlation between parent’s technology time and child’s technology time and will be reviewing parents’ open ended responses regarding the benefits and concerns of technology and time outdoors. We plan to gather data from 100 parents who have one child under the age of three. Participants will complete surveys reporting their beliefs, attitudes and practices regarding technology and outdoor play time for their young child. Parents will also complete the Nature Relatedness Scale and questions about their own technology use. The implications of this research are important due to the growing push for children’s learning with technology, and lack of support for children’s outdoor activities during these critical early years of brain and social development.
3. EGR 106- Automated Storage Retrieval
Jacob Formella, Nicholas Spiess
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Danial Neebel

Our project will consist of constructing a storage retrieval device that would be useful in a manufacturing setting. The device will consist of a line follower and a claw to pick up necessary materials or supplies for workers to speed up the manufacturing process. It will be able to follow a grid or path set on the floor to find the desired product. It will then be able to sense the object, and move the claw in the direction of it and pick it up then return it to where it is commanded. This will be designed to be both accurate and efficient, as well as simple enough to present for the Loras Legacy Symposium including those with no engineering background. This product will be a scaled down version of a real life device that helps improve the manufacturing process.

4. SmartTow
Zachary Jeffries, Thomas Bell
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Danial Neebel

Properly working brake lights and turn signals are imperative to the safety of the transportation industry which includes trailers, drivers, and surrounding traffic. The challenge with trailer lights is how one person is supposed to manipulate the controls in the cab of the truck while simultaneously observing the lights on the back of the trailer to confirm proper operations. Another challenge is the continuous monitoring of the system throughout the entire drive as exposed plugs and wires commonly fail without warning. Our solution to this issue is a small module that when plugged into the truck and trailer connectors would monitor the trailer’s lights and other electrical systems. The system would run its test and give its results through an LCD screen that would also explain fault location, as well as sounding an in-cab alarm if an issue is detected. Projected cost of such a module is just under $100 commercially. No other such mobile module is available on the market, making this a first. The only comparable system is integrated in and limited to brand new Ford half ton trucks.

5. Grunge-Seattle, 1989-94
Tyler Garrison, Thomas Graziano, Stephanie LaGrant
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Paul Kohl

This poster session is the work of students in the Identity/Community in Rock & Roll course and consists of examinations of specific times and places in rock music history in which the music coincided with a sense of growing community. Artifacts and examples will be part of the session. Includes examinations of Motown, the British Invasion, California Folk-Rock and Psychedelic Rock, Disco, early Rap/Hip-Hop, Heavy Metal, and Grunge.

Jim Albee, Luke Barry, Kyle Jacobs
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Paul Kohl

This poster session is the work of students in the Identity/Community in Rock & Roll course and consists of examinations of specific times and places in rock music history in which the music coincided with a sense of growing community. Artifacts and examples will be part of the session. Includes examinations of Motown, the British Invasion, California Folk-Rock and Psychedelic Rock, Disco, early Rap/Hip-Hop, Heavy Metal, and Grunge.
7. Diversity and Pollination Success Rate of Flowers in the Science Hall Prairie
Mercedez Kennedy
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Aditi Sinha

Most tall grass prairies in northeastern Iowa occur as fragments that may or may not support viable populations of plant species. The objective of this research was to: (i) identify the diversity of plants and (ii) examine the effectiveness of pollinators for two focal plant species, Purple Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) and Sweet Black-Eyed Susan (Rudbeckia subtomentosa), in the Loras Campus Science Hall Prairie remnants, Dubuque, Iowa. Plant diversity was measured by enumerating a total of 35 different plant species. The focal plants were examined further for success of pollinators through pollinator foraging observations, seed production, and seed viability. The two plants were significantly different (p-value

8. Application of GIS
Eric Schmit, Zachary Jacobs
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Aditi Sinha

In this semester long project, we used Geographic Information System (GIS) to address a current area problem: what would be most optimal location for a new park, specifically a skate park in the City of Dubuque. This was a current discussion by the City Council in spring 2014. We used geodatabases from the City of Dubuque. We used data on proximity to middle and high schools land zoning, population density, accessibility, nearby public amenities, and proximity to area schools and other parks, public transport routes. We then created GIS overlays using the data to create an interactive map highlighting the best locations for the skate park. ArcGIS, the software we used, allowed us the evaluate what land plots were available based on city information, and select ideal on a basis of qualifying terms, such as being near a transit route, or in a denser area of town. We were able to assign values to each available land area based on ideal characteristics. We limited the best lots to three prime locations, to which could be proposed to the city.

9. Young Adult Perceptions of Dubuque
Claira Sieverding
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Julia Omarzu

The intent of my research is to determine what factors play a role in the attachment of young adults to a community – primarily the Dubuque community. The other purpose is to assess how the happiness of young adults might be connected to their community attachment. One of my hypotheses is that there will be a correlation between community attachment and life satisfaction of young adults. This outcome would be consistent with previous research. In a study done by Eriksson, Hochwälder, & Sellström (2011) it was found that people who viewed their community as low in trust and safety also associated with low subjective well-being. Secondly, I also hope to find identify which community attributes most influence community attachment and life satisfaction. Renzaho, Richardson, & Strugnell (2012) found, for example, that free or low-cost opportunities in a community were related to life satisfaction. Finally, I expect that the perceptions that young adults of the Dubuque community will positively correlate not only with their life satisfaction but also with their willingness to live in the Dubuque community following graduation.
10. Project Concern
Danielle Jackson, Caitlin Hansen
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Mary Lynn Neuhaus

This was a project that Caitlin and I worked on during our J-term semester. Together we created a booklet over what our class had done over J-term as well as about the service project that we participated in down at Project Concern in Dubuque. Throughout the booklet we have various reflections from students that participated in the class as well as the pictures and descriptions of what happened on a day to day basis in the class.

11. The Success and Failure of Small Businesses in the Tri-State Area (Honors project)
Jessica Dickhut, Elizabeth Fischer, Emily Sundstedt, Peter Fricano, Matthew Hemauer, Lori Obendorf
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Krista Belanger

We are a group of honors students at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa working towards a more in-depth understanding of the various aspects of starting and managing small family businesses. Our goal is to create a “toolkit” to help small family business owners learn how to identify resources, strategies, and their customer’s needs as they work towards establishing their business in the Tri-State community. Due to lack of resources and information about the range of activities that are needed, many small businesses struggle to keep their business functioning. Through the experiential service learning format of the honors program, we plan to ascertain a need in our community related to small family businesses and develop a response to address the need. We welcome you to delve with us into interrelationships among entrepreneurship, small businesses, families, communities, and success.

12. The Bankruptcy of Lehmann Brothers and Its Immediate Effects on the Economy
Sebastian Uribe
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Smith

The topic of this research paper is going to be about the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers on September 15, 2008 and how it affected the financial system in the USA and worldwide. Specifically focusing on the next three to six months after this major financial collapse. I will be looking into whether or not it was a good decision from the Fed and Government to let this Investment Firm go bankrupt instead of creating a recovery package in order to avoid their bankruptcy. Concluding on how it should have been done and how the financial system in the United States learned from this experience. The data and methodology that will be used to conduct this research is going to be graphs that can explain how the supply and demand for money in all its forms shifted as Lehman Brothers declared bankruptcy. Also, concentrating on how the stock market and particularly the stocks of Lehman Brothers fell in the weeks and days prior to its bankruptcy compared to some competitors, this will provide some sort of explanation about their obligation to file for bankruptcy.
13. Effect of Cinnamon, Cardamom, Garlic, and Oregano Essential Oils on the Growth Inhibition of the Bacterium Escherichia coli
Christine McDonald, Hannah Nelson, Allison Klimesh
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Shealer

We wanted to determine if there is a synergistic effect for inhibiting the growth of Escherichia coli for the spice combinations of cinnamon and cardamom and of garlic and oregano. Results were obtained by pipetting Escherichia coli bacterium onto petri dishes containing nutrient agar, then placing filter paper disks of essential oils for the spices on the petri dishes and observing bacterial growth after twenty-four hours. Bacterial growth was determined by measuring the zone of inhibition around each filter paper disk. We found that the garlic and oregano combination had the greatest zone of inhibition ($\bar{x} = 3.072$) than the combination of cinnamon and cardamom ($\bar{x} = 1.489$) and each spice individually. We then tested the combination of garlic and oregano against the antibiotic streptomycin and found that the zone of inhibition for garlic and oregano ($\bar{x} = 6.867$) was much greater than the zone of inhibition for streptomycin ($\bar{x} = 1.300$). Our findings indicate both that spices in combination may have synergistic antibacterial effects and that such spice combinations have the potential to decrease the possibility of illness due to Escherichia coli bacteria in food.

14. Mutation Creations of Dictyostelium Discoideum with pREMIGFP
Aleah Erenberger
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kate Cooper

Dictyostelium discoideum have become a fairly recent area of study in the biological sciences. They naturally occur as a unicellular soil-living amoeba and are referred to commonly as a slime mold. Many scientists have taken an interest in dictyostelium due to their unique ability to aggregate while starved and form a pseudo multicellular organism known as a slug. Previous research has shown that while in slug form, individual cells take on specific roles, divide tasks, and communicate with each other. Cells such as these can give clues as to what it takes as an individual cell to be part of a multicellular organism. Not everything is known about the genes and proteins involved in the cells that take on specific roles in slug form. Knowing more about their genetics could provide orthologs to genes in mammalian genome and tell us more about how multicellular organisms are unique from unicellular organisms. Experiments can be conducted in which mutant forms of dictyostelium are created and their genetic differences are studied. More specifically, we want to find differences in genetic expression patterns between the mutants’ unicellular and multicellular form.

15. Corticosterone and behavioral response to onset and termination of social instability in female mice
Kody Massner, Alexa Eggert, Emily Wichelt
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Michael Jarcho

Chronic stress has been associated with several negative health outcomes and psychopathological conditions. One source of chronic stress might be from one’s social environment. Specifically, social instability, or frequent changes in the social environment, might activate stress physiology. Corticosterone is the primary stress-responsive biomarker in rodents, and it reflects the activity of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis. Historically, research on the effects of stress has relied on collection of blood, saliva, or other bodily fluids that yield information about moment-to-moment changes in stress physiology. Recently, new sampling techniques involving
quantification of glucocorticoids in hair has allowed researchers to view patterns of stress physiology over extended periods of time. This study assessed the effects of chronic social instability on corticosterone levels and expression of anxiety-like behaviors in female mice. Mice that were subjected to social instability showed elevated hair corticosterone compared to baseline levels. Additionally, when mice were returned to stable social environments, corticosterone levels returned to baseline levels. In addition, on at least one behavioral measure, mice that were subjected to social instability showed a greater expression of anxiety-like behavior. This suggests that chronic social instability stress is sufficient to elicit an extended HPA axis and behavioral response.

16. Comparative Analysis of the Effects of Age on Shoulder and Hip Flexibility in College Faculty and Students
Sara Hahn, Magdalena Saenz Ruiz, Kayla Barnes, Elisabeth Mesina
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Sara Glover

Flexibility is a component of health and fitness that is a crucial part of everyday life. Much research has been done to study many aspects of range of motion. However, there remains much to be discovered and understood in this area. Due to the series of factors that influence range of motion levels, researchers are constantly working to learn more about how enhanced or impaired flexibility can contribute to overall well-being and injury prevention across the lifespan. Therefore, gaining a deeper understanding on the effects of age and activity type on flexibility is essential to provide practitioners and the general population with methods to improve range of motion. The present study was conducted to compare the shoulder and hip flexibility of Loras College faculty/staff with Loras College students to determine if age could truly affect range of motion in these joints. Research participants were also asked to complete a survey prior to their involvement in the study, allowing the researchers to compare activity types and levels of Loras faculty/staff and Loras students.

17. Syndecan 1 and the Effect on the Metastasis Signal
Nick Nemmers, Paul Pechous
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Speckhard

The Tiam 1 protein is a protein that is found in cancerous tumor cells. Within that protein is a PDZ domain, and that specific set of amino acids encode for a binding pocket. When it reacts to Syndecan 1, a protein found within the body, it has been seen to bind and cause metastasis. The idea, in simple form, is that the signal that causes metastasis can be blocked, which would significantly benefit cancer patients. This research is specifically looking at the proteins of Syndecan 1 and Tiam 1 and how they bind and interact with each other. A specific sequence of DNA must be developed that can then be inserted into competent cells. Once the DNA has successfully been transformed into the cells, testing can begin for protein interactions through various processes. As of now, this research has created much of the needed DNA and the last step of completing a whole DNA strand is in the process. Further research includes various tests of protein interactions and optimizing the entire process.
18. The Binding Ability of PDZ QM protein
Kaitlyn Kutsch
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Speckhard

There are a certain class of proteins that are highly involved in signal transduction. These proteins are part of a PDZ domain. This domain controls the movement of a cell. What I am specifically interested in is the involvement of the PDZ domain in cancer metastasis. I am working with a lab synthesized protein called PDZ QM to help understand how this protein and domain work and their effects on cancer and its metastasis. The goal of this research is to determine the binding ability of PDZ QM and find what can bind to its domain most tightly.

19. Developing a Force Field for Coarse-Grained Phosphoprotein Simulations
Alexis Hanson, Jason Derby
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Adam Moser

A goal of computational biophysics is to model the dynamics of cellular biomolecules. Accurately modeling phosphorylation of biomolecules is a critical component of this goal. We have developed phosphorylated amino acid parameters for the coarse-grained model used in the Elcock Lab (Dept. of Biochemistry, University of Iowa). These new parameters make possible Brownian Dynamic simulations of phosphoproteins.

20. The impact of gender stereotypes on leadership in the workplace
Melissa Ekins
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Lisa Garoutte

This research examines how gender stereotypes affect leadership in the workplace. Data about family upbringings, gender ideologies, and household type are collected from the General Social Survey in 2012. Comparisons are made to the 1988 data of the same variables to compare change over time. Analyses that are used on these variables include Chi-Squares and regressions.

21. Bilingualism and Opportunity in the United States
Morgan Rea
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Dana Livingston

This poster presents research which focuses on the theme of bilingualism and opportunities in the United States, specifically on Spanish-English bilingualism. It will not only present the current state of Spanish-English bilingualism but also the history of the Spanish language in the United States. Then, the economic opportunities of bilingualism, both in terms of an individual’s career and for economic growth as a whole. Finally, the possible means of becoming bilingual are explored, both inside and outside the classroom.
22. Chicago, Illinois Service Trip
Anna Nielsen, Stephanie Harpenau, Catherine Tooze, Rachel Seidl, Jesse Coleman, Melissa Wachuta, Maura Walsh, Jason Painter
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Colleen Kuhl

After venturing away from campus and having an unforgettable experience the participants of the 2014-2015 Service Trips hope to display what they experienced on their respective trips. In hopes of sharing with the Loras College Community, we are looking to have each team present a different poster presentation on their trip. This will allow the participants to share with their peers and others their findings of taking a week to give of themselves in the form of service. We hope that this will spark an interest in others to serve as well as to learn about what other Duhawks have done. The posters will be created by the Service Trip Student Coordinators Andrea Enda & Hannah Way and will be presented by the participants of the trip.

23. New Orleans, Louisiana January Term Service Trip
AnnMarie Biancalana, Gina Biancalana, Margaret Majewski, Danielle Vujovic, Erin Donohue, Cassidy Terry, Natalie Shannon, Caitlin Hansen, Claire Sieverding, Kristina Everding, Lauren Bolnius, Kyle Morawski, Kathryn Paul, Micaela Mertens
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Colleen Kuhl

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1. West Germany’s Surprising Response to WWII: The Creation of das Wirtschaftswunder
Jenna Walleser
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Biniv Maskay

If any country’s economy should have been a direct representation of the casualties of WWII, it should have been West Germany. However, the country experienced incredible economic growth. This project investigates why West Germany's economy showed an upturn during the decade after WWII, against all popular evidence of countries' GDPs shrinking after wars. There are many reasons for West Germany’s Wirtschaftswunder (economic miracle). Discrediting of the Marshall Plan, a source of federal aid to European countries with the goal of economic recovery, certainly helped as the plan came with unintended consequences which did not help West Germany in the same way it helped Britain and France. The repatriation of West German POWs and immigration of slaves into the West German economy boosted employment and ultimately production. Ludwig Ehrard’s replacement of the highly inflated Reichsmark with the Deutschemark and the German’s resistance of dealing with the past (Vergangenheitsbewältigung), causing them to place material needs over moral satisfaction (Homo economicus), were other growth contributors that allowed West Germany to once again be an economic powerhouse.

2. Spain: A Country of Movement
Gina Dacy
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Dana Livingston

Spain is a country of movement; the movement of people. Between the influx of immigrants arriving in Spain, as a doorway to Europe, and students and young people leaving to find work and opportunities elsewhere, Spain is defined by these changes. I am investigating these two sides of migration, and how the world economic crisis of 2008 has impacted the movement in and out of Spain.

3. El Camino de Santiago
Megan Gobbo
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Dana Livingston

El Camino de Santiago is a historic journey which many pilgrims over time have endured. The camino is different for every single pilgrim as every path a person takes has a different meaning. My research this semester along with my personal experience on the camino over j-term will give insight to these voyages. My research is going to explore the ideas of "place" and the spiritual aspects of the camino. These themes will open the field to discuss all aspects of the camino and what the journey can bring an individual. The camino is a path which offers personal finding, through my research I hope to present these different aspects and paths of el camino.
4. Microfinance in Haiti (Honors Project)
Ryleigh Keeney, Rachel Kula, Emily Day, Collin Long, Garrett Lappe
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Eric Eller

This project involves research about the culture and history of Haiti but more importantly, microfinance in urban Haiti. During the first phase of our project we delved into current microfinance programs and the shortcomings these programs have faced. This semester we will be working to establish a community partner to help further our end goal which is to create a microfinance program that could realistically be implemented into urban Haitian communities.

5. European Union: viability and competency of economic unions in times of crisis
Catalina Santacruz
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Smith

This research project is about the European Union and how effective it is as an economic bloc mainly in times of crisis. Since its creation, the Eurozone has been a debatable idea because its results have not proven it to be good as a way to stabilize the economy of the continent. This is a macroeconomic topic that deals with the performance of the economy of a determined group and its decision-making that in turn affects the global economy. It deals with the behaviors of governments and financial institutions to respond to an ongoing recession and how unemployment, inflation, GDP, standard of living among other figures are affected by this. By bringing up the idea of how during the Great Recession the member countries helped each other and which kind of policies they implemented in order to do so. I would analyze the current situations of countries like Germany, Spain and Greece (who are in opposite economic conditions) and how their responses along with the ones of the Eurozone affect their current economic status. This, in order to find out if being part of the union has affected them negatively more than helped them. All this to find out if there is a fallacy in the structure of an economic bloc in a capitalist system caused by economic fluctuations or if rather the individual circumstances of each country have put the union in a difficult position to be effective at generating helpful responses when most needed.

6. Honduras Service Trip
Nicholas Utter, Noelle Henneman, Sarah Leonard, Kayla Huber, Carolyn Earner, Vanessa Wismeier, Anna Morris, Bailey O’Brien, Maura Zawaski, Kelsey Callahan
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Colleen Kuhl

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7. Mckee, Kentucky Service Trip
Allison Bentz, Stephanie Henscheid, Rebecca Edwards, Ashley Holubar, Laura Bohorquez Duque, Mary Agnoli, Dustin Scharfbuch, Kalli Miner, Heba Al-Bazboz, Mildred Chihak, Oladipupo Anibire, Nadia Duarte
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Colleen Kuhl

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8. The Chopped Challenge: Deconstructing Education
Dr. Lynn Gallagher and Dr. Lynn G. Albee (Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota)

Whose dish is on the chopping block? Education. Special Education and General Education don’t work. Children are excluded, teachers are not supported, and administration has their hands tied with legislation that is difficult to support as well as enforce. But, education could work if it were deconstructed and realigned to support all stakeholders. We believe the dominant discourse is the ‘fixing’ of education. The answering of “now what?” Who will be accountable? Everyone. This new wave of studies will build on the past research and scholarship. Today’s researchers and tomorrow’s scholars will take past concepts to the next level in attempting to question and answer: what is best for everyone? How can we best prepare and support students to enter the community after school? How can we best create a community of assumption of inclusion? We do not anticipate past research becoming invalid. It is the ground in which the third wave will stand on and become taller. What activist projects will it undertake? Revitalizing education! All students need support at one time or another. A revamped education is possible, and this research is intended to be that first step.

9. Supporting Early Literacy Development Using iPad Apps: Kindergarten Children Learning Letters, Phonemes, and Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondences
Maura Zawaski, Stacy Pollock, Katie Mansfield
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Salyer

Learning to read involves a process of unitization in which words acquired from a child’s experience with speech are integrated with alphabetic and phonological identities to form a unit in lexical memory. This process can be impacted by multiple risk factors such as low SES. Three action research projects conducted with eight low-progress kindergarten children investigated how using iPad apps in combination with off-screen tools could be used to support alphabetic and phonological skills. This research was conducted at a local Title 1 elementary school of 288 students with 89% low SES and a 33% mobility rate. The students were selected by their teachers based on their need for additional instruction. Each kindergartener received twenty minutes of intensive instruction daily for three weeks using specific iPad apps in combination with the off-screen tools. The data included pre- and post-assessments of alphabet, phoneme, and word knowledge; writing samples; and images captured on the iPad. Analysis of the data showed
significant improvement in alphabet knowledge, phoneme segmenting and blending skills, recognition of grapheme-phoneme correspondences, and other phonological skills. The results suggest that using iPad apps with off-screen tools to differentiate instruction for low-progress kindergarten children can contribute to improved early literacy skills.

10. The Government in Education
Eric Volkmer
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Smith

The topic that will be looked at in this paper is the problems associated with government involvement in the educational system of a nation. This paper will be examining the topic from the viewpoints of praxeology and political economy, and it will be dealing primarily with education in the United States. However, it will also be touching on data from other nations in order to show that the problems are universal in nature. Due to the nature of the topic and the overall framework chosen to examine it, under this paper will be a work of theory.

11. How does poverty affect the education of those living in poverty?
Rachael Wettstein
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Lisa Garoutte

This research examines the effect of poverty on education in the United States. Using data from the 2012 General Social Survey (GSS), I analyze the factors that contribute to lower levels of educational attainment and success among those in poverty. Multiple regression is used to consider the relationship between income, parental educational attainment, and educational outcomes of respondents. In doing so, the project sheds light on one of the concrete ways poverty affects life chances.

12. Method for Youth Ministry
Kathryn Paul
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Amanda Osheim

Last semester I worked with a local parish here in Dubuque as a Youth Ministry Intern. My experience was not exactly as I had predicted. My preconceived notion of youth ministry and parish life was a more laid back view. I viewed ministry as something that was easy and just came together. However, I learned that parish life/ministry is very difficult. It’s hard to make sure that everyone is happy with what is happening and making sure that there are various ministries offered for the parishioners. Youth ministry was very different because many of the youth that were in attendance for Religious Education, did not want to be there. In order for ministry to become the best that it can be, each and every person in ministry needs to look at theological reflection. Theological reflection states that we need to listen to each person’s experience, culture, and tradition. While the definition sounds simple, it’s very complicated to put into practice. Each and every person’s experience, tradition, and culture is different and each parish needs to remember those experiences, traditions, and cultures in order to form the best method for their ministry.
13. Sculpting a Dream
Katie Huguelet
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Abigail Behrens

This reflection piece is going to be a creative work in which I fuse together how my identity has been sculpted through the experiential learning opportunities I have had here at Loras College. By peeling apart the different layers to what has influenced my identity, I will demonstrate in this poster session how my journey at Loras College has molded my dream to teach abroad and empowered my desire to continue learning about the world we live in. I will be co-presenting at the Iowa International Education Conference (IIEC) with Maggie Baker, Abbie Behrens, and Carolyn Earner in April. This is an opportunity in which I will share with professionals from the field of higher education my educational experiences at Loras College.

14. Pathways to PR
Carolyn Earner
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Maggie Baker

This reflection piece will be a creative work in which I will synthesize the experiential learning I engaged in as a student at Loras College. I will be co-presenting at the Iowa International Education Conference (IIEC) with Abbie Behrens and Maggie Baker in April. I will be presenting to higher education professionals about my own educational journey at Loras. This poster session will demonstrate how different experiences throughout my time at Loras have shaped my path and my overall education as a Public Relations major.

15. Athletic Trainer-Coach Conflict at the NCAA Division II and III levels
Tyler Beauchamp, Anthony Burke, Eliza Slanker
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Nathan Newman

Context: Athletic Trainer-Coach conflict was described at the NCAA Division I level by Wolverton (2013). This conflict was reported in the form of pressure to return athletes to play too soon following an injury and negative job performance evaluation. Athletic trainer-coach conflict has been linked to increased levels of depression and stress and decreased levels of emotional exhaustion in athletic trainers. This can lead to decreased job satisfaction and retention for the athletic trainer. This conflict has been examined well at the NCAA Division I level. Very few studies have examined the NCAA Division II and III settings (Brumels & Beach, 2008; Kania et al., 2009). Objective: The purpose of this survey was to examine the presence of athletic trainer-coach conflict and normal performance evaluation structure at NCAA Division II and III levels. Design: This study was a randomized descriptive study of athletic trainers at NCAA Division II and III institutions. Participants: The survey was distributed to 353 athletic trainers at the NCAA Division II and III levels. Procedures: NCAA Division II and III colleges and universities were chosen for participation at random. The head athletic trainer at each school was sent an email containing the link for the survey. Interventions: The same survey used by Wolverton (2013) to survey NCAA Division I athletic trainers was utilized in this study. An initial invitation to participate email was sent out in May to participants. Follow up emails were sent in mid-June and at the end of July. The survey was closed in early August. Data for the survey was collected through the use of Survey Monkey. Response rate was 190/353 or 53.8%. Main Outcome Measures: Our main dependent variables were who athletic trainers report to and what criteria they are evaluated on. We also looked at how much say coaches had in the return to play criteria and also have athletic trainers been pressured to return an athlete back to participation from and
injury or a concussion. The data for each survey question was coded and entered into a frequency test in SPSS. Results: NCAA Division II – Athletic Director conducts 80.2% of all ATC evaluations. Only 4.5% of ATCs reported being fired/demoted due to conflict with a coach. 78.4% of ATCs reported pressure for coaches to return athletes to play too soon from an injury. NCAA Division III – Athletic Director conducts 89.5% of all ATC evaluations. Only 2.3% of ATCs reported being fired/demoted due to conflict with the coaching staff. 75% of ATCs reported pressure for coaches to return athletes to play too soon from an injury. Conclusions: From this study we can conclude that athletic trainers at the NCAA II and III levels report to Athletic Directors and Doctors more than the Division I level reported. However, conflict and pressure still exist. Over 60% of athletic trainers reported pressure to return a player to play too soon from an injury. Over 40% reported pressure to return a player with a concussion too soon.


16. Evolution of an Ice Golf Fundraising Event Logo
Miriam McKee
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Wendy Romero

This poster presentation describes a creative independent project undertaken in collaboration with the St. Mark Youth Enrichment non-profit. I created a logo for their annual Ice Golf Classic fundraiser as a freelance, pro bono project. The presentation will document all aspects of the project, including client relationships, research into the audience and atmosphere of the event and of the sponsoring organization, the design process and finally the use of the logo to promote the event and to enhance the event’s ambiance. The poster will focus on the application of creative problem solving skills to explore imagery, typography, and colors as part of the design process.

Matthew DeWane, Lexie Hollahan, Cassidy Terry
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Paul Kohl

This poster session is the work of students in the Identity/Community in Rock & Roll course and consists of examinations of specific times and places in rock music history in which the music coincided with a sense of growing community. Artifacts and examples will be part of the session. Includes examinations of Motown, the British Invasion, California Folk-Rock and Psychedelic Rock, Disco, early Rap/Hip-Hop, Heavy Metal, and Grunge.

18. Folk Rock-Los Angeles, 1965-68
Julian Gallo, Sami Reyes, Eric Schmit
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Paul Kohl

This poster session is the work of students in the Identity/Community in Rock & Roll course and consists of examinations of specific times and places in rock music history in which the music coincided with a sense of growing community. Artifacts and examples will be part of the session.
Includes examinations of Motown, the British Invasion, California Folk-Rock and Psychedelic Rock, Disco, early Rap/Hip-Hop, Heavy Metal, and Grunge.

19. Folding of meta-polyPhenylene Ethynylene (mPPE)
Kaitlin Hefel
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Adam Moser

The folding process is essential for many cellular functions, but not completely understood due to the complexity of biomolecules. Foldamers are synthetic polymers that mimic biological folding and can help us understand the fundamental nature of the folding process. The foldamer, meta-poly Phenylene Ethynylene (mPPE), folds into a helical shape, which is a common motif in proteins and nucleic acids. In this work, mPPE was studied via computational molecular dynamics. These computer simulations allow an atomic level perspective of the mPPE dynamics and were performed with the CHARMM software package. An mPPE foldamer of 12 monomers was generated in a helical conformation in a pure water solution. A video of the simulation was created and analysis was done to observe the folding and unfolding process.

20. Coarse-Grained Modeling of Reverse Micelles
Morgan Rea
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Adam Moser

Though often unnoticed, confined water molecules are ubiquitous in chemical and biological systems, such as within protein pockets, and exhibit non-bulklike behavior in these crowded environments. The non-bulklike behavior of water in the confined environment of a reverse micelle is studied in order to better understand the behavior of water in important biological systems. A one dimensional simulation of a line and a two dimensional simulation of the reverse micelle were produced using a Monte Carlo algorithm with the Glauber acceptance criteria. Overall spin polarization was calculated for the one dimensional model, and a rotational correlation function was employed to study the behavior of each individual water molecule in the two dimensional simulation.

21. Kinetic Control Mechanism: 1,2 vs. 1,4 Addition in Conjugated Dienes
Jason Painter
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Oostendorp

Organic Chemistry textbooks have long used the addition of HBr to 1,3-butadiene as a classic example of kinetic vs. thermodynamic control. At high temperatures the thermodynamically favorable 1,4-addition product predominates. At low temperatures, the less stable 1,2-addition product predominates. The traditional explanation for this is that the activation energy of the 1,2-addition is lower, thus its rate is faster. Some texts, citing a 1979 experiment by Eric Nordlander, are stating that the real reason is what is being called a proximity effect. We are currently charting and will report on the movement towards this explanation in textbooks. In an attempt to better our understanding of this reaction, we are currently studying the addition of HBr to simple alkene systems, such as hexene, and 2,5-dimethyl -2,4-hexadiene. The hexene substrate studies are being conducted to help maximize product yield for the addition of HBr across a double bond. Coupled with this effort, the 2,5-dimethyl -2,4-hexadiene substrate moves the greater charge to carbon 4, allowing us to see if that charge plays a significant role in the determination of product ratios.
Dr. Kenneth McLaughlin

Our differential photometry of the eclipsing binary 68Her show periodic minima in its apparent brightness consistent with a previously reported period. We have completed spectroscopic measurements as a function of the orbital phase with Doppler-shifts of both stars resolved in the hydrogen H-alpha 656.3 nm absorption line while only the more massive and hotter component of this binary system exhibits a significant helium 667.8 nm absorption in our spectra. The Doppler-shifts in this helium line support the radial velocity of the primary component we have deduced from the H-alpha line. Sinusoidal curve-fits to the radial velocities indicate circular orbits with amplitudes that specify a mass ratio for the two stars of 2.72 (with an uncertainty of 3.8%) in agreement with a previously published value. A subtle Doppler shift associated with stellar rotation is evident in our radial velocity curve of the primary component as it begins its eclipse; our modeling suggests that this rotation is synchronous with the orbital motion, a common result due to the expected tidal effects of such a near-contact binary system of orbiting stars.

23. Pitching Machine
Thomas Weidemann, Matthew Ostbloom, Zachery West, Robert Anderson
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kristen Thompson

Our team has designed and built a machine that is able to throw and pitch balls. Such machines are commercially available, but our machine has been designed to work for various types of balls including football, baseball, and softball, as well as being easily moved around. To adapt to different sports, the wheels that accelerate the ball can be set to different angles and different widths to accommodate the ball of a particular sport whereas other commercially made machines are fixed. Current machines lack portability and need to be powered using an outlet. Ours is more easily mobile and runs off of 2-12 volt batteries each supplying one motor.

24. The Toy Hydraulic Car
Gerrand Moody, Carlos Young
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Danial Neebe

For our project we want to solve the need for new toys for kids that appeal to the hip hop generation. The low rider theme music toy car will play popular hip hop music and “dance” to the beat using a micro controller. Our project will be to make a car that has hydraulics. Hydraulics will be controlled in response to a sound detector that will sample the volume of the music and trigger one of the motors on each wheel to cause the car to simulate how the actual hydraulics work on a real car.
Session 4 Poster Presentations: 2:20-3:15pm

Sustainability and Science; Criminal Justice, Violence and Government; Society and History; Community Service
Marie Graber Ballrooms

1. Sustainable neighborhood development and its effects on the poverty issue
Claudia Vivas Baustidas
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Jennifer Smith

This senior project will be a reflection of my research regarding sustainable community development and how it can solve the poverty problem. I will focus mainly on three developing countries around the world, Bangladesh, Colombia, and Kenya. Through the examination of previous approaches when trying to solve the poverty issue I can identify whether or not they have been successful. I will also explain why some of the previous tactics have not worked and offer recommendations which take into account aspects like religion, culture, and geography, among others.

2. Wind Turbine Charging Station
Joshua Kessenich, Samuel Anderson, Shaun Hamilton, Brian Falvey, Matthew Dargis
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kristen Thompson

Our goal was to design a wind turbine that could harness energy from the wind and store the energy in a charging station for students to power their electronic devices. The turbine design we chose is a Savonius style, meaning it rotates on a vertical axis and uses the force from the wind in order to create torque and turn our generator. We chose a Savonius turbine because Loras is an urban environment, which generally has less consistent and lower speed winds. The turbine will be able to turn with wind in any direction and be self-starting at lower speeds than other turbine designs. Our generator charges one 12 Volt battery. The turbine will be 1.58 feet in diameter by 4.5 feet in height. It will be attached to a stand that will be 11.18 feet from the bottom of the turbine to the bottom of the frame which will be safely secured and cemented into the ground. This will allow the structure to be able to withstand winds up to 100 mph. The charging station will be placed at the bottom of the structure and weatherproofed to protect the internal systems and users.

3. Spastic About Plastics (Honors Project)
Morgan Dolan, Margaret Clements, Abigail Kirchner, Cassandra Busch, Christine McDonald
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kristen Thompson

Plastic bags are known to cause harm to the environment. Our goal is to reduce the amount of bags that reach the environment by reducing the use of plastic bags as well as to encourage reuse and recycling. To meet this goal we will educate the Dubuque area on the negative implications and encourage use of alternatives, such as the use of cloth bags, by holding events within the community. We are collaborating with City Council and Green Dubuque.
4. Capturing Carbon Dioxide with Metal-Organic Frameworks  
Nicole Oostendorp  
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Edward Maslowsky

Abstract: Climate change is one of the major environmental problems plaguing Earth. Atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations, especially of carbon dioxide, are at all-time highs. Methods need to be developed to help reduce the amounts of these gases in the atmosphere. The research done in this study looks to using metal organic frameworks as a possible solution to this problem, due to their ability to bind gases within their structures. Metal organic frameworks are a class of porous crystals in which organic molecules link metal containing clusters. The metal organic framework used in this study is synthesized from gamma-cyclodextrin, which has a symmetrical cyclic eight residue glucose structure, and potassium benzoate. Both of these starting materials are renewable and nontoxic. The metal organic framework is then used to study its potential to trap atmospheric carbon dioxide.

5. Cloning zebrafish PACSIN2  
Morgan Thomalla  
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kate Cooper

PACSIN2 (Protein kinase C and casein kinase substrate in neurons protein 2) is a protein that is known to be involved in cytoskeletal organization, vesicle-mediated transport, and possibly clathrin-mediated endocytosis. Based on previous knowledge of PACSIN2, the objective of this project was to look for protein interactions of PACSIN2 with other proteins in Danio rerio (zebrafish). To look for these interactions, the first step was to create a DNA construct that would express zebrafish PACSIN2 with a GST tag. After successfully cloning this gene, it would be possible to look for protein interactions using a GST pull down assay and western blotting.

6. Effect of Overexpression of PCHA in Slug Formation and Phototaxis in Dictyostelium  
Micaela Fosdick  
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kate Cooper

PCH Family proteins are known to play a role in cell migration. In this study, a Dictyostelium model was used to study the PCH family protein PCHA. This particular protein has a human analog: PSTPIP1. In order to learn more about this protein, I studied the effect overexpression of PCHA has on slug formation and motility in Dictyostelium. Different methods were used and perfected for growing cells in order to optimize timing for experiments and prevent contamination. Electroporation was used to insert DNA resulting in the overexpression of PCHA. When the protein is produced, it is tagged with a Green Florescent Protein which causes it to “glow” green. Utilizing these methods, we can determine where in the cell and when (during both single and multi-cellular stages) this protein is produced. This information furthers our understanding of not only PCHA, but also cell migration as a whole.
7. Virology of a Mosaic Virus Infecting *Phytolacca americana*
Douglas Zabler
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Kristen Thompson

Phytolacca americana, more commonly known as poke weed is often found throughout all of North America. Discovery of a mosaic virus infecting a local colony has allowed for the isolation and confirmation of the virus. Furthermore, virology data was collected and an attempt to infect other species of plants was also conducted. Lastly, there was also an isolation of the virus that allowed for more testing of the virus, as well as experimentation with various other species.

8. Theoretical study on the effects of substitution in the Diels-Alder reaction of acetylenic molecules
Emily Sotelo
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Adam Moser

Ring formation and stereochemical control are two essential components in pharmaceutical development. The ring forming Diels-Alder reaction is one of the most important examples, so understanding this is very beneficial. Although a variety of both experimental and theoretical studies have thoroughly investigated the Diels-Alder reaction involving ethylene molecules, there is limited research involving acetylenic compounds. The goal of this research is to gain a better understanding of the thermodynamics and kinetic properties of Diels-Alder reactions involving acetylenic compounds and, more specifically, how various substituents affect the outcome. To accomplish this, quantum chemistry is used to develop a base of results for various substitutions which can provide predictive results for future work.

9. Implementing a Force Field for Foldamers
John Stoppelman
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Adam Moser

Many biomolecules must fold or assemble in order to perform their function, but this process is not well understood due to the complexity of biomolecules. To better understand this, synthetic polymers that have similar folding dynamics to proteins can be studied. For example, research has shown solvent has a similar effect on the folding dynamics of meta-phenylene ethynylene (MPPE) polymers as it does on proteins. One challenge to understanding folding dynamics is that it is very hard to get a detailed picture of the folding process using experimental techniques. In this study, atomic detailed computer simulations of MPPE polymers are performed to aid in understanding folding, and eventually, to comprehend how biological molecules fold.

10. Firefighting Robot
Anthony Cloe, Blake Thurston
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Danial Neebel

Firefighting is an extremely dangerous, but important occupation. Technology has finally bridged the gap between firefighting and robotics allowing for safer methods of firefighting. Rather than endearing human lives, a robot can traverse into a dangerous environment, and deploy fire extinguishing tactics. Robots and machines designed to find and put out fires, could one day work alongside firefighters, which in turn can greatly reduce the risk of injury to victims and the firefighter’s themselves. Using a combination of computer programming, basic circuits, motors,
and building materials, the robot we have created seeks out infrared "hot spots," represented by a small candle, in a building or room. Once the robot has pinpointed the location of the fire, it will activate a device to extinguish it. The process is then completely autonomous, and essentially requires minimal human interaction.

11. Social Class Influencing Views of Police Aggression
Jacob Wernimont
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Lisa Garoutte

This research project tests the relationship between social class and opinions about the acceptability of aggressive behavior by police officers. Social learning theory will be tested with this research project in order to explore the idea that social influences, in this case, social class will predict a person’s opinion on police aggression. The data that will be used is from the General Social Survey in 2010. There is specific data that will be looked at from this survey regarding a person’s social class and different questions asked about police aggression in specific situations. The analysis of this data will include a chi-square test along with a cross-tabulation. There has been no previous research done on this specific topic in relation to social class. The research found focuses on specific events related to officer’s aggression and the consequences of that aggression. This project will give insight on how social class can impact the views of people on certain topics such as police aggression.

12. "La Experiencia de los Jóvenes Latinos en El Sistema de Justicia Criminal Estadounidense"
Hailey Varner
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Dana Livingston

My research topic centered around is the rising Latino population in the criminal justice system in the United States, specifically the juvenile population. My internship at the Public Defender’s Office in Dubuque is what inspired me to research this topic. There I noticed numerous Spanish-speaking clients without the ability to understand what was going on with their cases and without access to resources to help them better understand. First, I will find out why this population has been increasing in recent years as well as the different things that have been influencing this increase. I would also like to find out what the experience in the system is like for Spanish-speakers in cities other than Dubuque. I will do this by researching what services exist for this population, whether or not they are easy to access, how adequate or inadequate they are, and if anything is happening to change and/or improve these services. Lastly, I will do my own original qualitative research by speaking with and interviewing professionals in the field in both the Dubuque community as well as other communities.

13. The Effect of Community Violence on Adolescent Development
Anna Johnson
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Biniv Maskay

The development during the adolescent years of an individual has a profound impact on that individual’s ability to perform academically and socially therefore affecting levels of professional success later on in life. This paper analyzes the ways with which being exposed to community violence early on in life negatively affects the physical and psychological wellbeing of those individuals. This exposure has been shown to cause an increase in the development of mental illnesses, a degradation in the health of such individuals, a hindrance on academic performance,
and ultimately the independence and wellbeing in the areas of financial stability and professional success. While this issue has shown its relevance in the youth of crime-driven areas, there is hope for change. This paper also researches policies that are dedicated to safeguard adolescents from the acts of community violence. Implementation of a variety of programs aimed to cut down the violence at its source, provision of areas of safety for those children, and assisting them to establish connections with their schools are some of the ways that have proved to be successful in improving the lives of many adolescents suffering from this issue that is impacting communities all across America.

14. Proposing a bill for the State Legislature
Michelle Wolfe, Nathan Fuller, Anna Nash, Joshua Arnold
Advisor/Mentor: Prof. Michelle Bechen

Each spring in Social Policy, a required course for social work majors, students travel to Des Moines to participate in Legislative Day. Students and faculty meet with legislators to discuss issues important to social work and social welfare as well as lobby legislators. In the weeks leading up to Legislative Day, students research an area of interest, find a bill related to the topic, and prepare informational brochures and talking points for their legislators. This session, students are taking the initiative to propose to legislators on the issue of substance abuse, specifically, heroin. They will be advocating and educating in the hopes a bill will be introduced next year to address this important issue. In the year 2013, there were 72 drug overdose emergency visits, and 44 deaths due to opioid overdose in Iowa. Naloxone, an opioid antagonist that is used to reverse the effects of opioid overdoses, prevents death through emergency injection. In Iowa, the rate of opioid overdose has steadily increased, however the accessibility of Naloxone is still minimal. With the rise of prescription drugs leading to the recreational use of heroin, access to Naloxone is a must have.

15. “In Defense of the Indians”: A Brief History and Toulmin Argument of Bartolome de Las Casas and his Methods
Levi Bernhard
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Salvaterra

For a class in my first semester, entitled U.S. History to 1877, each of the students had to complete a Toulmin research paper for the end of the semester. After a brief discussion of Bartolome de Las Casas and his defense of Native Americans, I decided to learn more and explore what his specific influences were. In the end, I used primary resources translated into English and secondary analyses to determine that Las Casas thought through his answers, and used intellect rather than emotion to argue his case. His arguments, in which he stated that Native Americans were not barbarians, that the Spanish had an insufficient excuse to persecute them because they were not Catholic, that the Spanish were slaughtering the “innocent along with the guilty,” and that the Empire needed to reform itself so that all human beings were respected, whether they were Europeans or not. Through his arguments and his influences, Las Casas eventually came to be know as one of the earliest civil rights activists, and especially holds influence over people from Latin America and Spain. Because this paper also had to consist of an argument, in addition to providing a brief history and background of Las Casas, I also had to argue that he honestly meant and understood what he was saying, and that he not only took his evidence from his personal experiences but also from his intellectual experiences. Following the assignment, my professor suggested that I take a history poster to the Loras Legacy Symposium, so that I could enlighten others as to what I learned. I hope to do a little more research on my
subject, refine my paper, and compile a poster that would allow a fellow college student to understand my topic. Finally, I would also be able to present the project to the best of my ability through my research skills and my responses to questions or concerns from others.

16. A Lifelong Rivarly: The Events Leading up to the Duel Between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr
Tara Shingler
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. David Salvaterra

This presentation is about the events leading up to the duel between Alexander Hamilton and Vice President Aaron Burr that occurred on July 11, 1804. Everyone knows that these two men had opposing viewpoints and decided to duel. However what is unknown to most is what exactly they were feuding about and what events led up to the mutual feeling of such hatred that they thought this duel was necessary. My presentation follows the journey from the beginning of their relationship all the way to the duel that ended the life of Hamilton.

17. Defining Consent & Acceptance of Non-consensual Sexual Behaviors
Jessica LaLonde
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Lisa Garoutte

This research examines how one’s definition of consent affects acceptance of non-consensual sexual behaviors. More specifically, my hypothesis is that an individual’s understanding of consent will affect the acceptance of non-consensual sexual behaviors of college students. Approximately 40-60 Loras College students will watch four video clips taken from T.V. shows and movies that illustrate the beginning of scenes in which sexual behavior is occurring. After each question, they will decide whether they believe consent was given and whether or not the situation was acceptable. Qualitative and quantitative content coding will be used to find the relationship between these two variables. This study seeks to better understand how college students understand sexual misconduct, a prominent issue on all college campuses, so as to guide possible solutions to the problem.

18. Race, Class, and Social Ties in Residentially Segregated Communities
John Mitchell
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Lisa Garoutte

This project examines patterns of residential segregation by analyzing factors such as race and socioeconomic class. Utilizing the 1994 Multi-City Study of Urban Inequality, this project dives into the debate about the primary determinants of residential segregation. The theoretical approaches of Wilson and Massey are applied to the four cities studied in the MCSUI: Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, and Los Angeles, while also drawing from new theories in urban sociology that seek to explain social ties in cities such as Castells and Tonnies. This study seeks to explain the reasons why neighborhoods become segregated by examining participants’ responses pertaining to desirability in communities, and it takes this information in order to evaluate potential reasons why certain areas are more desirable for others. Similarly, it examines whether or not desires to live in certain areas are universal across races and social classes, or whether these differ within races and social classes. Chi-square analyses are used to better understand these patterns. This research ultimately seeks to contribute to the field of urban sociology by analyzing patterns of residential segregation as it is exhibited in these four cities.
19. Camden, New Jersey Service Trip
Katelyn Franzen, Michael McAndrew, Patricia McCarthy, Casey Flack, Morgan Drew, Kelli Koppes, Aleah Erenberger, Anne Evans, Rebecca Draus
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Colleen Kuhl

After venturing away from campus and having an unforgettable experience the participants of the 2014-2015 Service Trips hope to display what they experienced on their respective trips. In hopes of sharing with the Loras College Community, we are looking to have each team present a different poster presentation on their trip. This will allow the participants to share with their peers and others their findings of taking a week to give of themselves in the form of service. We hope that this will spark an interest in others to serve as well as to learn about what other Duhawks have done. The posters will be created by the Service Trip Student Coordinators Andrea Enda & Hannah Way and will be presented by the participants of the trip.

20. Morton, Mississippi Service Trip
Kyle Marugg, Chelsea McCarraher, Zachary Schroeder, Allison Klimesh, Jacalyn Russ, Nathaniel Kapraun, Tianna Sunderland, Katie Mansfield, Mary Dodson
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Colleen Kuhl

After venturing away from campus and having an unforgettable experience the participants of the 2014-2015 Service Trips hope to display what they experienced on their respective trips. In hopes of sharing with the Loras College Community, we are looking to have each team present a different poster presentation on their trip. This will allow the participants to share with their peers and others their findings of taking a week to give of themselves in the form of service. We hope that this will spark an interest in others to serve as well as to learn about what other Duhawks have done. The posters will be created by the Service Trip Student Coordinators Andrea Enda & Hannah Way and will be presented by the participants of the trip.

21. Washington DC/Baltimore Peacemakers Social Action Trip
Melissa Wachuta, Samantha Eckrich, Hermes Ruiz, Mary Phillips, Alex Leigh, Seabelo Montwedi, Emily Nelson, Hannah Way, Jacqueline Ochoa Arroyo
Advisor/Mentor: Ms. Anastacia McDermott

This presentation will include student participants sharing of their experience learning about nonviolence, civil-disobedience, community organizing, and social action through their participation in the DC/Baltimore Peacemakers social action trip.

22. Rap/Hip-Hop-Bronx, 1979-82
Gina Dacy, Jeffrey Fredricks, Kaitlyn Kutsch
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Paul Kohl

This poster session is the work of students in the Identity/Community in Rock & Roll course and consists of examinations of specific times and places in rock music history in which the music coincided with a sense of growing community. Artifacts and examples will be part of the session. Includes examinations of Motown, the British Invasion, California Folk-Rock and Psychedelic Rock, Disco, early Rap/Hip-Hop, Heavy Metal, and Grunge.
23. Motown Detroit
Samantha Cihak, Carolyn Earner, Bryanna Jacque
Advisor/Mentor: Dr. Paul Kohl

This poster session is the work of students in the Identity/Community in Rock & Roll course and consists of examinations of specific times and places in rock music history in which the music coincided with a sense of growing community. Artifacts and examples will be part of the session. Includes examinations of Motown, the British Invasion, California Folk-Rock and Psychedelic Rock, Disco, early Rap/Hip-Hop, Heavy Metal, and Grunge.