

Third Annual Honors Conference

April 27-28, 2006

Life Sciences Building

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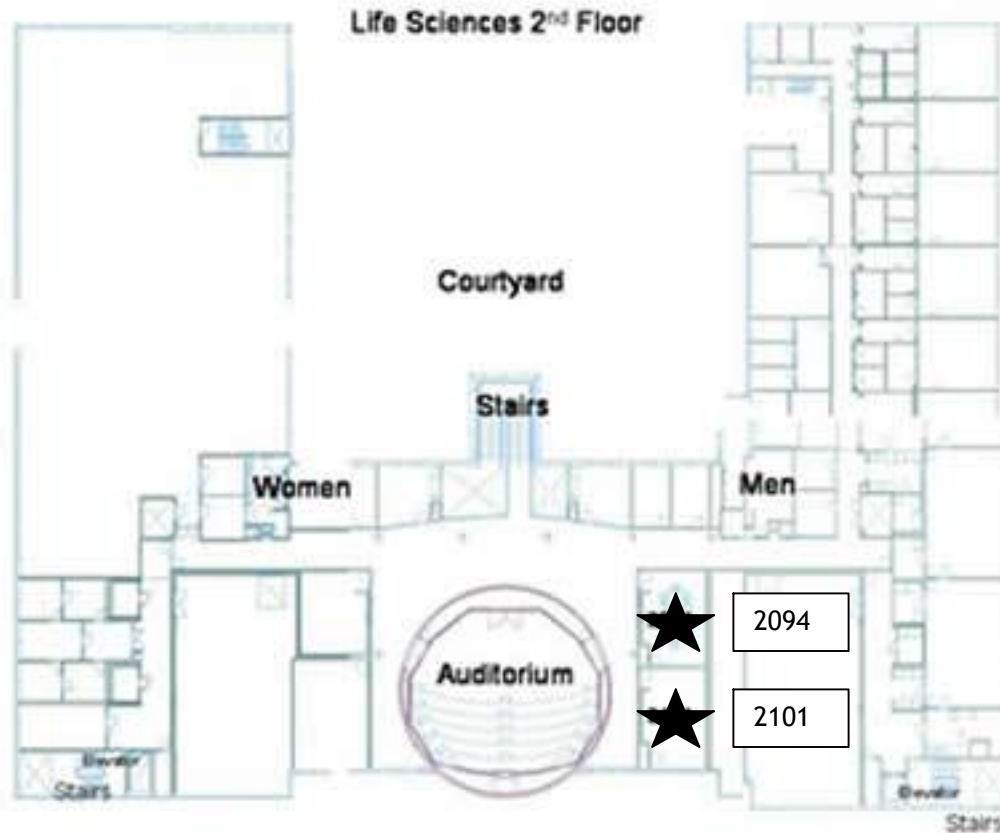
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Conference Site Map



April 27 and April 28 Poster Presenters

- Alicia Babson, "Estrogen and Progesterone Enhance Learning of Young Adult and Menopausal Rats in the Object Recognition Task."
Caryn Duffy, "Estrogens and Progestins Enhance Learning in the Object Placement Task."
Laura Fattaruso, "War of Words: Discourse on the Iraq War through Letters to the Editor."
Janet Heuring, "Seizures During Early Development and/or Adult Produce Reproductive Endocrine Dysfunction."
Jennifer Higgins, "Family Violence Exposure and Later Adjustment: Role of the Physiological Response to Interpersonal Stress."
Katie Himmelfarb, "Feminism and Fiber Arts."
Marielle McKasty, "Gendering Technology Consumerism: Is Jill Getting Jacked?"
Sheng Wang, "Japan's Influence on the World Economy in the 1970s and 1980s."
Ken Weinberg, "Lighting Design of *Trojan Women*."

Thursday, April 27

8:00-8:30 Open area outside Auditorium
Continental breakfast

8:30-8:50 Auditorium
Welcome: Associate Dean Vivien Ng
Opening Remarks: Vice Provost Sue Faerman

9:00-10:30 Concurrent Sessions

Session 1 Room 2101
Philosophy, Politics, and Religion
Moderator: Katie Himmelfarb
Presenters:
Justin Morgan, "Nietzsche and the Rise of the Individual."
Erin Cunningham, "Comparative Political Theory: An Exploration of Rousseau and Confucius."
Stephanie Lin, "Buddhist Women in Contemporary Taiwan."

Session 2 Room 2094
Global Interventions
Moderator: David Warren
Presenters:
Libby Becker, "Midwifery Today and Tomorrow: A Global Perspective."
Wing-yin Tse, "The Hong Kong Government's Intervention in the Hong Kong Stock Market during the Asian Financial Crisis, 1997-1998."
Akemi Terano, "Commercialized Male Sexual Exploitation: Japan, the U.S., and the Global 'Sex' Industry."

10:45-12:05 Concurrent Sessions

Session 3 Room 2101
Government, Politics, and Civil Society
Moderator: Erika Snyder
Presenters:
E. Scott Weinberger, "Non-Governmental Organizations and their Impact on Peace Processes in the Post-Soviet World."
Steve Pampinella, "The Legacy of Civil War: How Social Capital Obstructs Peace in War-Shattered States."

Session 4 Room 2094
Limits of Political Authority and Power
Moderator:
Presenters:
Charles Albanetti, "The Speaker of the House of Representatives: His Influence on Legislation."
Ryan Roberts, "Effective Leadership of Regulatory Agencies: A Case Study of Chairmen William E. Kennard and Michael K. Powell."

Lisa Burke, "'Out' the Public and Roust a Judge: A Critical Examination of Public Opinion, The Media, and Judicial Reconstitution in Washington, 1974-2004."

12:10-1:00 Life Sciences Building Courtyard
Lunch

1:15-2:45 Concurrent Sessions

Session 5 Room 2101
De-coding Terrorism and the War on Terror
Moderator: Rebecca Howard
Presenters:
Nicholas Ference, "A Response to Terror: Privacy in Democracies."
Rebecca Wunning, "An Exploratory Conceptual Analysis of the Ability of the American Criminal Justice System to Adequately Respond to the Contemporary Terrorist Threat."
Seth A. Newfang, "Palestinian Terrorist Networks."

Session 6 Room 2094
Social Scripts
Moderator: Libby Becker
Presenters:
Jaclyn DeChiro, "Femmes Transgressing Gender."
Leigh Vandebogart, "Performative Violence as Catharsis: Analyzing Feminist Expression and Representation within Cultural Texts."
Sara Querbes, "How to Mint an American Girl."

3:00-4:30 Concurrent Sessions

Session 7 Room 2101
The Creative Spirit, Part One
Moderator: Jennifer Staski
Patrick Shairs, "Thinking New Englandly: Reconstructing Robert Frost's Poetics."
Helen Taylor, "Self-Employment, Conspiracy, and Self-Preservation from Quixote to the 21st Century."
Sam Estabrooks and Kerri Valsey. Title TBA

Session 8 Room 2094
Cultures of Cyberspace
Moderator: Rebecca Howard
Presenters:
Seth Marin and Andrew Wong, "Interactive Multi-Media Collaboration."
Marielle McKasty, Angie Torres, Libby Becker, Nicole Lee Wan, Jennifer Punch, Joanna Abad, Sara Querbes, "*transcending silence.....*"
David Haeselin, "Flexibility and Rising to the Surface: The Many Avenues of Resistance on the Internet."

Friday, April 28

8:00-8:30 Open area outside Auditorium
Continental breakfast

8:30-10:00 Concurrent Sessions

Session 9 Room 2101
Hands-on Science, Part One

Moderator: Rebecca Ward

Presenters:

Laura Fredriksen, "Early Events in Lysozyme Fibrillation: Kinetics and Temperature Dependence Study."

Jennifer Taylor, "Biphenyl-4,4'-Dicarboxylic Acid: Solubility in Water as a Function of Ph."

Terrance Beckett, "Miso: A Fermented Probiotic Food."

Session 10 Room 2094
Politics and Political Discourse

Moderator: Jessica Vervaeet

Presenters:

Kyle Arnone, "Coalescing Borders: Historical Lessons from Outsourcing."

Lana Bunning, "One Nation, Two Cultures: Political Correctness/Censorship in Higher Education."

Elizabeth Quinn Gray, "Socrates and Martin Luther King Jr. on the Moral Obligation to Obey the Law."

10:15-11:35 Concurrent Sessions

Session 11 Room 2101
Hands-on Science, Part Two

Moderator: Laura Frederiksen

Presenters:

David Jayez, "Incorporation of Quantum Dots to PMMA Derived Polymers and Effects on Photoluminescence Intensity."

Nicholas Fahrenkopf, "An Introduction to Current Research Topics in Integrated Circuit Manufacturing - FET Operation and Scaling."

Gennaro Calabrese, Title TBA

Session 12 Room 2094
Cultural Scripts, Social Scripts

Moderator: Libby Becker

Presenters:

Alissa Credidio, "The Effects of Incarceration on Women and their Children."

Dana Kuefner, "The Role of Family, Peers, and Neighborhood Factors on Delinquent Behavior Among Low-Income Latino Adolescents."

11:40-12:30 Life Sciences Building Courtyard
Lunch

12:45-2:15 Concurrent Sessions

Session 13 Room 2101
Hands-on Science, Part Three

Moderator: Kyle Arnone

Presenters:

Karen Rieck, "Ice/Hydrohalite Crystallization Structures in Sub-Eutectic Freezing in the System NaCl-H₂O and Possible Implications to the Properties of Frozen Brines in Europa: A Preliminary Report."

Wendy Chan, "Playing With Gigantic Bismuth Clusters."

Michael Klein, Title TBA

Session 14 Room 2094
The Creative Spirit, Part Two

Moderator: Barbara Chepaitis

Presenters:

Jessica Clever, "If Your Life Were a Book, Would Anyone Want to Read it?"

Oren Silverman, "Towards an Appropriation Poetics: Readings from *Circa* and Accompanying Essays."

LeeFrances Rappaport, "Creating Historical Fiction Based on Alexander Kerensky."

2:30-4:00 Concurrent Sessions

Session 15 Room 2101
De-coding Popular Culture

Moderator: Shannon Monnat

Presenters:

William Whalen, "Usin' My Religion: Tupac Shakur's Self-Evacuating Discourse in Search of the G."

Vincent Porfirio, "The Perversion of the Father: Polanski, Lacanian Theory, Zizek and Film Noir."

Kira Brady, "'Making Waves in a No Wake Zone': Redneck Feminism and Popular Country Music."

Session 16 Room 2094
Dangerous Politics

Moderator: David Warren

Presenters:

Sean Bennett, "No Way to Treat a Guest: A Study of Housing and Working Conditions of Guestworkers Under the H2A Program."

Kimberly McAdams, "The Great Migration: Effects on Mexico and U.S. Concerns."

4:15-4:30 Room 1143

Closing ceremony

Vivien Ng, Associate Dean for Honors

Lynn Videka, Vice President for Research

Session 1: Politics, Philosophy, and Religion

Justin Morgan, "Nietzsche and the Rise of the Individual" (Political Science Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Charles Tarlton

Abstract: The works of the philosopher Nietzsche conceptualized a completely changed dynamic between the individual and society. For one thing, Nietzsche exalted the individual as the most important unit in the social sphere. With the spread of such ideas as Nietzsche expressed, people realized that their prime loyalty lay not to the state or the clan, but to themselves, and it was this radical notion that truly ushered in the modern era. Nietzsche's ideal, the "Overman," invents his - or her - own values, thus placing himself or herself outside and above the constraints of society. I would like to explore the consequences, both beneficial and negative, of the "Overman," a figure who, if and when he/she arises, must be a sort of passive aggressive anarchist. I would also like to explore the concept of the "last man," and discuss why our society, which offers the perfect soil for the outgrowth of "Overpeople," let us say, is churning out wave after wave of "last men."

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Erin Cunningham, "Comparative Political Theory: An Exploration of Rousseau and Confucius." (Political Science Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Charles Tarlton

Abstract: European political theorists are the most well known, but there is so much wisdom and insight relevant to political theory that is to be found in literature and philosophy belonging to other areas of the world, as well. When we compare Western and non-Western philosophers, we discover differences in perspectives and similarities. Exploring ideas from the works of Jean-Jacques Rousseau of Geneva and Confucius of China is an exciting opportunity to not only gain an understanding of each man's work separately, but to see what can be gained from their mutual engagement. Rousseau wrote prodigiously on many subjects and his collected works include *The Social Contract* and the *Émile*. Confucius was very active in governments in China during his lifetime, and his works include the *Analects*. Taking ideas from each man's work and opposing them to explore their similarities, differences, relationships and echoes is an opportunity to not only delve into what each man was trying to say, to not only see what they have to say in relation to each other, but also to examine our own Western relationship to the texts in a deeper way than if we just considered each thinker apart from the other. The cultural character of the differences between Rousseau and Confucius makes this mutual engagement of their ideas even more provocative.

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Stephanie Lin, "Buddhist Women in Contemporary Taiwan" (portion of East Asian Studies Honors Thesis; Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Mark Blum

Abstract: Over the past few decades, Buddhism in Taiwan has undergone a remarkable revival, largely due to the development of humanistic Buddhism (*renjian fojiao*) as promoted by Taiwan's prominent Buddhist organizations. Humanistic Buddhism can be seen as a blend of tradition and modernity. It seeks to redefine Buddhist practice by emphasizing a return to the Buddha's original teachings of compassionate social action and promotes the building of a Pure Land on Earth. While Taiwan's Buddhist organizations are huge institutions with millions of followers and modern state-of-the-art facilities, their leaders promote traditional values and Confucian notions of social ordering. An interesting phenomenon that has developed alongside the popularization of humanistic Buddhism in Taiwan is the large number of female Buddhist participants. Nuns make up at least 75% of the clerical population, and furthermore, approximately one third of the nuns is under the age of thirty and holds either a professional diploma or graduate degree. The lay population is also overwhelmingly female. This presentation will explore why so many women have been attracted to Buddhism in contemporary Taiwan.

This presentation is drawn from a major section of my East Asian Studies honors thesis, which is titled "Buddhism in Contemporary Taiwan: The Path to Modernity."

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Session 2: Global Interventions

Libby Becker - "Midwifery Today and Tomorrow: A Global Perspective."

Abstract: This project is going to focus on the value and viability of midwifery in a global context today. I want to explore the social and political landscapes within 1st and 3rd world countries in order to analyze the relationships between the issues of race, class and gender, the professionalization of medicine, and the delivery of reproductive healthcare services. A few examples of the 1st and 3rd world hot spots from which I will draw conclusions are urban and rural Canada, Missouri, and rural Morocco. I want to frame the debates about midwifery within the context of the historical controversies that have shaped medicine-the profession and the practice-throughout the world, giving special consideration to the areas of the world that have most deeply affected midwifery. I also want to focus on the intellectual debates surrounding appropriate midwifery training; I would like to emphasize the importance of the multi-level debate and intersectional analysis taking place in various medical communities around the world. Thus far, I have found a number of sources from studies of the historical impacts on midwifery, as well as the current political and social climates within specific areas of concern in the world. My research will culminate in a paper detailing the midwifery debates mentioned above and highlighting the differences that arise in the debates as a result of the differing constraints faced by 1st and 3rd world countries.

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Wing-yin Tse - "The Hong Kong Government's Intervention in the Hong Kong Stock Market during the Asian Financial Crisis, 1997-1998." (Economics Senior Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Bruce Dieffenbach

Abstract: I intend to provide an informational summary of my senior honors research paper on the topic of the Hong Kong's government unprecedented intervention during the Asian financial crisis in 1997-98. During 1997 to 98, the speculative attack on the East Asian region resulted in devastating the Asian financial crisis, causing the collapse of Asian stock markets and the successive depreciation of domestic currencies. Though Hong Kong has long renown of its most developed economy in the region, it still underwent recession owing to the collapses of the neighboring countries. Therefore, during October 1997 to August 1998, violating its well-known open and free market policy, the Hong Kong government launched a world-shock strategy: spending USD20 billion in to prop up the stock market. Such a move ended the two-year speculative attack in the Asian region. In the Asian financial crisis, Hong Kong was the only non-depreciated area in the Asian region. And it fended off the speculators alone while the neighboring countries successively surrendered the attempt of sustaining the domestic currencies. However, Hong Kong is often neglected in the discussions of the Asian turmoil. In the report, I will first cover the background of Hong Kong's economy. Then, I will present how and why the Hong Kong's government intervened the stock market. Then, I will turn to influence of the intervention and the recovery of Hong Kong's economy.

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Akemi Terano - "Commercialized Male Sexual Exploitation: Japan, the U.S., and the Global 'Sex' Industry."

Abstract: Each year, a conservatively estimated 225,000 women and children in Southeast Asia become victims of sex trafficking. Many are sent to Japan. Needless to say, sexual slavery is not a problem exclusive to Asia. The problem takes various forms – within countries, across borders, continents, oceans – in a word, is global, although this word obscures profound differences between and within world regions. Sex trafficking and prostitution in its myriad forms (including porn) are fundamentally related. In prostitution, “men create the demand, and women are the supply” – and “sex trafficking ensures a line of supply.” On these premises, I examine the “sex” (-ual exploitation) industry in Japan by focusing on trafficked girls and women, and in particular, the case of one Thai woman, Urairat Soimee. I also explore the sexualized ethnic “Othering” of foreign women within the Japanese “sex” industry. I then compare what I find with the situation in the United States. Lastly, I examine the global “sex” industry, enabled by cutting-edge technology (i.e., on-line prostitution), with the intent of exposing the hyper-individualistic strain that undermines the liberals’ defense of prostitution as simply one kind of work (i.e., “sex work”). I conclude by describing Swedish law in this realm as exemplary, and stressing the importance in reclaiming ‘victimhood’ when referring to the commodified sexual exploitation of girls and women, with the ultimate aim of contributing to the elimination of prostitution.

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Session 3: Government, Politics, and Civil Society

E. Scott Weinberger - "Non-Governmental Organizations and their Affect on Peace Processes in the Post-Soviet World." (Political Science Senior Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Victor Asal

Abstract: To determine if non-governmental organizations are beneficial to peace processes in the Post Soviet world, each case of conflict since the fall of the Soviet Union is investigated to see what and how many NGO's took part in the peace process. Each conflict is then coded to determine if the conflict is settled, contained, or ongoing. Research shows that the effect that NGO's have in the peace processes after the fall of the Soviet Union is regional. However, a statistically significant relationship is shown that suggests that 1. NGO's are essential in establishing peace 2. Too many NGO's operating in a specific conflict zone does not increase the likelihood of peace and 3. Conflict zones with the complete absence of NGO's are almost always states where conflicts are ongoing.

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Steve Pampinella - "The Legacy of Civil War: How Social Capital Obstructs Peace in War-Shattered States." (Political Science Senior Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Victor Asal

Abstract: This paper hypothesizes that the capacity of civil war to structurally warp societies constitutes the greatest obstacle to peace building and stable government. A conceptual framework is developed that identifies agent motive, collective identity, and belligerent leadership as independent variables that determine the qualitative value of belligerent cohesion in civil war. These variables determine the quality of the dependent variable: the presence of exclusive "bonding" social capital that creates the social cleavages along which conflict erupts. This first variable establishes the presence of greed or grievance as causes of motivation to engage in warfare. Collectively, individuals in organizations that wage war acquire specific identities from war participation. This identity is derived from the economic, political, and social relationship between organization elites and the organization mass. Both types of actors have specific obligations in war-making forces, and identity is derived from the demand and supply of obligations between elites and masses. This relationship takes the form of a patron-client system, where elites pursue resources and distribute them to select individuals in exchange for support. The third variable, leadership, looks at the structure, motives, and actions of patron-elites who use their patronage networks to motivate the masses to support and fight for their interests.

The dependent variable, bonding social capital, will be measured for its capacity to horizontally divide and reorder society into exclusive networks of cooperation. The motives of individuals, the identities they possess, and the elites that compel followers to war all determine the exclusivity of community interaction. When institutionalized through patron-client relationships and "incentive networks," we can use case studies to analyze the vertical structure of belligerent organizations and causal mechanisms (interaction of three IVs) that interact to create this structure. Process tracing is used in each case do demonstrate how causal mechanisms operate.

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Session 4: Limits of Political Authority and Power

Charles Albanetti - "The Speaker of the House of Representatives: His Influence on Legislation." (Political Science Senior Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Michael Malbin

Abstract: The Speaker of the House of Representatives is an institution that has the ability to wield great power over lawmaking in the United States. The Speaker has many institutional prerogatives he can use to control how bills travel through the legislative process. A Speaker's leadership style may also have great influence over the effectiveness with which he uses the institutional prerogatives provided to him. In addition to a review of the most prominent theories on legislative leadership, the two most recent Speakers, Newt Gingrich and Dennis Hastert, are analyzed in terms of their respective tenures as Speaker of the House, to determine how these theories are put into practice by two very different leaders, both of whom confronted successes and failures in a similar political climate via very different leadership styles. Through analysis of the power of appointment to committee chairmanships, control over the rules committee, and chronologically-based party unity scores, it can be determined that a Speaker's influence on legislation (and his success in accomplishing his legislative goals) has a weaker connection to a publicly presumed individual leadership style than to political climate, media influence, and quantitative aggressiveness in use of institutional prerogatives. These revelations will allow us to consider the strength of the institution itself, rather than the strength of the man occupying the office, in attempting to determine the effectiveness of a Speaker.

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Ryan Roberts - "Effective Leadership of Regulatory Agencies: A Case Study of Chairmen William E. Kennard and Michael K. Powell." (Political Science Senior Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Michael Malbin

Abstract: The chairmanship of the Federal Communications Commission is a highly sought after regulatory position. The chairman has a tremendous amount of power to initiate telecommunications policy to advance his or her political agenda. However, certain chairmen have been more effective than others in accomplishing their policy goals. Chairman William Kennard proved to be ineffective in accomplishing his policy goals relating to the broadcast advertisement of hard liquor, free airtime for political candidates, and Low Power FM radio. In contrast, Chairman Michael Powell was highly successful in pursuing his administration's agenda, including homeland security initiatives, deregulation of media ownership, and a crackdown on broadcast indecency. Two conclusions can be found based on the results of the case study. Chairmen were more successful when pursuing their own policy initiatives, instead of succumbing to the priorities of external influences. Also, the political atmosphere was a key factor in determining the success of a policy initiative. The implications of this research are clear, to be an effective leader you must be passionate about your policy agenda, as well as have some luck on your side.

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Lisa Burke - "'Out' the Public and Roust a Judge: A Critical Examination of Public Opinion, The Media, and Judicial Reconstitution in Washington, 1974-2004."

Abstract: This paper looks at the regulatory power of the Washington State Judiciary in mitigating the contestation surrounding same sex marriage litigation. More fundamentally, it examines the constraining power of public opinion on the Washington State Judiciary, as well as on public policy regarding same sex marriage. The paper also examines the media within the State of Washington, as well as media at the national level, to demonstrate the influence media has upon constructing political discourse on the topic of same sex marriage. By utilizing a Poisson Regression, the research illustrates how the proliferation of same sex news media has created a change in judicial opinion over time. This paper argues that such change (on behalf of the public) signals a change to the state judiciary (via the media), such that outcomes rendered (based on formal law) are amended irrespective of an amendment in formal law. In effect, the paper shows that absent any change in judicial power, precedent, or claims to contestation, there is an obvious change in judicial outcomes over time. The research suggests that such change is a byproduct of variable public opinion paradigms, and variable issue frames elaborated by the media.

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Session 5: De-coding Terrorism and the War on Terror

Nicholas Ference - "A Response to Terror: Privacy in Democracies." (Political Science Senior Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Victor Asal

Abstract: In the immediate wake of September 11, legislation and executive orders were passed in an attempt to counter the threat of terrorism at the expense of privacy. There is an important question surrounding these actions in the name of Homeland Security and Homeland Defense, specifically, will the abridgement of traditional rights to privacy in a democracy actually stop terrorism? There have been fleeting analogies made about the World Trade Center Bombing in 1993 and the Oklahoma City Bombing of 1995 that suggest not; however, analogies can also be made to counter this argument. In order to move beyond simple analogies, statistical analysis will be used to analyze the actual state of privacy in forty-seven democracies around the world before and after September 11 as compared to the corresponding number of terrorist incidents. The purpose of this analysis is to see if abridging privacy in democracies for intelligence and investigative uses will decrease corresponding terrorism.

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Rebecca Wunning – "An Exploratory Conceptual Analysis of the Ability of the American Criminal Justice System to Adequately Respond to the Contemporary Terrorist Threat."

Abstract: Shortly after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, President George W. Bush declared war on terrorism. Some Americans viewed this as a true declaration of war comparable with wars of the past. For example, *New York Times* columnist, Thomas Friedman, believes that the war on terrorism is the third great struggle against totalitarianism and is comparable to World War II and the Cold War. There are also others who argue that the current "war on terror" is not a real war, but rather a metaphor applied to a social problem. Since proponents of this idea view the "war on terror" no differently than the "war on drugs" declared in the 1990's by Republican and Democratic presidents, they argue that terrorist incidents should be viewed as violations of the criminal law, not as their own separate issue. In essence, these proponents assert that terrorists should be treated in the same manner as criminals. Consequently, they believe responses to terrorist incidents occurring domestically should be handled by law enforcement and the modern criminal justice system. Placing the responsibility of dealing with terrorism in the hands of the criminal justice system (viewing it through the crime model)

provides terrorists with the same unalienable rights and constitutional principles afforded to every American citizen and views terrorists as people who can be deterred or changed through punishment. While affording these privileges and viewing terrorists as having the potential to change has its benefits, it could also potentially have many negative consequences. This essay will examine in detail the potential strengths and weaknesses of applying the crime model to the modern terrorism threat.

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Seth A. Newfang - "Palestinian Terrorist Networks." (Political Science Senior Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Victor Asal

Abstract: Terrorism is evolving. After 9/11, Western governments began putting more pressure on large terrorist organizations, such as al Qaeda and Hamas, forcing them to change their organizational structure. These large, centralized, bureaucratic terrorist organizations rallied around prominent leaders who dictated the actions that the organizations would take. These leaders were able to create and effectively control terrorist regimes to carry out attacks. However, with the new emphasis on security and the willingness of Western societies to hunt terrorist organizations in their homeland, these groups are fundamentally changing their organizational structure. What was once a large, centralized terrorist organization is now changing into smaller, decentralized groups which act on their own accord. Though this change has created more isolation between terrorists, there is still an overlapping of goals and cooperation between the different organizations. Cooperation can exist on several different levels including funding, equipment, and training. This holds true for Palestinian terrorist groups. Al Fatah, once led by the charismatic leader Yasser Arafat, has had several groups split from their organization and are now acting on their own accord. Examples of these sub-groups are the Jenin Martyr's Brigade and the Knights of the Tempest. These groups, though split from Al Fatah, still cooperate and hold ties to their original organization. Several other examples of terrorist organizations working in concordance with other organizations can be drawn from Palestine; which provides evidence of an overall Palestinian terrorist network and its evolving structure within an ever-changing international political climate.

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Session 6: Social Scripts

Jaclyn DeChiro - "Femmes Transgressing Gender." (Women's Studies Honors Project)

Project Advisor: Nora Yates

Abstract: Femme existence is characterized by the intention of subversion and deconstruction of normative gender. While there are a multitude of ways to deconstruct the "traditional gender model," the recasting of certain feminine signifiers as empowering and the rejection of others found to be oppressive, is one prominent deconstruction of gender in femme expression. Contrary to the popular definition of femme, femme expression is not the sole domain of feminine lesbians, but applicable to any subject who utilizes some aspects of femininity as gender transgressions. Particular lesbian feminist discourses that valorize androgyny as *the* feminist and transgressive gender, serve to invalidate the ways in which positive gender reconstructions femmes and others are engaging in challenge the "traditional gender model." Elements of femme expression, such as a positive and active construction of gender, can be located in many gendered experiences. The intersections between femme lesbians and transwomen are particularly salient for the author.

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Leigh Vandebogart - "Performative Violence as Catharsis: Analyzing Feminist Expression and Representation within Cultural Texts." (Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research)

Abstract: Revenge and retribution for violence against women is portrayed in various feminist cultural texts, such as Diane DiMassa's collection of graphic novels *HotHead Paisan: Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist*, Pat Califia's novel *Doc & Fluff*, and Valerie Solanas' *S.C.U.M. Manifesto*, though such "radical" views are, by far, not the accepted politic of much of the feminist community. Yet, such violence within feminist cultural texts is not always counter-productive to the larger "feminist movement," but instead extremely empowering and cathartic for many readers, as well as the impetus for healing. This is shown within panels of *HotHead* itself, the storyline and resolution of *Doc & Fluff*, the performative nature and "utopian" vision of *S.C.U.M. Manifesto*, as well as within literary criticism and interviews surrounding the representation of violence within such cultural texts.

Through my analysis of these three feminist cultural texts, all of which exhibit strong instances of violence against men as acts of retaliation and retribution, as well as the surrounding literature and theory regarding this controversial topic, I hope to illuminate the ways in which such literature is cathartic, helpful, and empowering for many women, and should be embraced as such.

The analysis of violence is commonplace in America, especially today. Many women experience violence due to various identities they may be forced into filling, such as roles based on class, gender, race, and many others. Yet, many feminists

argue that women taking retribution against these acts of misogyny and violence is not in alliance with their beliefs, and neither are the cultural feminist texts which portray such acts of vengeance. However, I am hoping to show through my research that such cultural texts are empowering, and the dissemination of such cultural texts will help more women than not.

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Sara Querbes - "How to Mint an American Girl."

Abstract: The American Girl dolls, books, and retail stores are the creation of Pleasant Rowland who released the first dolls and books in 1985. The products were created as a way to fill the gap between baby dolls and teenaged items targeted to girls, and are aimed at a 7-12 year old audience. The Pleasant Company is a highly successful business, which sold exclusively through catalog until the late 90's when they opened their first retail store in Chicago. Successful stores in New York and Los Angeles have followed.

Through evaluating the books, which promise to teach girls accurate history by situating each girl in a past point in American life, certain assumptions regarding identity, nationality and class emerge. Also, I examine the marketing and advertising of the company to create an American Girl consumer picture of who they are targeting to purchase their products and why. The company utilizes the trend in American culture of buying children educational toys and in this case most parents consider the learning potential when investing in American Girl Products. However, the books retail ten times cheaper than the dolls and are obviously not how the company makes most of their money. The company also pushes a language of diversity onto readers to attempt to show they are telling a complete history of America.

The nationwide appeal of this company creates a need to examine what girls are learning (or not) from the books and the imbedded messages that the company subtly (or not) submits through the novels, catalogs, web sites and stores. Many of the problems that arise include the books deleting (or downplaying) the more controversial aspects of history, like race, religion, gender, and class bias. The stories tell only, what I argue to be, and provide evidence for, the history that middle to upper class, Christian, white parents feel comfortable sharing with their children. The non-white dolls are all situated in the most obvious and distanced historical moment and are never integrated into the 'American' culture the way the white dolls are. For example, Josefina, the girl from New Mexico is constantly situated in 'another' culture and research suggests that when white girls have read her stories they take from it that all Hispanic people are never true 'Americans'. The white dolls, despite emigrating as well are never considered outsiders and are seamlessly integrated in American life.

The company is successful ultimately in creating an identity for some girls as 'American girls'; those with money participate and perpetuate the exclusivity of the American identity through consumption of goods and internalizing the messages presented about who is a true 'American'.

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Session 7: The Creative Spirit, Part One

Patrick Shairs - "Thinking New Englandly: Reconstituting Robert Frost's Poetics." (English Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Eric Keenaghan

Abstract: For the better part of a century, Robert Frost has been described as "The New England Poet" by many contemporary annalists, and as we look back upon his career we must note that his first two collections—A Boy's Will and North of Boston—have confirmed his "regionalist" distinction. He primarily committed his poetry to the New England landscape by thoroughly examining the particulars that comprise this locale, although what originated from these endeavors are the questions and responses that reflect the affairs of humanity and the obscurities of nature that resonate through the nation. Nevertheless, we have bounded Frost to the New England landscape because of his determination to think "New Englandly." For this reason, there has been an apparent lack of critical attention regarding the development of Frost's lyrical "voice" and if we persist to critically analyze the poet through this regional lens, we will continually overlook the significance of his poetic constructs, i.e. his literary beliefs, lyric structure, word choice and will fail to reach the external value of his work. In other words, the poet causes us to reinvestigate the critical possibilities for humanism and his poetry has specific implications for helping us to think locally while moving beyond such restrictive "boundaries." I have challenged communal forms of critical analysis by issuing an alternate method—what I call the "realist" view—in order to reconstitute how Frost's poetry has functioned during his particular moment and why we must return to his work today. I believe that assessing the essential nature of an environment through emphasizing the value of seemingly extraneous factors becomes fundamentally important to critically analyze Frost's poetry.

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Helen Taylor - "Self-Emplotment, Conspiracy, and Self-Preservation from Quixote to the 21st Century." (English Honors Project)

Project Advisor: Professor Jennifer Greiman

Abstract: The notion of self-emplotment, seeing one's life as a story and oneself as its protagonist, and then interpreting one's surroundings in such a way as to validate this self-emplotment is common, not just in books such as *Don Quixote*, but also in popular culture (e.g. *The X-Files*) and everyday life (especially politicians and other figures of authority). This project explores how and why this emplotment takes place within Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, Auster's *City of Glass* and, by contrast, McEwan's *Saturday*. It further traces the protagonists as they develop their identities and their stories, showing how their interactions with characters who question their stories lead to the development of conspiracy theories in the first two texts, but not the third. The project then explores the effects on the third text's plot structure of the presence of a real-world fairly well-accepted global conspiracy theory wherein terrorists, through their own manipulation of plot, seem able to control the events they orchestrate and the stories told about them. In the development of conspiracy theories within texts, authorial control is moved from the protagonist to an unseen force pulling the strings. This loss of control, of authorship, led to Quixote's death and Quinn's disappearance. My project looks at how these patterns shift in the present day, where to emplot in order to author/control one's life is to risk necessitating conspiracy and the loss of the ability to be one's own author.

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Sam Estabrooks and Kerri Valesey - TITLE TBA

Abstract: We will examine the relationship between two forms of speculative fiction, science fiction and fantasy, and the way human conflict has evolved over the past century. Although constructed purely from the imagination of the creator, fiction can never be completely detached from reality, as the real-life attitudes of the writer will often subconsciously appear. Our group plans to look for patterns in works of fantasy and science fiction and connect them to attitudes regarding human conflict of their times. In order to truly do this project justice, one would need to look at a wide cross section of the works of speculative fiction on the market. Unfortunately, due to our time constraints, we must refocus our view a few pieces. This allows further exploration in the future. The works we will address include, but are not limited to the following:

Lord of the Rings (Tolkien), which is imbued with the ideology of World War II, in which two sides confront each other through mostly military means; *Harry Potter* (Rowling), influenced by the ideology of the Age of Terrorism, in which the enemy operates on a smaller scale, but leaves nobody safe; *A Song of Ice and Fire* (Martin), which holds that human conflicts are petty and that the real threats are bigger than any one faction; *Dune* (Herbert), which accurately predicts the current situation in the Middle East; *Ender's Game* (Card), which connects the Cold War to man's internal struggle with war.

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Session 8: Cultures of Cyberspace

Seth Marin and Andrew Wong - "Interactive Multi-Media Collaboration."

Abstract: In our independent study, we are serving as web consultants to Professor Joette Stefl-Mabry and her ISP673 graduate students. We are tasked with creating websites geared for children, which puts us in a unique position as most websites are targeted towards adults. Throughout the course of the semester we will work on an interactive multimedia website which will then be implemented in six of the Albany City School District's K-12 classrooms as part of their respective curriculum. The six projects that we are currently designing, creating, and then implementing are as follows:

CD's, Basketball, & Sneakers: Designed for 7th Grade Math Lab students from Hackett Middle School. The site will teach the students how to gather their own data through several different websites, and then use this data to make different kinds of graphs.

Colonial Times: This project is intended for a third grade social studies class in the Montessori School. Students will learn how colonial people met their fundamental needs.

Oceans: This site will introduce kindergartner students in the North Albany Academy to ocean environment and animals. The students will learn through videos, sounds, and pictures.

Solar System: Designed for a second grade science class at TOAST. The site teaches the students about the different planets through vocabulary and visual aids.

Underground Railroad: The audience for this site will be 5th graders who attend TOAST. The students will follow along with a map that covers routes traveled along the Underground Railroad.

Weather: This project is intended for first and second graders who attend the Montessori Magnet School. The students will learn basic weather terms and how to differentiate the seasons through interaction with the site.

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Marielle McKasty, Angie Torres, Libby Becker, Nicole Lee Wan, Jennifer Punch, Joanna Abad, and Sara Querbes (Transcending Silence Editorial Board) - "*transcending silence...'*"

Abstract: The editorial board for the Women's Studies undergraduate, peer-reviewed, electronic journal '*transcending silence...'* is a class in the Women's Studies department, which meets twice each week, for three course credits. As the editorial board we spent the early portion of the semester learning theory and the specifics of electronic publications under the teaching of Professor Ng & Professor Hobson of the Women's Studies Department. 2006 marks the third year of the pioneering journal, which seeks to empower undergraduate students to contribute to this scholarly journal by submitting research and creative pieces to the peer-review process.

As a board we created a vision statement to guide our work for the semester and created multiple calls for submissions that we hope will be successful in soliciting different members of the undergraduate community to submit work to be considered for publication. As an ongoing goal for the future of '*transcending silence...'*' we have been actively discussing and considering how our journal could expand to include different types of media, like music, spoken word pieces, and podcasts. Another goal of our journal is to be inclusive of different creative works and not be limited by the conventional use of the word 'scholarly,' which sometimes excludes many potential feminist expressions, like poetry and visual art.

While being responsible for selecting the pieces that will be edited and ultimately published in the third '*transcending silence...'*' edition we also plan to leave next years editorial board with a theme and a course to start out upon next spring so they can achieve new heights in the future of the journal by building upon what we have learned.

* * *

David Haeselin - "Flexibility and Rising to the Surface: The Many Avenues of Resistance on the Internet." (English Honors Thesis)

Abstract: One cannot help but notice the new paradigm that the average young, middle-class American uses to find information. For those with access to the internet, answers are becoming easier and easier to locate. Finding them is instantaneous, simple, and the results are ostensibly truthful. On closer inspection, it seems the ontological foundation of the internet mimics an idealized state of democracy in terms of acquiring knowledge: free, user-controlled, and multifarious. Indeed, the internet represents the newest arena for politics beyond mere representative democracy; the World Wide Web stands as the staging ground for a new means of struggle. My project traces a genealogy of sites of resistance on the internet, starting with the Zapatista National Liberation Army, to the creation of Indymedia.org, and culminates in the current attempts within the blogosphere to subvert regimes of control. In order to ground my work theoretically, I call on the projects of such authors as Deleuze & Guattari, Hardt & Negri, and MacKenzie Wark. The internet has already been publicized as a political space, specifically by the successes of Dean 2004's blogs, but my work tries to expound the interface to account for the internet's infinite, non-hierarchical, fluid, and global nature. What is at stake here is the future of political action as we know it, and though I do not make claim to completely encapsulate it (for it is by nature ungovernable), I do isolate specific areas of resistance—their successes, failures, and, most importantly, possibilities.

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Session 9: Hands-on Science, Part One

Laura Fredriksen - Early Events in Lysozyme Fibrillation: Kinetics and Temperature Dependence Study."

Abstract: Amyloid fibrils have been identified in affected tissues in debilitating diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other neurodegenerative disorders. Using hen egg-white lysozyme as a model, we have studied the process of fibrillation by quantitatively characterizing protein structural changes. Since the formation of a gel phase makes conventional methods of structural characterization difficult, a newly developed deep UV resonance Raman technique was used to probe the protein structure at all stages of fibrillation. Natural markers, such as aromatic amino acids tryptophan and tyrosine, also allow for fluorescence spectroscopy to ascertain structural changes. Recently, we have been able to understand the kinetics of the formation of a partially unfolded intermediate, pre-fibrillar form of lysozyme using these methods. Temperature dependence of lysozyme partial unfolding was also investigated.

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Jennifer Taylor - "Biphenyl-4,4'-Dicarboxylic Acid: Solubility in Water as a Function of pH." (Independent Study in Chemistry)

Project Advisor: Igor Lednev

Abstract: Anisotropic solvents are often used for the experimental determination of polarization directions of electronic transitions in molecules. Although the methodology is well developed for non-polar organic materials, the application for aqueous biological systems is limited, in particular, due to the lack of a well characterized model compounds with large orientation factors. We proposed that biphenyl-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid might be a convenient probe based on its structural analogy with a well-documented hydrophobic marker, biphenyl-4,4'-dibromide. The purpose of this project was to characterize quantitatively the solubility of biphenyl-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid in water. We report here on the pH dependence of

biphenyl-4,4'-dicarboxylic acid solubility in water. Acid/base titration experiments followed by UV absorption spectroscopy allowed us for verifying the mechanism of biphenyl-4,4'-dicarboxylic solubility and estimated the pKa and solubility product constant.

* * *

Terrance Beckett - "Miso: A Fermented Probiotic Food."

Abstract: Miso is a fermented vegetable foodstuff that is known for its nutritious properties, some of which can be attributed to the live microorganisms that it contains. This probiotic food goes through a multistage fermentation process where a myriad of microbial organisms flourish. The microscopic life found in unpasteurized, which is attributed to miso's probiotic properties, is a combination of bacteria, molds, and yeasts that break down different parts of the miso to produce a product that is more nutritious in the end than the raw ingredients used to make the miso. The fermentation process starts with a mold called *Aspergillus oryzae*. As the process advances the enzymes, which mainly are protease, amylases, and lipase, become prominent and further break down the substrate. Protease breaks down complex soy proteins into easily digestible amino acids. Amylase transfers the polysaccharides into simpler sugars and lipase breaks down the lipids into fatty acids. Bacteria, like *Lactobacilli* and yeasts become predominate to produce acids and alcohols. Byproducts of the various microorganisms will react and one such reaction produces soyamelanine. The byproducts of the microorganisms as well as many of the microorganisms themselves are nutritious for humans. Some of the microorganisms are beneficial to the digestion that occurs in the intestines. Some of the other benefits of miso are its high protein levels and its reported ability to ward off the affect of radiation.

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Session 10: Politics and Political Discourse

Kyle Arnone - "Coalescing Borders: Historical Lessons from Outsourcing."

Abstract: This paper tracks the emergence and perpetuation of new sources of labor and its current relationship to offshore outsourcing. By using historical comparative evidence, I assert that the benefits derived from cheaper alternative sources of labor can have unsuspecting benefits for the displaced population of workers. More recent examples reveal that the introduction of alternative labor sources can potentially (1) create new domestic jobs, (2) upgrade existing workers' skills, and (3) be beneficial for consumers and the economy. In addition, I have found that the benefits received because of the advent of new sources of labor is a negatively related to time. Esoteric skill acquired by today's technologically savvy workforce makes it more difficult for workers to find work in horizontal or vertical positions. The examples will explicitly provide instances where workers benefit from employers' access to alternative sources of labor; these concerns are central to the debate today about how cheaper alternative sources affect American workers.

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Lana Bunning - "One Nation, Two Cultures: Political Correctness/Censorship in Higher Education." (Undergraduate Research Initiative Project)

Faculty Mentor: George Levesque

Abstract: We are living in an Age of Censorship! Impelled by the notions that science is oppression and criticism is violence, the regulation of debate and inquiry is returning to respectability. Thus, the Right wants to censor pornography and rap singers, J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*, and the burning of the American flag. Meanwhile, the Left wants to censor tobacco ads, girlie magazines, sex jokes in the workplace, overly Eurocentric textbooks, Andy Rooney, college newspapers, and the waving of the Confederate flag! In a word, people who hold and express 'wrong' or 'hurtful' opinions should be punished for the good of society. HOWEVER, as Alan Dershowitz notes in his *The Abuse Excuse*, "Freedom of speech includes the right to denigrate, ridicule, insult, offend, burlesque, and stereotype." In an effort to understand and promote pluralism and academic freedom on campus, this topic invites students to engage in an open, unfettered, investigation of the new attacks on Freedom of Thought, (Political Correctness) and what this ominous trend portends for higher education in America.

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Elizabeth Quinn Gray - "Socrates and Martin Luther King Jr. on the Moral Obligation to Obey the Law." (Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research)

Abstract: This paper compares the views of Socrates and Martin Luther King, Jr. on the moral obligation to obey the law. Through a careful analysis of *The Meno*, in which Socrates presents an explanation of his moral obligation to obey the state's commands; and *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, in which King explains his moral obligation to disobey segregation laws; I show that despite apparent differences, King and Socrates ultimately share the same philosophy on moral obligation to

obey the law. Sharing a commitment to justice and morality, both respect and have an obligation to the institutional legal arrangement of their society, and both find they have an obligation to resist severely substantively unjust laws.

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Session 11: Hands-On Science, Part Two

David Jayez - "Incorporation of Quantum Dots to PMMA Derived Polymers and Effects on Photoluminescence Intensity."

Abstract: The growing demand for unique sensing materials has led to the need for further examination into the stability as well as cost efficiency and production viability of such sensing materials. An instrument capable of early detection of leaks in containers is now possible. The goal of this project is to determine the properties of quantum dots suspended in a polymer matrix and if such polymer structures could yield a system that may be used to accurately and selectively detect the presence and concentration of hydrocarbons by a shift in the film's intensity. This project focused on the BTEX group of hydrocarbons, due to their inclusion in oil-based products. While it has already been shown that a polymer film that contains CdSe quantum dots can be used to detect the presence of hydrocarbons, the ability to tune such a film would prove invaluable for the early detection of leaks in oil barrels as well as the location of already leaking containers. To this end, films composed primarily of hexylmethacrylate, laurylmethacrylate, octadecylmethacrylate and behenylmethacrylate were examined for the effect of the length of the side chain on the sensitivity of a film. Additionally, the effect of the concentration of quantum dots on the sensitivity was tested. As CdSe requires a capping group to prevent oxidation under air, the effects of NA, FNA and FBA were examined as well to determine whether such groups would enhance or inhibit the sensitivity of a film. These sample films were tested by hydrocarbon flow of xylene.

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Nicholas Fahrenkopf - "An Introduction to Current Research Topics in Integrated Circuit Manufacturing - FET Operation and Scaling."

Abstract: My presentation will be an overview of the hurdles that are currently being faced by researchers and designers in the field of microelectronics. I will first give a brief overview of how integrated circuits are created and operate, and then move into the different areas that researchers are working on to make these devices smaller, and faster. The objective of this project is for anyone from any background to understand precisely what is being done in this field.

I'll start by explaining that the production of integrated circuits (ICs) is done on thin wafers of single crystal silicon. On these wafers, which are currently 200mm (8in) or 300mm (12in) in diameter, literally hundreds of microchips are fabricated in a series of 5 to 8 layers of copper wiring starting with the backbone of chips- the transistor. I also will explain the operation of the transistors, and how they are incorporated into simple logic mechanisms that eventually control all the electronic devices around us.

After explaining the construction and operation of these devices I will try to target in on very specific aspects of current IC fabrication that have been a result of R&D. Then I will focus on current aspects of IC operation that require further innovation for the industry to live up to a theory called Moore's Law. For each of these points of innovation I will explain why an improvement in this area will help shrink, or speed up chips, as well as explain the different ways researchers are working at improving that area, and finally which techniques have been proven, or are likely to be proven and moved into production.

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Gennaro Calabrese - TITLE TBA

Abstract: In the semantic priming paradigm, people decide if a target letter string (e.g., lion) is a word or nonword immediately after seeing a prime word that is either related (tiger) or unrelated (ankle) to it. Responses to the target are faster and more accurate when the prime and target are related. Priming involves two mechanisms: a strategically controlled slow-acting, attention-demanding expectancy mechanism and a fast-acting, strategy-free, and attention-free automatic activation mechanism. As the Proportion of Related Prime-Target pairs (PRP-T) increases, priming increases but only if the stimulus-onset asynchrony (SOA) or delay between the prime and target is long enough to allow an expectancy to be generated from the prime. At shorter SOAs, priming is automatic and unaffected by the PRP-T. I manipulated cognitive load by presenting the prime-target pairs at a rapid or slow rate to examine whether attentional resources are required to generate an expectancy. Cognitive load did not affect automatic-activation at the short SOA or priming at the long SOA when the PRP-T was high and served as a constant reminder of the need to maintain the goal of generating an expectancy. However, when PRP-T was low and the SOA was long, cognitive overload eliminated priming because the goals of attending to the prime and expectancy generation could not be maintained, allowing automatic activation to decay. These results are the first to show that (a) expectancy-based priming occurs even when the PRP-T is low and (b) activation decays rapidly when the expectancy goal is not maintained.

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Session 12: Cultural Scripts, Social Scripts

Alissa Credidio - "The Effects of Incarceration on Women and their Children." (Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research)

Abstract: This paper analyzes research in the area of women in prison and the effects on their children. The importance of maintaining mother-child relationships while incarcerated is discussed and existing prison programs are evaluated for their effectiveness or lack thereof. I have asserted that treatment programs and alternative sanctions may be more beneficial than incarceration for women suffering from substance abuse problems, and these treatments may decrease recidivism and the prison population. Increasing prison populations may be attributed to larger societal problems such as race and class biases, and suggestions for change are provided.

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Dana Kuefner - "The Role of Family, Peers, and Neighborhood Factors on Delinquent Behavior Among Low-Income Latino Adolescents." (Psychology Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Hazel Prelow

Abstract: The present study was designed to examine the processes through which inadequate monitoring leads to problem behaviors in a sample of low-income Latina/o adolescents. Additionally, we examined whether collective efficacy functioned as a protective factor for at risk youth. For both males and females, poor parental monitoring had an effect on problem behaviors through association with deviant peers. That is, Latino/a youth with low levels of parental monitoring had more friends who engaged in delinquent behavior, and in turn, were more likely to be involved in delinquency themselves. Findings suggest that low levels of parental monitoring may increase delinquency partly by increasing contact with deviant peers. In addition, this study found that collective efficacy significantly affected the relationships between the variables described above, but the relationships affected were different for each gender. For males, collective efficacy interacted with parental monitoring to protect against association with deviant peers. For females, collective efficacy interacted with association with deviant peers as a vulnerability factor that amplified their involvement in delinquent behavior. Results suggest that increasing the collective efficacy of neighborhoods may reduce delinquency among males by substituting for poor parenting. The results of the present study highlight the importance of examining models of delinquency separately for females and males.

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Session 13: Hands-on Science, Part Three

Karen Rieck - "Ice/Hydrohalite Crystallization Structures in Sub-Eutectic Freezing Experiments in the System NaCl-H₂O and Possible Implications for the Properties of Frozen Brines in Europa: A Preliminary Report." (Geology Honors Project)

Project Coordinators: Dr. Stephen Kirby and Dr. Laura Stern, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park, California.

Abstract: Sulfates are likely to be the most abundant solutes in the subsurface European liquid ocean. NaCl may also be a component of such liquids based on the compositions of stony meteorites like those thought to be among the source materials for the silicates in Europa's interior. The system NaCl-H₂O exhibits a eutectic at -20.8°C and 23.3 weight percent NaCl between ice I_h and hydrohalite (NaCl·2H₂O). This low eutectic temperature compared to Mg and Na sulfate hydrate/ice eutectics indicates that hydrohalite should be among the last salts to crystallize in brine upwellings along rifts and other places where resurfacing by melt extrusion occurs on Europa. We conducted a suite of freezing experiments on NaCl brines with 20.3, 23.3, and 26.3 (saturated) weight percent NaCl by holding these liquids at a few degrees below the eutectic temperature. These runs produced ice-rich, eutectic and hydrohalite-rich aggregates of both phases as confirmed by cryogenic x-ray diffraction and energy dispersive x-ray fluorescence spectroscopy. Based on direct observations of crystals forming at the tops and bottoms of the sample chambers and on refractive index measurements of subsequently melted sample material, marked fractional crystallization and segregation by density of ice, hydrohalite, and residual liquids occurred in all samples. Crystallization of very fine-grained eutectic intergrowths was recognized in cryogenic SEM images of all samples thus analyzed, and was especially prominent in samples frozen from saturated brine. These samples were very difficult to cleave compared to pure polycrystalline ice, and hence are likely to have high fracture toughness. Direct measurements of this property and also the effects of partial melting on ductile flow rates are planned on such samples. Refracturing of such regions of fine eutectoid ice/hydrohalite intergrowths is likely to be inhibited in refrozen rifts compared to more ice-rich regions on Europa.

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Wendy Chan – “Playing With Gigantic Bismuth Clusters.” (Undergraduate Research Initiative Project)

Faculty mentor: Evgeny Dikarev

Abstract: My research is about synthesizing Giant Bismuth oxo-clusters and determining its structure. These super molecules contain up to 52 metal atoms and have the dimensions of about 2 nanometers. So far I have created many crystals by dissolving Bi₉ powder in different common solvents however the desired crystals are very hard to produce and the quality varies. In our lab, we also created our own study material (Bi₉) by mixing triphenylbismuth, hexafluoracetylacetone, and hexafluoropentane-2,2,4,4-tetraol. The biggest cluster we have created is Bi₃₈ by dissolving it in dichloromethane and 1,2 dicyanobenzene. Currently we already found out its structure; however we are collecting more data that supports the structure by using the NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance), x-ray and the mass spectrum and hopefully get this work published. The reactions take a very long time, usually varies from a few days to a few weeks, however the results are truly remarkable and beautiful. There are different techniques in synthesizing these structures, and its components. In April I will give an oral presentation about our project and I will discuss these techniques and the reasons on our procedure. Hopefully in the future our work might evolve into understanding the chemical role in Bismuth sub carbonate that is used in medicine. Our next step is synthesizing other types of metals such as copper, magnesium, manganese and other heavy metals.

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Michael Klein - TITLE TBA

Abstract: My project at Albany Medical Center will determine whether the HIV protein 'tat' induces apoptosis in human astrocytes. AIDS induced dementia is a result of astrocyte apoptosis, not necrosis, and it is believed that 'tat' is directly related to this apoptosis. The functions of 'tat' in astrocyte apoptosis will be tested with exogenous and endogenous (by means of transfection) tat, with appropriate controls. Transfection of primary human astrocytes with 'tat' containing pDNA and B-gal containing pDNA will be followed by the evaluation of 'tat' activity by Luciferase assay and apoptosis will be determined by Caspace and apoptosis assays, all will be standardized by B-gal assay.

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Session 14: The Creative Spirit, Part Two

Jessica Clever - "If Your Life Were a Book, Would Anyone want to Read It?" (English Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Kate Winter

Abstract: If it were a book, who would you be in it? How would you represent yourself in order to show who you really are? When you boil your story down, what are the bones that are left for you to talk about? What if your story couldn't be told in the present time? In my creative thesis, *Shake Down Your Ashes*, I examine these issues in a fictive memoir. Set in the year 1900, I say everything that needs to be said about my life and tell absolutely nothing. This era of change in America serves as a medium through which to paint my life story most successfully, highlighting the bones and making them dance.

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Oren Silverman - "Towards an Approximation Poetics: Readings from Circa and Accompanying Essays." (English Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Eric Keenaghan

Abstract: My thesis is “creative” in nature and consists of three parts: A critical close reading, a statement of poetics and a long poem I have been working on, *Circa*. My presentation will consist of readings from the statement of poetics, followed by readings from *Circa*.

There is a mode of transportation which can move the poem.

There is a densely packed periphery which crowds and infringes, and besides its presence being inescapable, it is simultaneously invaluable. The plane that incurs these crowds is witness, in fact perpetually witnessing the reproductive rubbing (against) and squeezing (through) that is bound to occur in such cramped quarters. This is a space of readers, (before writers,) who are vying for position: Positions of understanding and engagement which never promise stability but are contingent upon the temporary “stops” in this uncoordinated movement.

There is a cosmopolitan community of readers at work whose positioning is a product of the frictions created from the interactions of the body of the citizens. I count myself among its citizens, and my poetics hopes to speak to the possibility of such a cosmopolis. Bodies are its most important asset in a space where thinking, writing and reading are all ultimately and primarily physical acts.

Circa represents several movements that work towards this cosmopolis. I will trace an understanding of my own poetics through the ways I situate myself in the frame of American Poetry, Jewish American poetics/identity, writing and recording

(questions of history) and finally an attempt to articulate the poetics I have mentioned above, which I will temporarily call an "approximation poetics."

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LeeFrances Rappaport - "Creating Historical Fiction Based on Alexander Kerensky." (Undergraduate Research Initiative Project)

Faculty Mentor: Professor Edward Schwarzschild

Abstract: My research project is a collaboration with Professor Swartzchild. We are writing a historical novella. The main character will be fictional and associated with a prominent historical figure, perhaps an assistant or close friend, something of that nature. We are still working through the process now and haven't reached the intensive writing proportion of the project. We are brainstorming a time period, character and plot to work with starting from all of time and everywhere in the world, and narrowing it down to one place, one period, and one historical figure. Once those features are decided upon, we will begin researching extensively to understand the life of the time, the important events and biographical information concerning the historical character. We must know all of this to properly work in a fictional character without it seeming forced or inaccurate. The goal of the endeavor is to learn to work with writing fiction in a historical context and have the piece be believable and historically correct. The most important aspect of this project is to have the historical research woven into the story so that it is realistic and could satisfy even the most rigorous historian. The head of the history department should not be able to find a factual flaw in the whole thing. After that, I will start writing under his guidance. I believe I will be doing most of the writing for this project and mostly refer to him for advice, editing and additional direction to complete the work. Hopefully, there will be somewhere, perhaps a literary journal or something similar, for this piece to be published.

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Session 15: De-coding Popular Culture

William Whalen - "Usin My Religion: Tupac Shakur's Self-Evacuating Discourse in Search of the G." (Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research)

Abstract: In *Holler If You Hear Me: Searching For Tupac Shakur*, Michael Eric Dyson uses the life and works of hip-hop icon Tupac Shakur as a vehicle to demand that attention be brought to the deplorable state many young black men are subjected to endure in the ghetto. Tupac also becomes a cipher for Dyson's exploration of sacred ideas and death as they pertain to the African American community. Dyson's efforts are just and deft in and of the boundaries of his sociological and journalistic lenses. However, Dyson fails to do anything more than allude to overt instances in Tupac's lyrics where subjects pertaining to God and death are broached.

Usin My Religion picks up where Dyson's *Holler* leaves off. It is a close reading of the lyrics of Tupac Shakur, sacred texts, and the deconstructive practices limned out by Jacques Derrida. *Usin My Religion* positions Tupac Shakur as a contemporary mystic deconstructionist who attacks fixed discursive constructs and demonstrates a reading-writing praxis that teeters between the sacred and the critical. Tupac's dramatization of sacred, philosophical, and critical concepts in turn acts as a kind of pedagogy beyond pedagogy. Tupac's didactic methodology not only teaches sacred, philosophical, and critical tenets, but it also calls those frameworks into question. Tupac's model of teaching is one that is humble, sacred, and compassionate at the same time that it is proud, profane, and argumentative. Tupac's works are popular culture training manuals that provide students with democratic questioning methods. They afford listeners the sacred, philosophical, and critical tools necessary for them to participate in an attack on logocentrism and hegemonic power structures.

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Vincent Porfirio - "The Perversion of the Father: Polanski, Lacanian Theory, Zizek and Film Noir." (English Honors Thesis; Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Charles Shepherdson

Abstract: This thesis analyses three films by Roman Polanski with *film noir* as a frame. Slavoj Zizek's adaptation of Jacques Lacan's theory provides an interpretive lens for exploring the existential corruption of the world that links *film noir* and Polanski's cinematography. By examining Rosemary's Baby, Chinatown, and The Ninth Gate, the thesis shows how the psychoanalytic aspect of Lacan's theory revises the Freudian concept of the father in symbolic terms, and clarifies the role of the detective in the genre of *film noir*.

* * *

Kira Brady - "Making Waves in a No Wake Zone: Redneck Feminism and Popular Country Music."

Abstract: My project uses popular country music as a site for analysis of class, race, sex, and sexuality. The goal of this ongoing project is to recognize country music as allegorical of the lives of the rural working and poor classes, and to show that feminist themes and messages are present in country music. The value of making these identifications becomes clear when one acknowledges the possibilities of country music as a site for the politicization of the lives of the rural working poor, and as a vehicle for sending feminist messages to people who in other ways may be resistant to identification with feminism.

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Session 16: Dangerous Politics

Sean Bennett - "No Way to Treat a Guest: A Study of Housing and Working Conditions of Guestworkers Under the H2A Program." (Political Science Honors Thesis)

Thesis Advisor: Professor Ray Bromley

Abstract: The H2A "Guestworker" program has been under increased scrutiny over the last five years as a result of what critics see as unfair treatment of immigrant farm workers. Critics routinely allege that under the program so-called guestworkers are paid inadequate wages, denied medical treatment, sheltered in substandard housing, and intimidated into remaining silent, as they are subject to being deported if their contracts are terminated. Housing and other conditions will be evaluated within the H2A program in various parts of the country in search of regional patterns that may shed light on the nature of these abuses. In addition, there has been a flurry of recent legislative activity as well as advocacy by President Bush for a particular set of modifications. What will be the result of this heightened interest in guestworker programs? Will unscrupulous employers be held accountable or will we ultimately end up with business as usual?

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Kim McAdams - "The Great Migration: Effects on Mexico and U.S. Concerns." (Undergraduate Research Initiative Project)

Faculty Mentor: Professor Susan Gauss

Abstract: Since the mid-nineteenth century, there has been a steady migration of immigrants in to the United States over the U.S.-Mexican border. This migration has brought people and goods both legal and illegal. Currently in the United States it is estimated that there are over 20 million illegal immigrants. My project will focus on this trafficking at the beginning of the 20th century. I will be looking at trade and migration between Mexico and the United States and the changes in U.S. policy concerning these activities. In addition, I will be discussing such issues as the smuggling of illicit goods and peoples across the border and taking an in depth look at the impact of the Mexican perspective on U.S. Policy. Ultimately, I intend to demonstrate that even though the early twentieth century was a critical period of U.S. penetration into Mexico, it similarly marked an important wave of Mexican migration into the U.S. Examining the transnational flows of goods and people across the border in both directions can ultimately reveal the important role of both U.S. policy and Mexican attitudes in shaping the border.

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Posters Exhibited

Alicia Babson - "Estrogen and Progesterone Enhance Learning of Young Adult and Menopausal Rats in the Object Recognition Task."

Abstract: Ovarian steroids, such as 17 β -estradiol (E₂) and progesterone (P), may alter hippocampally-mediated cognitive performance; however, the majority of research in this area has focused on E₂ and examined effects in younger individuals. This study investigated cognitive effects in the object recognition task, a spatial learning task mediated by the hippocampus, associated with endogenous or exogenous E₂ and P in both younger and older adult rats. Experiment 1: Young adult rats in behavioral estrus and estrus, which have higher endogenous levels of E₂ and P, had better object recognition performance than did diestrous rats, with low levels of E₂ and P. Experiment 2: Young adult rats in the 3rd trimester, post-partum, or lactating, with higher endogenous P levels, performed better in the object recognition task than did control rats in the 1st trimester of pregnancy, with low endogenous P levels. Experiment 3: Older rats that were pre-, peri-, but not post-, menopausal demonstrated better performance when administered E₂ compared to vehicle. Experiment 4: Rats that were pre-, peri-, or post-menopausal demonstrated better performance when administered P compared to vehicle. Experiment 5: Co-administration of E₂ and P did not have an additive benefit on performance. These data suggest that E₂ and P can improve spatial performance in the object recognition task of younger and older rats.

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Caryn Duffy - "Estrogens and Progestins Enhance Learning in the Object Placement Task." (Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research)

Abstract: Research on effects of gonadal hormones on cognitive function has focused on estrogen; however, progestins also vary across hormonal cycles with estrogen and may influence learning. This study investigated cognitive-enhancing effects associated with endogenous or exogenous estrogens and progestins in the object placement task, a spatial learning task mediated by the hippocampus. Experiment 1: Rats in behavioral estrous and estrous, with higher endogenous levels of estrogen and progestins, had better object placement performance than did diestrous rats, with low levels of these hormones. Experiment 2: Rats in the third trimester, post-partum, or lactating, with higher endogenous levels of progestins, exhibited better performance in the object placement task compared to rats in the first trimester of pregnancy (with lower endogenous levels of progestins). Experiment 3: Exogenous administration of 17 β -estradiol (E₂), progesterone (P), or E₂ + P after training in the object placement task to ovariectomized (ovx) rats (endogenous source of E₂ and P removed) enhanced performance compared to vehicle controls. Experiment 4: Post-training administration of P or its metabolites, 5 α -pregnan-3 α -ol-20-one (5 α -3 α -THP) enhanced performance over that of vehicle. Experiment 5, (ovx) rats administered E₂ or estrogens with greater affinity for estrogen receptor ER α (PPT) over ER β (DPN) showed better learning in this task than did vehicle (ovx) rats. These data suggest that E₂ and progestins can enhance spatial performance in object placement task.

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Laura Fattaruso – "War of Words: Discourse on the Iraq War through Letters to the Editor." (Undergraduate Research Initiative Project)

Faculty Mentor: Anne Hildreth

Abstract: I am working with Professor Hildreth in a study of Letters to the Editor regarding the Iraq War in Northeastern newspapers. We are examining letters published within two weeks around three key dates—when Congress gave the President the power to intervene, the deployment of troops, and the official end of the War. We are looking at the nature of discourse found in letters—how they respond to events, media coverage, and other letters. An area of interest is the audience that different letters direct their arguments towards, if they address their fellow citizens and make requests of them, whether it be to show their support for the troops or to go out and protest the War, if they address the media and either praise or criticize the way the war is covered, or if they make specific demands of politicians. We are also examining how letters use commentary on the War to address other issues, such as civil liberties, and allocation of funds, and if these points are addressed to a national, regional, or local audience. The form of the arguments made in letters, and how that pertains to the content of the letter, is another point of interest. Do letter writers base their arguments on factual or moral reasoning? Do they stick to one point, or do they incorporate a number of arguments into their position? Another angle we hope to examine is the role of the newspapers in presenting these letters to us. Are letters chosen to show an even representation of pro and anti-war arguments, or are they chosen to reflect the ratio of letters they receive? How does editing for grammar affect how we read the argument and the inferences we make about the letter writer?

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Janet Heuring - "Seizures During Early Development and/or Adulthood Produce Reproductive Endocrine Dysfunction."

Abstract: Epilepsy is a neurodegenerative disorder that is associated with reproductive endocrine dysfunction (RED). Given that many anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs) can also alter RED in persons without seizure disorder, it is unclear whether RED among those with epilepsy is a primary consequence of seizures or therapeutic management with AEDs. To begin to address effects of seizures on RED, the following experiments were conducted. Male rats were administered on post-natal day 10, a chemoconvulsant, pilocarpine 60 mg/kg, IP (which induces status epilepticus), saline vehicle (control 1), or no manipulation (control 2). As adults, behavior that is indicative of hypothalamic (sexual behavior) and hippocampal (anxiety & cognitive behavior) function were assessed before and after administration of pilocarpine in adulthood (100 mg/kg IP). At the conclusion of testing, tissues were collected and steroid levels were assessed to further evaluate RED. As an additional control, adults that were administered pilocarpine with no perinatal manipulations, were evaluated. Pilocarpine administration altered anxiety, cognitive, social and reproductive compared to placebo or no manipulation control. These effects were more salient among rats subjected to pilocarpine perinatally and in adulthood than was seen among rats administered pilocarpine in either developmental period or those subjected to control manipulations. Thus, these data suggest that seizures early and/or later in life may have effects on RED.

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Jenni Higgins - "Family Violence Exposure and Later Adjustment: Role of the Physiological Response to Interpersonal Stress." (Undergraduate Research Initiative Project)

Faculty Mentor: Elana Gordis

Abstract: My goal for the honors project that I am doing, is to explore the relations among maltreatment, self-reported negative affect, concordance between sympathetic nervous system and self-reported affect (autonomic dissociation), and gender. I hypothesize that sympathetic arousal will be greater in maltreated children, and there will be greater autonomic dissociation in maltreated children than in the controls, especially in males.

Child abuse and exposure to domestic violence have proved to be major health concerns for several reasons. One reason is the number of children affected by abuse and exposure to violence. Another reason is the behavioral and emotional consequences for these children. One consequence is increased aggression, which may be a result of alterations in autonomic nervous system arousal and reactivity associated with the consequences of trauma of family violence. The umbrella study being conducted by Professor Elana Gordis examines the role that ANS arousal plays in the link between physical abuse and exposure to domestic violence and adolescent aggression, in a 3 part longitudinal study. My area of research will focus on autonomic dissociation, based on data collected during the second and third portions of the study. The participants in the experiment are 450 youth, ages 10-14 during the phases of the research that I will be analyzing, from the Los Angeles area. Approximately 300 of these are maltreated children are recruited from L.A. Department of Child and Family Services. The other 150 children are comparison youth that are recruited from the same or similar census blocks to be matched demographically. Approximately half of the participants are males and half are females. The participants are from different ethnic background, approximately 1/3 Caucasian, 1/3 African American, and 1/3 Latino. For the experiment, the participants were asked to watch videos that contained either neutral situations or situations containing violence of some sort. While watching the videos, the participants heart rate, skin conductance, and respiration were collected. The children were then asked to fill out a self-report of negative emotional reactions to what they considered to be the "most upsetting" clip. The two measures I am most interested in comparing are the skin conductance and the self-reported affect. If my hypothesis is correct, the maltreated children will have greater dissonance between these two measures than the control group.

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Katie Himmelfarb - "Feminism and Fiber Arts."

Abstract: Along with the "return to domesticity" associated with third-wave feminism has come the reinvigoration of some women's interest in the so-called domestic arts, including traditional forms of fiber arts. Knitting, especially, has taken hold of the younger generation of female activists. The creative and subversive uses of the craft to produce non-traditional garments and goods, circumvent the capitalist system, and build community among women can be viewed as a process of 'reclamation' of that which was once an integral part of patriarchal, heterosexist oppression. While there is certainly truth to this perspective, in this paper I examine the ways in which the role of fiber arts in women's lives has, across cultures and time periods, frequently been the site of empowerment and self-possession for women.

Using examples from Ireland, 19th-century England, East Asia, and an all-black community in the Southern United States I relate the experiences of women practicing crafts such as quilting, weaving, and knitting to the theories of feminist scholars such as Drucilla Cornell and Carol Gilligan. Though the situations that I address are quite disparate, the theoretical framework and the shared presence of fiber arts in these case studies create a thread of continuity which, in a unique way, links the third-wave to the long and diverse history that has in various ways shaped it. I see the development of this understanding as a vehicle for today's feminists to move beyond an appreciation of the newness of their relationships to certain cultural practices, to a celebration of the aspects which are not new at all, but rather keep alive a phenomenon that has been an understated but important source of power and pride for women across time and space.

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Marielle McKasty – "Gendering Technology Consumerism: Is Jill Getting Jacked?"

Abstract: Since 2004, Best Buy has enacted a policy of profiling-for-profit and store segmentation. Based on Best Buy's research they have concluded that creating shopper profiles and catering their stores to a specific "type" of shopper will ensure greater profits.

There were originally four main archetypes for the profiles, only one of which was female. The only female, "Jill", was presented as the quintessential female. Her main role is to be a dedicated wife and mother and make purchases solely for her family. She is considered to be a "soccer-mom" type who does not understand technology. More recently Best Buy has added additional female profiles and has expanded their profiling policies.

Through analysis of the policies, investigation of the consumer-producer relationship and exploration of how technology is gendered, sexist, racist and classist assumptions are uncovered within Best Buy's policies. Ways to improve the conditions that exist are also explored, specifically how to move to a more "women-friendly" space.

Additionally, my paper will lay out the fundamentals of understanding technology, especially how it relates to people across gender, race and class lines. It may also include some analysis of technology production as it negatively affects "third world"

women and men and low paid working class people of the United States. The connections of oppressing these workers who work to create products that Best Buy sells to further oppress certain other women and men may also be included.

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Sheng Wang - "Japan's Influences on the World Economy in the 1970's and 1980's."

Abstract: Japan's economic growth in the 1970s was considered quite a miracle among nations. Some worried about Japan's huge trade surplus and feared that Japan's growth might impede their national interests; others tried to identify factors that might have contributed to this stellar growth and reproduce Japan's economic spectacles on the stages of their own economic developments. Among the possible contributing factors were Japan's industrial policies, her trade barriers, her formidable business cartels, or Keiretsu, and probably her excellent education system and unique culture. In the 1980s, Japan continued to post high figures on their GNP growth reports and reached a prominent status in the world economy, but shortly after which emerged an economic bubble whose eventual burst led to Japan's economic woes in the 1990s. This paper will reexamine Japan's rapid economic growths during the 1970s and the 1980s and try to determine the real sources of the growth. We will explain the roles played by international trade in the growth. In particular, causes of and solutions to trade frictions between Japan and the U.S. will be reviewed and prospective applications on the present Sino-US trade disputes will be explored. Also, the land and stock boom-bust cycle in the 1980s will be analyzed. The position where the Yen appreciation stood in this cycle will be studied. The similarities to and differences from the real estate boom in the U.S. starting a few years ago will be presented.

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Ken Weinberg - Lighting Design of *Trojan Women* (Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research)

Abstract: Theatre is a collaborative art that requires numerous artists to create a seamless piece of work. Lighting design is intangible, as it is visible only in combination with other theatrical elements. Interestingly, a lighting design could be completely unnoticed on a conscious level, all the time reinforcing the story. A lighting designer has the ability to control the focus, color, and intensity of specific instruments used at each moment. The timing of cues and the visual transitions are developed through specific coordination with the action on stage. The entire artistic team discussed the objectives of our production of *The Trojan Women*. We broke the world of the play into two distinct sections--the cold physicality of the encampment, and the softer more personal world created by the women themselves. Through our collaborative discussions, it became evident that my part in the creation of this piece is to bridge the gap between the two worlds of the play. As I prepare to execute my design in the technical rehearsals, it is important to assure I have the correct tools and technology at my disposal. The preparation of a complete light plot is the key to the translation of my ideas into reality. It will help to assure that all of the ideas and concepts we have been working on will come to life as planned.