

THE ABSTRACTS

SESSION I 1:30-2:45

Group A:

HB 101

PRESENTATIONS BY DONALD C. HARRISON HONORS PROGRAM SCHOLARS I

Shibani Chakrabarty

Susan Hagen

Let's Get in Formation: A Feminist's Analyses of Beyonce's *Lemonade*

In her newest album *Lemonade*, Beyonce created a feminist masterpiece. This presentation will analyze the use of intersectional feminism and its application in popular culture. The texts, the musical composition, and the visuals in the album weave a story of her husband's infidelity. Beyonce uses this story to convey her feminist message that specifically addresses the plight of Black women. She tells her audience that through their hardships, there is always the ability and opportunity to make *Lemonade*.

Cheyenne Dawson

Tynes Cowan

Bats and Clowns: Examination of Batman and the Joker

In my presentation, I will explore the fictional realm of Batman and the Joker and how it reflects manipulation from reality. The changes have created interesting as well as intertwined iconic characters with psychological references.

Aditi Prasad

Susan Hagen

History Behind the Thrones: How a Prominence of Historical Parallels Contributes to the Success of the *Game of Thrones* Series

This project focuses mainly on proving that the contemporary media obsession with and glorification of recreating the past holds significant weight in the success of *Game of Thrones* as a popular television series and cultural influence. My project is two-fold: first I will be proving that there are a significant number of historical parallels embedded within *Game of Thrones*. Then I will establish how those parallels contribute to the series' success by discussing contemporary audiences', filmmakers', directors', producers', etc. obsession with the past. I hope to reveal and understand something more about media culture today and its fascination with modern adaptations of history, and how this ties into the success of one of television's greatest phenomenon. That's why I think it's relevant to ask, how does a prominence of historical parallels contribute to the success of the *Game of Thrones* series?

James Andrew McDaniel

Joseph Stitt

Legends of Sherwood: A Venture into Crafting a Novel of Robin Hood

This project is based on the study of writing a fictional work based around the literary mythology surrounding the character of Robin Hood. This project examines the work required in developing such a narrative and its characters as well as key themes and conflicts. The presentation consists of a summary of the work involved in research and writing plus selections from the completed writing to give insight into the potential finished product

Group B:

HB 202

Papers in Natural and Social Science

Henry G. Stephenson

Joseph F. Chandler

From Personality to Person Perception: A Path Analysis of Individual Differences in Attribution of Blame for Poverty

Individuals have different perceptions about the causes of poverty. While some think of poverty in terms of structural limitations, others think of it according to the shortcomings of individuals experiencing it. While many studies have addressed these social cognitive processes, few have attempted to determine the

personal and political factors contributing to them. In our study, path analysis was used to determine the relative contributions of big-five personality traits, disgust sensitivity, right-wing authoritarianism, social conservatism, and need for cognition to individualistic attributions of blame for poverty. A path is proposed where openness to new experience and sensitivity to contamination independently influence right-wing authoritarianism. This influences social conservatism, which predicts the outcome of individualistic blame attribution for poverty. These results expand our understanding of poverty perceptions and how personality and political beliefs predict social attitudes.

Conner Quiggle
Corey Smith

Joseph F. Chandler
Lynne Trench

The Impact of Sleep Extension on Athletic Performance: Finding the Minimum Effective Dose

Sleep deprivation significantly hinders athletic performance, yet is often overlooked as an area for performance enhancement programs. Limited extant literature has focused heavily on how to recover from sleep deprivation and subsequent improvements in performance. Research involving sleep extension, or sleeping beyond baseline need, has been almost completely ignored. A single study on sleep extension determined that 10 hours time-in-bed (TIB) per night for five to seven weeks significantly improved basketball-specific performance in Division I student-athletes. Given the time demands of student-athletes, this level of intervention does not seem realistic. The current study focused on finding the minimum effective dose of sleep extension to improve athletic performance above individual baseline need. We hypothesized that soccer-specific athletic performance would improve when participants experienced extended sleep for three nights compared to baseline sleep for three nights in a repeated measures design. Eight (seven males and one female) Division III soccer players maintained an individual baseline sleep schedule for three nights followed by an extended sleep schedule (10 hours TIB per night) for three nights. Condition order was randomized. The day following both conditions, participants completed soccer-specific skill tasks along with psychomotor vigilance, self-reported sleepiness, and mood measures. Paired sample *t*-tests determined that following sleep extension, passing accuracy improved (2.813 out of 10 passes completed at baseline vs 5.0 out of 10 passes completed after extended sleep, $p = .009$), raw jumping power improved (59.75 inches on baseline vs. 61.63 inches after extended sleep, $p = .049$), and dribbling error through rods decreased (.8750 errors per trial on baseline vs. .1875 errors per trial after extended sleep, $p = .054$). Participants also experienced significant gains in psychomotor speed, decreased self-reported sleepiness, and improved mood (all $p < .05$). These results suggest that three nights of extended sleep is an effective minimum dose to improve performance on soccer-specific athletic tasks. Implications are discussed in terms of research and applied practice.

Lallie Bennett

Joseph F. Chandler
Lynne Trench

Personality as a Moderator of the Effects of Glucose Administration during Sleep Deprivation

Chronic fatigue due to sleep deprivation is a primary contributing factor to accidents in the military. Existing fatigue countermeasures are often too costly or too risky to implement. Chandler and colleagues (2016, 2017) found strategic glucose administration to be a low cost, low risk solution to successfully counter the effects of acute sleep loss on the psychomotor vigilance task (PVT). The present study proposed that the effect of glucose on performance during sleep loss may be moderated by personality. Specifically, the energy expenditure hypothesis suggests extraverts spend more energy, and therefore suffer the effects of sleep loss more quickly, than introverts in social sleep deprivation settings. It follows that extraverts should have a higher glucose need than introverts in order to sustain performance during sleep loss. A 2 (glucose versus sucralose) x 2 (extravert versus introvert) analysis of variance (ANOVA) on the PVT after 22 hours of continuous wakefulness revealed no such difference. Results run counter to the energy expenditure hypothesis of personality and sleep loss, suggesting an alternate path of the effect. Exploratory analyses with other personality factors revealed an effect of agreeableness on lapse behavior. Implications for the energy expenditure hypothesis and the influence of personality on behavior during sleep loss are discussed.

Ethan Arnold

Pete VanZandt

Sippers and Blotters: Can Proboscis Morphology Help Determine Feeding Habits of Temperate Moths?

While the diet of many caterpillars is well documented, the feeding habits of most moths are unknown. Recent reviews have begun to compile lists of flower-visiting moths; however, less than 2% of the over 10,000 species of North American moths visit and pollinate plants, leaving the feeding habits of a large number of moths a mystery. While some species feed on nectar accessed via narrow corolla tubes, others may feed on open sources of liquid such as insect or plant secretions, puddles, or rotting fruit. Just as the beak morphology of birds is indicative of feeding mode, we reasoned that the feeding habits of moths might be related to proboscis morphology. Studies have shown that the proboscises of tropical butterflies differ based on whether they feed on fruit or flowers, but temperate moths have not been studied. We collected moths in Alabama and Tennessee using traps baited with either moth attracting flowers, floral extracts, or fermenting fruit. We examined the proboscis of each specimen for image analysis using light microscopy to determine if there were morphological differences between flower and fruit visitors. We expected that flower-visiting moths would have adaptations for drinking liquid through a narrow opening, such as a long proboscis with a short brush region and few sensilla styloconica. In contrast, fruit feeders should have shorter proboscises with long and broad brush regions ornamented with more sensilla styloconica. As expected, the 13 species attracted to flowers or floral extracts had fewer sensilla styloconica, shorter brush regions, and less brush region area overall than the eight species attracted to fruit. However, there was no difference in relative proboscis lengths. Our results indicate that morphological examination of moth proboscises may be helpful in preliminarily differentiating closed tube feeding species from those that feed on open sources.

Group C:

HB 225

Papers in Global and Comparative Studies

Jay Michael Williams

Natalie M. Davis

“Oh, Say Can You See” if the Message Matters? An Analysis of National Anthems

The transnational phenomenon of national anthems is not a widely evaluated topic. However, among students and scholars of social science, the functionality of national anthems cross-culturally has been debated, but never through a political science lens. National anthems are a tool for political socialization and, until now, have not been examined as such. Throughout this study, I will discuss and analyze the effects of the lyrics, and the musical natures of national anthems on national constituencies. I hypothesize that by analyzing the militarism present in a country's national anthem, I will find an influential relationship in determining how “good” a country ranks in comparison to other countries. I find support for my hypothesis through Spearman's Rho and a Simple Linear Regression

Erik Hancock

Bob Slagter

Necessity Knows No Law: Exploring the Repressive Tendencies of Fragile States

Why is it that some countries repress their people more than others? For decades, scholars have struggled to answer this question. Although researchers have long found regime type to be among the most significant factors shaping the repressive tendencies of the state, I find evidence which challenges this conclusion. By conducting a time-series statistical analysis from 2005 to 2015, I find statistically significant evidence that state capacity has a stronger effect on state repression than regime type. Furthermore, I find that the magnitude of inter-state war is not a significant predictor for state repression. My findings are, however, consistent with prior research that intra-state war, economic development, regime type, and population size are all significant predictors of state repression. These findings provide new lines of inquiry for future research, with a particular focus on demographic change, state legitimacy, and the relationship between factionalized elite.

Turner Collins

Natalie M. Davis

How the West was Won: Immigration, Euroscepticism, and Populism

Two of the most politically salient issues of 2016 were the “Brexit” referendum and the election of Donald Trump to the presidency of the United States. The common denominator between these events is populism. Brexit and the election of Trump are direct victories for populism. However, the recent Austrian presidential re-vote and the Dutch general election failed to fully empower more populists in Europe. In the

upcoming French presidential and German federal elections, right-wing populist parties hope to make significant gains. As populism sees a rebirth in the West, it is important to gauge populist citizens' views on salient issues. Two of the most important of these issues currently for Europe are immigration and the EU, begging the question: does populist ideology inform views on immigration and the EU and, if so, how? This paper argues that there is indeed a relationship between populist ideology and anti-immigrant and Eurosceptic views.

Gabriel Kaplan

Vincent T. Gawronski

“Dude, Where’s Your Car?” The Urban Phenomenon of American Public Transit

Public transportation access has major implications for urban residents. This paper analyzes the relationship between access to, and usage of public transportation, and quality of life. Using American Community Survey, Department of Transportation, and Gallup-Healthways Community Wellbeing data, this essay attempts to quantify what direct effects--if any--public transportation has on the quality of life for thirty-one American metropolitan areas with the best and worst public transit capabilities. A comparison of 15 cities with good quality public transit systems and 15 cities with poor quality public transit systems revealed the following two factors as having the most significant effect on public transit accessibility: urban land use, and funding and management. Results from a correlation analysis were consistent with the above case study findings--amount of federal funding had a significant positive correlation with annual ridership, while the cities receiving the most federal funds were healthier and contained better quality public transit.

Group D:

HB 325

Presentations in Art

Katie Caloway Cleveland

Kevin Shook

An Artistic Representation of Therapy through Rabbits

Suffering comes in the darkness of night
Making us reflect on the beauty of light
That calls the abused and the broken heart
To pull back together from falling apart

Relief can be found in religion and habits
And sometimes even in connections with rabbits

Anna Eggers

Kevin Shook

Gendered Space: Activism and Art

Queer visual culture, when not coded and secretive, has been characterized by imagery of protest, anger, and overly-sexualized bodies. As bills restricting the rights of transgender individuals continue to rise and fall, I have entered public restrooms, spaces heavily defined by gender norms, and employed photography as a way to explore and expose current events and the history of queer culture.

Hailey A Kirkley

Kevin Shook

Relationships Present & Relationships Past

Time and Memory, Memory and Time
Intimately connected, they become intertwined

Working together, they men and they weave
The perception of reality that we believe

Relationships present and Relationships past
Stick with us concretely, and fly by fleetingly fast

Ali Sadler

Kevin Shook

Religion and Grief: How to Navigate Twenty-One Years with a Dead Parent

Using photography, prints, and a variety of mixed media, I have created a body of work that challenges my family's reaction to the death of my father. Combing familiar family photos and text explores the role that

my religious background has played in shaping my grieving process and development as a woman. This body of work reflects how memory, space, and religion are intimately connected to our perception of death.

Savannah Bullard

Kevin Shook

Creation of a Contradiction

Exploring several techniques and mediums, I aim to achieve a specific mental state. This process of creating is reflected back onto the paper and to the viewer.

Group E:

HB 128

**Papers in Urban Environmental Studies and Sociology
[Presentations Continuing into Session II]**

Kendall Allen

William G. Holt

Empowering a Community: Eliminating Food Deserts in Ensley, Alabama

Deindustrialization began in the 1910s and continued into the 1980s, when millions of Americans lost their jobs due to the closing of industrial plants nationwide. Large corporations closed plants in cities such as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Youngstown, Ohio, and relocated to different low-income areas in the United States and overseas (Marcus 1991:181). This trend of deindustrialization has led former industrial sites to become food deserts across the United States. The Food Empowerment Project (2017) defines food deserts as “geographic areas where residents’ access to affordable, healthy food options is restricted or nonexistent due to the absence of grocery stores within convenient travelling distance.” Founded in 1887, the once-booming industrial town of Ensley, Alabama, is now a food desert (Schneider 2009). This paper will examine different aspects of Ensley’s food desert problem and present options for funding. Suggested economic redevelopment efforts include the implementation of a smaller supermarket format in the Ensley Commercial District. Recommendations will be modeled after case studies in Youngstown, Ohio, and presented with the consulting expertise of several non-profits and planning organizations. The recommendations given in this paper will address the significant need for healthy and affordable food access in the Ensley community.

Davis Crocker

William G. Holt

Deindustrialization in The Past Leads to New Ideas of Urban Renewal

In Alabama, you can find a lake, river, or creek almost everywhere you turn your head with a great abundance of biodiversity. This is because Alabama ranks number one in the country in freshwater species of fishes, snails, mussels, crayfish, and turtles and among the top states in reptiles, amphibians, and carnivorous plants (Duncan, Scot). Many people in Alabama do not know that we are ranked this high in the country and it is a great honor to have being a resident of Alabama. In West Birmingham there are two creeks, Village Creek and Valley Creek, that run throughout the area that are filled with a diversity of aquatic wildlife for many residents and schools to be able to study and learn about the diversity in Alabama’s water systems. A start to helping out the education of the residents and students would be to have a small educational center located on the creek with the possibility of having canoe and kayak access so that people can go up and down the creek and enjoy what our area has to offer us and how important our water systems are to us. Along with the educational site there could be a hiking trail that follows along the creek bank with education signs telling people about the area and what all aquatic species live in the area. This would help to get people out to the area and be more engaged with the area and have a good time being outside instead of cooped up inside.

Jessica Harvey

William G. Holt

Effects of Deindustrialization: The Revitalization of Post-Industrial Ensley

Deindustrialization refers to “the process of social and economic change ignited by the removal or reduction of industrial activity,” and is essentially the inverse of industrialization, which is a process by which societies graduate from agrarian economies to manufacturing based economies (Boundless, 2016). Deindustrialization generally occurs following the development of countries and with the shift toward service-based economies because it becomes economically advantageous to outsource manufacturing jobs to developing countries such as China today (“De-Industrialization, 2000). This paper will focus on the revitalization of Ensley, Alabama, as its economy collapsed following the movement of Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company (TCI) to a more northeast location in Fairfield, Alabama following the merge of TCI and the United States Steel Corporation in 1907 (Rikard, 2009) . In 1907. In the decades the loss of

the manufacturing backbone of a local economy, a large proportion of the population lost their jobs and were unable to support small businesses, leading to decreased population and economic instability (Boundless, 2016). By the turn of 21st century, Ensley became somewhat of a ghost town, in which abandoned buildings are prevalent and the population is sparse (Webb, 2014). To more effectively plan this revitalization, I will use case studies from Lowell and Lawrence, Massachusetts and Huntsville, Alabama, as well as Greenville, South Carolina. These cities offer insight as to what is or is not effective in regenerating both community and a post-industrial economy, and provide real-life examples of how fulfilling community needs and boosting small businesses work hand-in-hand for rejuvenating fiscal security. The project proposed will focus on affordable housing through remodeling existing historic structures and utilizing storefront or nearby space to centralize services (i.e., groceries, pharmacy, restaurants, local stores/services) while also considering community aesthetic aspects, such as parks and street lighting, and maintaining historic components like Tuxedo Junction.

Haley Mendoza

William G. Holt

The Market at Bessemer

After the stock market crash in October 1929, Birmingham, Alabama was named the “hardest hit city in the nation.” In addition to thousands of residents being out of work, U.S. Steel shut down its Birmingham mills leaving the city depressed for eight years. There are areas in Birmingham in which the affects of this event can still be seen today. Bessemer was one of the many communities in Birmingham, Alabama that was severely affected by the deindustrialization. This paper will focus on a plot of land in Bessemer, Alabama, which will be turned into The Bessemer Market. The Bessemer Market will be a permanent venue that will have events every week or month for the community to engage in to try to bring a central source of retail back in the area. Local vendors and artists will be able to bring their merchandise to a tent at the market to sell to citizens in the community. The market will be similar to Santa Fe, New Mexico’s Farmers Market and The Market at Pepper Place in Birmingham, Alabama. One of the goals of the Bessemer Market is to get the Bessemer area exposure to not only those in the area, but also people from the surrounding areas that would not typically visit Bessemer. The Bessemer Market will not be a standard farmers market, but more of an arts and entertainment market. The ultimate goal of this project is to bring the community of Bessemer together, increase the amount of spending in the area, and in the long term, the vendors at the market will one day be able to move from the market to opening their own small businesses in the area.

Marilyn Rowell

William G. Holt

Rebuilding Community Through Urban Agriculture: Bessemer Urban Farm Proposal

Birmingham and the City of Bessemer boomed in the late 1800’s due to its iron and steel industry. The city began to truly suffer during the many 1900’s recessions because there was limited industry in the area, causing unemployment rates to increase and businesses to leave the city (Synder, 2017). Bessemer has been on an uphill climb, working on diversifying its industry by building new recreational facilities, parks, and retail offices (The City of Bessemer, 2017). Bessemer proves to be an area of economic upturn and the inclusion of an urban farm will help with the reindustrialization of the area. Case studies from Boston, Kansas City, and Birmingham offer insight on urban farming and demonstrate how it is possible to run an efficient farm in an urban area while continuously empowering the community to become more diverse, healthy and sustainable. This project proposes the construction of an urban farm on a vacant lot in Bessemer, Alabama to alleviate the lack of affordable fresh produce and other healthful whole foods, also known as a food desert. By leasing plots of land to various organizations and groups, the goal is to, in turn, build a stronger sense of community and revitalize the area (The City of Bessemer, 2017)

Morgan Schneider

William G. Holt

Steeling Energy from the Southern Sun: Proposal for an Alabama Power Solar Farm at U.S. Steel, Fairfield, Alabama

My presentation shows scientific and economic analysis as well as discussion for Alabama Power, a conglomerate of Southern Company, the potential of implementing a solar farm at the former U.S. Steel’s headquarters in Fairfield, Alabama. Historically, both companies have been major employers of Alabama and continue to employ thousands of workers throughout the South and Northeast. The current state of the 1,200 acre U.S. Steel site is a brownfield from past steel production. Southern Company has been investing in clean, renewable, and sustainable energy for decades and this investment would provide the company another avenue to public relation and economic benefit. The current political climate also incentivizes this

investment as the Trump administration and political figures in power are pushing for the re-development of infrastructure, tax cuts for clean energy, and increased funding in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education sector. Technology of photovoltaic cells is a new market and with time will only become more efficient and effective at gathering energy from the sun. The union of these companies, will provide clean, renewable, and sustainable energy for generations while providing a positive economic impact.

Abby Knight

Meghan L. Mills

Sorority Participation and Body Satisfaction

This research focuses on the effect that sorority participation has on college women. The goal of this research is to examine whether women's magazines have a different effect on sorority women compared to non-sorority women. This study was completed by an online anonymous survey given to current Birmingham-Southern College students. The sample size for this research is 160 and analysis was conducted using SPSS. The results indicate that sorority women do in fact have less satisfaction with their own bodies compared to independent women. The multivariate logistic regression shows that when controlling for race, participation in a sorority, and reliance on media, only attitudes about one's body significantly predict participation in unhealthy behaviors. This research is important because it shows how people can be shaped by society and the media in different ways because of their affiliation with a sorority. It will allow people to better understand how young people are succumbing to the unrealistic body ideals that are seen in the media.

Conner Hayes

Meghan L. Mills

Color-Blind Racism in Higher Education: An Examination into the Pedagogical Discourse of Race at a Predominantly White Southern Liberal Arts College

This study, integrating research data from the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 academic years, attempts to explicate the experiences of students and faculty regarding race related topics in classrooms at Birmingham-Southern College, a small, predominantly white liberal arts college in Birmingham, Alabama. Examining the pedagogical state of race discussions, this study aims, additionally, to ascertain attitudinal degrees of "color-blind" racial ideology (the post-racial belief that race does not matter in society anymore) in students and faculty in relation to their resultant effects on pedagogical racial discourse in the classroom. Drawing from 171 student survey respondents, 47 faculty survey respondents, and 8 student and faculty focus groups, this study integrates both quantitative survey methods and qualitative, phenomenological methods. Introducing the concept of "color-blind" racial ideology, attempting to delineate the interrelationality of this ideology and higher education pedagogy, the central research question is: are current pedagogical methods at Birmingham-Southern College complicit or challenging "color-blind" racial ideology at this predominantly white liberal arts college? Contending against "post-racial" conceptions of American society, and offering research in the form of a case study to augment the emerging theoretical and empirical literature focusing on "color-blind racism," this study aims to illuminate complicated facets of an often disregarded issue. The imperative for raising racial consciousness is critical in higher education classrooms, and this study explores particular problematic elements of achieving this goal at a racially homogenous, predominantly white higher education institution in the American South.

Hattie O'Hara

Meghan Mills

Wildtracks Belize: Hands-On Service Learning at a Primate and Manatee Rehabilitation Sanctuary

During the month of January 2017, I traveled to Sarteneja, Belize to spend one month volunteering at an animal rehabilitation center that specializes in the rehab of Howler monkeys, Spider monkeys, and manatees. I worked primarily with eight Yucatan Black Howler monkeys in the pre-release stage of rehabilitation. After being trained and shadowing, I was given full responsibility of the feedings, enclosure upkeep, socialization, and enrichment of the monkeys for the month. I was also able to spend my free time working directly with the manatees being rehabilitated. Through this experience, I was able to learn about the factors that lead to wild animals needing rehabilitation and get an inside look into the pet trade. I also gained first-hand experience about the internal operations of a highly successful international non-profit, which is a field I hope to go into after graduation.

Group F:

HB 328

Papers in Religious Studies

Hannah Duffett

Amy Cottrill

Images of the Environment in the Creations Stories of Genesis

Genesis has been a central biblical text in the study of environmental ethics. Despite its central role in Christian environmental ethics, little attention has been paid to the multiple portrayals of creation in the book of Genesis itself. This paper compares the two creation stories in Genesis and discusses the significance of the diverse ideas of creation in the biblical texts

Emily Eidson

Amy Cottrill

The Vision of Friendship in Early Christianity

Friendship is a central theme in many New Testament texts. This paper explores the development of friendship as a relational model in the Gospel of John specifically. How is friendship depicted? Why did it become so important in the author's theological and social vision? I argue that friendship develops in a particular way in the Johannine community of early followers of Jesus as an alternative to kinship relational models that were strained by tensions in the community due to theological conflict. Additionally, I draw the connection between the depiction of friendship in John and the relevance of friendship in Christianity and Ministry today.

Andrea Vancil

Amy Cottrill

Tackling the Two-Language Problem: Three Theologies that Leave Room for Science

In popular and political spheres, science and religion seem to be constantly at odds. This juxtaposition throughout history has established the two as separate languages that can rarely or never be translated peacefully. In this paper, I examine the arguments of three 20th-century Protestant theologians (Langdon Gilkey, Ted Peters, and Robert J. Russell) who have successfully integrated an appreciation for science into their theological methodologies with the intent of isolating their different approaches to the connections between science and theological investigation

Kayla J. Smith

Amy Cottrill

Beyoncé as a Womanist Theologian

Beyoncé Knowles-Carter shocked the world with the release of her latest visible album, *Lemonade*, which examines and responds to the life of a black woman and her experiences with oppression, motherhood, and betrayal by both a father and a husband. In this paper, I argue that Beyoncé did not just create a powerful and socially relevant album, but she also created womanist theology by using God-talk to shed light on the minds of black women. Using womanist theology, which places the lives experiences of black woman at the center of theological reflection, I explore *Lemonade* as an artistic creation that similarly places black women and their theological perspectives in a place of authority; Beyoncé's work is womanist theology, because it places black women at the center and celebrates their distinct spiritual challenges and methods of coping with their daily struggles.

Liz Brody

Amy Cottrill

Jewish American Diaspora Cuisine: Edible Nostalgia

This paper explores the importance of spirituality and geography in the Jewish culinary experience. Judaism and food practices are intertwined, from kosher laws to the symbolism of the seder meals throughout the Jewish year. In this presentation, I examine the means by which Jewish identity is maintained and formed through food practices and customs through levels of Torah-observance, place within the United States, and the diaspora origins of Jewish communities that have either embraced or abandoned the recipes of their homelands.

Group G:

HB 228

Studies in Literature and Culture

Shelby Wesley

Fred Ashe

New South, Old South: Reactions to Modernization in Bobbie Ann Mason's 'Shiloh'

This paper seeks to examine how Bobbie Ann Mason deals with the industrialization of the American South in her 1982 short story "Shiloh." More specifically, this paper asserts that the three main characters of the work (Mabel, Norma Jean, and Leroy) are representations of the tension between the Old and New

South. First, the paper will extrapolate on what it means by “Old South” and “New South,” applying a new historicist lens. Then, it will analyze the actions and characteristics of Mabel, Norma Jean, and Leroy and assign them to either side of history or, in Leroy’s case, the borderline. The importance of this paper is its assertion of Bobbie Ann Mason’s belief that a person MUST study history and make up their mind about what side is worth supporting.

Megan Rasmussen

Fred Ashe

Analysis of Selected Jacob A. Riis Photographs and Their Effects on Gilded Age New York

I will use two specific photographs of homeless children taken by Jacob A. Riis in 1890s New York from his books *How the Other Half lives* published 1890 and *The Children of the Poor* published 1892 to explain how Riis’ works sparked reform in the areas of child labor and revitalization of certain streets of New York. I will first provide historical context by giving Riis’ background and explaining important details of the economic inequality in the Gilded Age and specifically in Gilded Age New York. After providing context, I will examine details of each photo and relate them to broader areas of inequality characteristic of the Gilded Age. Finally, I will conclude by providing examples of reform in New York that could be attributed to the work of Riis.

Chandler Findley

Fred Ashe

More Than Just a Pretty Face: A Defense of Japan's Geisha

Geisha are a type of Japanese artist whose craft has been a part of Japanese culture since 1750. Despite this, there are many people who would like to see the art form abolished in modern Japan, and most of these people are not Japanese themselves. Feminists argue that because geisha perform mostly for male clients, the art form is degrading. Humanists’ arguments center more on child labor and rumors of prostitution. However, geisha ensure that traditional styles of music, singing, and dance are not lost to history. The art of geisha is dying due to these misconceptions about them, and losing this art form would be a heavy blow to Japan’s culture.

Group H:

Music

Hill Recital Hall

Honors Recital

Hill Recital Hall

May 11, 2017 at 1:30 pm

Partita no. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004
3. Sarabanda

Johann Sebastian Bach
1685-1750

Rachel Christmas, violin

To Lizbie Browne
from Earth and Air and Rain

Gerald Finzi
1901-1956

Nick deCastro, baritone
Virginia Dismukes, piano

Lyric Pieces, Op. 54
4. Notturmo

Edvard Grieg
1843-1907

Andrew Brown, piano

Steal Away

Harry T. Burleigh
1866-1949

Brittanie Harrow, soprano
Virginia Dismukes, piano

Her Voice
from The Little Mermaid

Alan Menken
b. 1949

Alex Freeman, tenor
Derek Jackson, piano

Concertino for Saxophone, Op. 78	Jean Baptiste Singe 1812-1875
Kianna Muse, saxophone Virginia Dismukes, piano	
L'Heure exquise	Reynaldo Hahn 1874-1947
Virginia Cade, soprano Derek Jackson, piano	
Waving through a window <i>from</i> Dear Evan Hansen	Benj Pasek and Justin Paul b. 1985 and b. 1985
Jackson Massey, tenor Derek Jackson, piano	
Sonata No. 12 in A-flat Major, Op. 26 1. Andante con variazioni	Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827
Michael Barren, piano	
Der Hölle Rache kocht in meinem Herzen <i>from</i> Die Zauberflöte	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart 1756-1791
Macey Rowland, soprano Virginia Dismukes, piano	

POSTER PRESENTATIONS WITH PRESENTERS

From 1:30 to 2:45 in Harbert Lobby and Hallways

Audrey Alexander
Controversies in Dying: Cultural Differences on Euthanasia, Autopsies, and Disorders of Consciousness

Jessica Allen

Background & Objective: Dominant culture tends to affect both legal and medical systems when death approaches. Rather than cultural or religious practices, the dominant culture puts medicine and technology at the forefront of determining end-of-life decisions. The purpose of this paper is to investigate how different cultural and subcultural groups view controversial issues associated with death and dying in health care. Specifically, disorders of consciousness, euthanasia, and autopsies are examined.

Methods: A peer-reviewed literature search was conducted with search engines including PubMed, PsychInfo, and Google Scholar. Key words such as postmortem procedure, cultural views, vegetative state, minimally conscious state, attitudes, and religion were used to ensure relevant articles were procured from the searches. Of the articles produced, 17 have been used for relevant information thus far.

Results: Though race/ethnicity and religion have substantial effects on beliefs and views on euthanasia, disorders of consciousness, and autopsies, subcultures among health professions and varying knowledge levels among the public are another major influence. The variations of personal, religious, and cultural views on these issues have led to moral and ethical debates in health care and legislation.

Conclusion: Learning about variations among cultures (e.g. cultural awareness) regarding issues such as these can lead to better whole person care in the health care field. This knowledge is especially important in our culturally blended country so that the wishes of patients can be properly met.

Ethan Arnold

Jessica Allen

Children Facing End-of-Life: A Practical Guide for Healthcare Professionals to the Taboo of the Western World

Each year 53,000 children face the end-of-life. In western culture, a taboo exists around discussing the death of children. For this reason, there is limited literature on the subject, of which what exists is shrouded by privacy. The purpose of this review is to answer the question, "how do you tell a child they are dying?" from the perspective of a health care professional. Furthermore, it aims to submit tangible advice deduced from dynamic psychosocial investigations regarding prognosis, age, and department.

Methods: A literature search was conducted through the Birmingham-Southern College's library "Discover Search" tool, and interlibrary loan. Search criteria were modeled by the following key terms: "Children" and death" with sub key terms being "hospital" and "PICU".

Results: The first and foremost point of importance when telling a child they are facing end-of-life is being culturally and ethnically sensitive to the child and their family. The last thing that should be done by the healthcare professional is to explain the stage of development and level of understanding of the child to their caregivers.

Conclusions: From the secrecy surrounding the diagnosis, to the under-attended funeral services, we have a problem in the west with children dying. However, healthcare staffs are expected to break this news to children and their families. This has been compared in literature to telling your children about sex, saying that the easiest way to make sure the child is comfortable with the amount of information they are receiving is to let them lead the conversation.

Hailey Bain

Jessica Allen

A Review of the Literature on the Physical, Mental, and Emotional Impact of Parental Bereavement

Background & Objective: The loss of one's child is an incredibly challenging, distressing, and traumatic event for a parent to face, and the impact of the loss is noted with varying degrees of bereavement. Statistics from the CDC indicate that 50% of child deaths occur during the child's first year, which limits preparation for the parents. The aim of this project is to summarize the literature surrounding parental bereavement and to explore coping methods of reducing long-term negative well-being outcomes.

Methods: Searches were conducted on GoogleScholar and the BSC Library website to acquire relevant literature using the keywords: death in children, parental bereavement, loss of a child, cancer in children, palliative care for children, mortality in parents of lost child. Search results were chosen to highlight causal relationships between the keywords. Literature over the course of the past 30 years was included, although the majority of the material was collected from the past decade.

Results: The main implications from the literature include that mortality rates and other long-term effects among bereaved parents differ significantly between mothers and fathers. Overall, mothers have higher mortality rates than fathers do. Furthermore, mortality among bereaved parents is most likely to occur during the first three years after death, and is more severe if the child's death was unexpected or traumatic. Differences in the cause of death are shown to affect the degree that the parent grieves the loss.

Conclusion: Parents experiencing the death of a child are more likely to develop mental and physical health problems, get divorced or have marital conflict, lose or quit their job, and have permanent or long-term grief. Parents with a terminally ill child need to have proper palliative care measures to aid in the ease of the process and help them come to terms with the death

Meena Barakam

Jessica Allen

Physician Assisted Suicide: Ethics and Controversy Surrounding its Use

Background & Objective: Physician-assisted suicide (PAS) is the act of a physician helping or providing a patient with the means to end his or her life. Much controversy surrounds PAS. Proponents argue that PAS allows autonomy of patients to be upheld. Opponents argue that it can impact the stress levels of physicians such as general practitioners (GPs) who provide prolonged patient care. Other arguments involve ethics and the idea that life is precious versus the "dignity" of human life, as well as the Hippocratic Oath, which states that physicians must do no harm. It is necessary to address the conflicts associated with PAS since it is used throughout the U.S. despite it being legal in only three states.

Methods: Searches were conducted primarily within the PubMed database. The book titled Principles of Biomedical Ethics was also researched. Key terms and phrases used included "physician-assisted suicide", "mercy killing", and "terminal illness." Search results produced articles presenting arguments for and against the use of PAS, while some presented studies that provided supporting evidence in the form of studies for their arguments or hypotheses.

Results: Different healthcare professionals hold varying stances on the practice of PAS. Many studies that conducted surveys of general practitioners and other physicians showed that these professionals often feel uncomfortable with the practice of PAS since it goes against their traditional role of doing no harm to patients. They often report feeling anxiety and stress when asked to perform PAS. Nurses were also surveyed and the majority of these professionals indicated similar responses. On the other hand, some health professionals support the use of PAS because it upholds patient autonomy, allowing the patients to

die with dignity rather than have them suffer through the end stages of life. Overall, however, most healthcare professionals aim to uphold patient autonomy regardless of their stance on PAS.

Conclusion: Although there are varied opinions surrounding PAS among healthcare professionals, both proponents and opponents provide insightful and significant arguments to support their claims. Ultimately, it appears that most professionals hold the opinion that the patient's autonomy should be upheld regardless of the circumstances while others hold traditionalist views that align with the Hippocratic oath of physicians: to do no harm.

Lallie Bennett

Jessica Allen

End of Life Experience for Patients with Cancer, Stroke, or Alzheimer's Disease

Background & Objective: Cancer, Stroke, and Alzheimer's disease are among the top 10 most prevalent causes of death in those over the age of 65. The purpose of the current paper is to examine quality-of-life at end-of-life among patients and caregivers of individuals with Cancer, Stroke, and Alzheimer's disease based on contributing factors such as advanced care planning, end-of-life care settings, and coping differences

Methods: A review of the literature was conducted searching the databases PsychINFO and Google Scholar using a combination of terms including ageing, Alzheimer's Disease, stroke, cancer, caregiving, awareness, coping, life-sustaining treatments, and hospice. The search was restricted to human participants 65 years and older.

Results: The literature suggests that there are common themes during the end of life period that can be applied across diagnoses. However, coping styles, advanced care planning and caregiving can vary based on diagnoses and trajectory. An uncertain trajectory can lead to increased anxiety and utilization of life-sustaining treatment. Rapid cognitive deterioration characterizes increased caregiver burden and decreased decisions to opt for life-sustaining treatment.

Conclusion: This review highlights the differences in experiences at end of life based on three of the most common diagnoses. Each diagnoses influences coping, advanced care planning, setting, and caregiving based on the severity of symptoms and trajectory of the disease. However, there are factors, such as illness perception, that can influence quality of life and decision-making at end of life that cannot be completely accounted for by diagnosis.

Marvin Castellanos

Jessica Allen

Coping with PTSD Symptoms in Military Veterans

Background & Objective: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a mental disorder that affects over one-half of military veterans with mental disorders. Patients suffering from this disorder are more susceptible to suicidal thoughts and actions. The purpose of this paper is to discuss various techniques used by military veterans to cope with PTSD as PTSD is a risk factor for suicide, which is particularly prevalent among veterans.

Methods: A literature search was conducted of the military, medical, and social science data bases using the key words PTSD and military suicides. I found several relevant publications discussing different methods of coping with the symptoms. I focused on recent publications, 2007-2017, and articles including any of the military branches from the United States.

Results: Improving the veteran's relationship with their families before deployment can result in a less stressful deployment. A strong social support system, having a canine companion, and unit cohesion can be equally important at lessening PTSD symptoms. Treating depressive symptoms as well can help reduce suicide risk because research shows that depression and negative thoughts about the self are the leading causes of suicidal thought in patients with PTSD.

Conclusion: There are several potential protective factors and risk factors identified by the available literature. While there is no single treatments or approaches that work for everyone, there are several factors that may promote well-being among veterans. It is important that families, military personnel and the veteran are able to identify risk and protective factors and that when necessary, the patient is willing to seek treatment

Haley Crumpton

Jessica Allen

The Views and Effects of Physician-Assisted Suicide

Background: Individuals are living longer with chronic conditions and life-limiting illness. Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) is a prevalent topic in today's societies considering all the medical advancements that have taken place. PAS is the act of a physician giving a competent patient medication with the intention being for the patient to end his or her own life. Many different views on PAS have taken place over the years both positively and negatively. This purpose of this review is to explain the reasons people are for or against PAS and the effects PAS has on the general population.

Methods: In this review, I used the database Google Scholar and searched the BSC library. Terms I searched include: physician-assisted suicide, doctor and patient views on physician assisted suicide, psychological views on physician assisted suicide, reasons for physician assisted suicide and a combination of these topics. The articles ranged from 1990 to present and no race or age was excluded from this search.

Results: Many theoretical perspectives on PAS have come about over time. One perspective is that if PAS were to become legal everywhere it would lower the price of health-related costs. Another theoretical perspective considers PAS would be going against certain morals and ethical values. The main perspective on why individuals oppose PAS is because it may go against certain religions. However, by it becoming legal, it could be argued that it can help patients maintain autonomy and dignity at the end of their lives by getting to make such a decision.

Conclusion: This review investigates the views on physician assisted suicide based of the public and how it does affect society and could affect it even more if it were to become legal everywhere. Research supports that patients are likely to support for PAS being legal, but doctors who would be the ones to perform the procedure are less likely to support PAS. Widespread legalization of PAS could lower health care costs and may allow patients to die with dignity by getting to make such a decision. However, legalization of PAS could cause moral concerns, particularly among religious groups.

Ethan Curvin

Jessica Allen

A Review of Literature on Emotional Responses to Media Coverage of Terrorism

Background & Objective: Terrorism is an extreme concern in countries all over the world and has been prevalent for many years. From September 11, 2001 to more recent terroristic events overseas in Paris, terrorist activity has affected millions of people. This literature review aims to explore differences in emotional and coping responses from individuals exposed to terroristic violence via mass media.

Methods: A literature search was conducted using the Birmingham-Southern College library and Google Scholar databases. Key words used in this search included: "terrorism", "media", "emotional", "death", "coverage", and "exposure." All articles reviewed were characterized by year and ranged from the year 2000 to the present.

Results: The literature presented research results of participants who viewed video clips associated with terrorist violence and threats showed an increase in posttest levels of anxiety, depression, anger, stereotype attribution, and enemy perception. This conveys the overall magnitude of emotional response to tragic and violent events.

Conclusions: This literature review brings to light the heightened emotional responses associated with exposure to violence involving terrorism. Terrorism is a prevalent and consistent topic covered throughout numerous societies in mass media.

Mary Catherine Dempsey

Jessica Allen

Homicide: Commonalities Among Serial Killers

Background: The behavior and factors for homicidal behavior, such as serial killing, has been of interest to the public for centuries and has had profound effects on society. Unfortunately, the way people perceive serial killing is just a product of Hollywood and is thus not an accurate assessment of the true realities behind the phenomenon. Many psychologists have attempted to find common trends among individuals who engage in serial killing and there is an ongoing debate about whether these trends actually exist or if there is too much variability among these individuals to have themes. Despite there being many similarities in the killings themselves (like sexual motives, leaving signatures, and patterns), this study opts to observe the events that occurred through the life of the individual prior to homicide. It is expected that there will be similarities among the population in terms of their childhood histories, psychologies, and relationship instabilities.

Methods: A literature review was conducted using PubMed, ScienceDirect, EBSCOhost, and psychological journals (like psychINFO) to locate articles concerning the topic. The following key words were entered either alone or conjoined "serial killing", "serial killer", "serial murder", "serial murderer",

“biology”, “neuropathology”, “psychology”, “case study”, “history”, and “risks.” Articles were narrowed down by selecting peer reviewed and full access criteria. Conjointly, 32 serial killers were used in the synthesis of results regardless of nationality, race, age, and sex.

Results: The presence of childhood maltreatment among serial killer populations was found to be above 93%. Because childhood abuse and neglect can have severe impacts on the relationships the individual will one day develop, this may be linked to why the majority of this serial killer population also experienced relationship instabilities. Furthermore, because acquiring a job and performing well in school is often based on peer communication, these serial killers had deficits in both of these categories. Problems in these areas may be why all of the serial killers considered had pasts with crime.

Conclusions: This review gives insight on the adolescent background of individuals who engage in serial killing. Media and Hollywood misrepresentations have infatuated the public and have thus major influences on the way crime is observed. This study presents results from numerous case studies and articles that unveil the truths behind what compels someone to murder

Harrison Deneka

Jessica Allen

A Holistic Review the Effect of Physical Therapy on Cerebral Palsy Patients and their Caregivers

Background: Cerebral palsy is the most common childhood disability and it effects up to 2.5 out of every 1000 children. This disorder results in decreased movement ability and strength among other symptoms. There is a need for physical therapists to assist patients to be able to increase their quality of life. Therefore, physical therapists must not only help the patient’s physical ability, but also assess the mentality and emotion of the patient and their caregivers.

Methods: For this literature review EBSCOhost was used to find articles in the past 100 years that pertain to this topic. The key words that were used were physical therapy, cerebral palsy, and a combination of the two. Articles were reviewed for relevance to the scope of the current literature review. Thirteen sources were used for this literature review.

Results: The literature some established and emerging treatment options for adolescent patients. Different factors, such as environment, play a role in the effectiveness of the therapy. There is a large toll on the caregivers, and this emotional toll can have a negative effect on the child’s ability to improve their condition.

Conclusion: There are many different factors for physical therapists to consider when discerning how to go about treatment for their patients. There are many aspects such as the mindset of the caregiver that can affect the child’s progress. If these aspects are accounted for, the well-being of the child could dramatically increase.

Chaz A. Ferdinand

Jessica Allen

Home Going: Racial Difference in Death and Dying in African American and Caucasian Communities

Background: Research establishes individual differences and experiences across the lifespan are determined by factors such as gender, race, ethnic background and social upbringing. Despite this, there is less work done on individual differences the end-of- and it is more often ignored by researchers. Race, ethnicity, gender and cultural background all affect the way we perceive and treat the end-of-life experience, with none of these being as powerful as the cultural aspect (which often coincides with race or ethnicity.) The question then becomes “What factors lead to these differences?”

Methods: Searches for data and articles for this paper were conducted using both Google Scholar and Birmingham-Southern College’s Research Engine via BSC Library. Search criteria were as follows: key terms entered were “Black,” “end-of-life,” “homicide,” “suicide,” “African American,” “white American,” “funerals,” “death and slavery.” Inclusion criteria included: “Black,” “end-of-life,” “homicide,” and “suicide.” There were 234 results following this search and 20 were chosen to read and select from. Articles that directly discussed how African Americans cope and how it is different from the coping processes of Caucasians were used to write this review.

Results: The ways that certain groups grieve not only shifts over time but also varies across social groups. What the literature reflects, and the main implications for health professionals and for all of society, is that groups of people grieve in different ways and that is largely due to differences in historical background, shorter life spans, religious customs, and ability to adopt more than just the nuclear family. Therefore, we must be sensitive to these differences when interacting with medical patients.

Conclusions: The purpose of this paper is to highlight the differences between the Black American and the White American death experience while directly attributing these differences to certain historical events, societal nuances and geographic differences that when recognized allow medical professionals to have better interactions with patients that may not have their social and cultural background.

Chandler Findley

Jessica Allen

A Review of Psychological Buffers Against Death Anxiety Using Concepts from Terror Management Theory

Background & Objective: Within the context of Social Psychology, Terror Management Theory (TMT) is used to identify effective psychological buffers used to cope with death anxiety. Death anxiety is the existential dread caused by the knowledge of our own impending demises. The aim of this project is to report a literature review of a variety of psychological buffers as described by TMT research and their efficacy at buffering against Mortality Salience (MS) and Death-Thought Accessibility (DTA).

Methods: A literature search was conducted using psychological databases using the keywords *terror management theory*, *death-thought accessibility*, *coping*, and *death anxiety*. This revealed 90 publications which were reviewed for relevance to the current review.

Results: There are two main categories of psychological buffers: cultural worldview (CW) and self-esteem (SE). Psychological buffers can be used healthily to allow people to reduce their death anxiety after being made aware of their own mortality, but they can also be maladaptive and result in prejudices and power-seeking. The research of TMT has implications for people in political, judicial, and business careers. The literature reflects mostly a Western cultural view, however, and further research is needed to determine the application to other cultures.

Conclusion: This review explores a wide variety of psychological buffers using TMT as a basis. CW buffers decrease death anxiety by reinforcing one's own view of the world and the meaning to life held by that view. SE buffers decrease death anxiety by increasing one's sense of control over one's life.

Jalon M. Hollie

Jessica Allen

An Analysis of the United States as a Death-Denying Culture

Background & Objective: The west, particularly the United States, has been considered a death-denying society; a culture that is death-avoidant and will go through high measures to prevent it. However, the culture is saturated with high levels of morbid curiosity; everything from news to video games intensifies the interest in death. The purpose of this review is to assess and investigate the death-welcoming behaviors and beliefs in Western culture, specifically the United States.

Methods: A literature search was conducted of judicial and social science data bases using the key words Cannibal, morbid curiosity, necrophilia, death in media, death denying, and death embracing. This revealed 894 publications, of which 19 were relevant. Information was also found that as less scientific to see the socio-cultural effects of the Gothic culture.

Results: There has been an influx of information on morbid curiosity over the past few decades. With the added aggression of video games and death in the media, it's caused a new field of psychology to develop and look at these things more in depth. Also, over the past 30 years or so, multiple sub-cultures have popped up that challenge the "normalcies" of the west and values that are held. Things that were the status quo are not so, anymore, primarily in reference to death.

Conclusion: There is a significant lack of information on information challenging the West being a death-denying culture. Also, there is no scientific information on the Modern-Day Gothic culture, which is an important subculture for future research.

Katie O'Donnell

Jessica Allen

An Overview of Attitudes on Physician Assisted Suicide

Background: Physician assisted suicide (PAS) is a complex issue that has been a topic of debate for many years. The aim of this project is to research what the differences are between physicians and patients in regards to attitudes about physician assisted suicide.

Method: This research was conducted using databases such as BSC library resource, PubMed, and Google Scholar. I reviewed 20 sources on these databases of which I included 10 in the final paper. Keywords that were used to search this topic are Euthanasia, Physician Assisted Suicide, Right to die, Slippery Slope,

attitudes, and ethics. I excluded articles discussing PAS for people other than the terminally ill, biased articles, and articles based outside of western civilizations.

Results: Research showed differences between physicians and patients in their attitude about PAS. Most patients who seek out PAS are patients with a terminal cancer diagnosis. As far as public opinion goes, the United States is 65% in favor. One major difference between physicians and patient's attitude on PAS is that physicians develop a strong sense of guilt for contributing to their patient's death. For patients, the decision on whether PAS is right for them is surprisingly not related to how much pain they are under. However, patients considering this course of treatment usually show depressive symptoms.

Conclusions: There are a few difference between patients and physician's attitudes on PAS, but the main finding is that patients do not develop a sense of guilt after they choose PAS. In fact, many patients decide to choose PAS because of the guilt they feel for being a burden on their family. More research is needed to fully understand why and who is more likely to support PAS.

Lauren Packer

Jessica Allen

Childhood Bereavement

Background & Objective: Children experience and understand death at different ages and developmental stages of their lives. These ages and stages of development, as well as their concept of death, and coping responses can have a negative or positive impact on how the child faces bereavement after loss. The objective of this review is to review a number of factors that influence childhood bereavement.

Methods: Birmingham Southern College Library, Google Scholar, and Pub-Med were used to search the key terms for literature. Key terms included were: children, bereavement, loss, development, death, DSM and mental health.

Results: There are different concepts of death for children at different ages. Parental loss is the most common form of loss for a child. There are many effective treatment options for childhood bereavement. Some psychologist use art therapy as a method of helping children cope with loss.

Conclusion: This review explores different factors that are associated with and influence childhood bereavement and coping with loss. Piaget's stages of development and Nagy's stages of death understanding correlate heavily with how children bereave and respond to loss

Jodi Plog

Jessica Allen

Funeral Proceedings and Overall Attitude of Death and Dying of Native Americans and Asian in Comparison to Western Culture

Background: This paper examines funeral proceedings (e.g. burial styles) and the overall death attitudes of various Native American tribes, multiple religions from Asia, and the Western culture in America because understanding cultural backgrounds helps to better understand other people, which is necessary to prevent fighting and inequality in a diverse country like the United States. The goal of learning about dissimilar cultures can brew a greater understanding between them and foster better worldwide communications.

Methods: The information compiled for this poster was discovered through the Birmingham Southern College library and content from Despelder's *The Last Dance*. Articles from Proquest, Google, and PsychINFO databases were utilized, and all of the references were written (or translated) to English, and no journals previous to 1994 were used.

Results: Proceedings, overall death attitudes, and death anxieties varied widely between cultures and religions. While there are a few similarities, enough evidence has been accumulated to support the theory that since there are many different views and even beliefs that change astronomically between.

Conclusions: This review helps to compare and contrast death cultures from around the world also to exhibit ways in which everybody is alike because death is prevalent everywhere. Learning about our neighbor's cultural background can shed light onto their ways of life. Understanding this will increase smoother communications in the future.

Laura Sundman

Jessica Allen

Bereavement of the Nuclear Family: Dynamics Following Loss of a Child

Background: The purpose of this literature review is to critically examine and to better grasp the family dynamics following the loss of a child while in the bereavement process. The family will not only be approached as single intermingling unit but also individual units so as to analyze the bereavement of each individual and how their bereavement effects the whole family unit. Also, the gender role with in this

family dynamic will be examined, paying close attention to the marital couple and the gender of surviving sibling(s).

Methods: The literature research was gathered of marital bereavement, sibling bereavement, family bereavement post loss. Most of the research on literature concluded in ways in which to grieve or better ways in which a family can cope. I then realized that gender played a tremendous role, how each gender handles death and loss is different and needed to be further sought out in research.

Results: The primary perspectives of this research were focused largely on concerns and commonalities between families. The perspectives all offered ways in which to better cope, recommending therapy and bereavement camps, relationship with the surviving sibling and making sure their needs are met. Socioeconomic status and income in general are already common stressors for, but during bereavement, such factors can become greater stressors. Finally, the loss of a child is a risk factor for ending a marriage, which can happen very quickly and abrupt.

Conclusions: This review highlights gender differences and how gender effects bereavement and coping response. Each individual within a family is a necessity to the entire unit when dealing with bereavement. It is a burden that needs to be acknowledged, shared, and communicated thought the family unit. All of the literature pointed toward therapy and also small ways in how to cope with loss. Further research can be conducted on families of different socio-economic status, as well as regional living area, and race.

Leah White

Jessica Allen

A Review of Literature on Communication Between Physicians and Family Caregivers Prior to End-of-Life Care

Background: For many patients diagnosed with a life-limiting illness, physicians play an important role in patients' and caregivers' responses to diagnosis and prognosis of terminal illness. Literature presents many different patient and caregiver preferences of the communication style as well as the repercussions of untimely communication. The purpose of this literature review is to analyze and critique communication across the EOL continuum between physicians, caregivers, and patients.

Methods: The search engines used to conduct this research were BSC Library, *Pubmed*, and *ScienceDirect* using the keywords EOL, physician communication, palliative care, and hospice care. This search yielded 365 results, of which 21 were used. Articles were excluded if they were regarding pediatric patients and patients without life-limiting illnesses.

Results: The research states that the majority of caregivers and patients prefer to receive diagnosis and prognosis as soon as they are known by the physician, however, physicians prefer to withhold this information, due to lack of education on EOL communication skills. Because the bereavement process of caregivers is shorter when the patient spends more time in hospice, it is beneficial for physicians to communicate the diagnosis and prognosis as early as possible.

Conclusion: Almost every specialty and sub-specialty of medicine involves dealing with death and dying, therefore it is imperative that every doctor in training should have adequate education on how to communicate with family caregivers about prognosis, life expectancy, and treatment options

Bricara Williams

Jessica Allen

Defining the Death Welcoming Cultures of Ancient South America

Background: Death denying and death accepting cultures differ in various ways. The United States is a death denying culture through their values and attitude toward death. In contrast, ancient south American cultures exemplifies their death welcoming culture. The purpose of this project is to analyze the death accepting cultures of ancient South America.

Methods: A literature research was conducted of various cultures of the Andean region of South America, human sacrifices, mummification, and ancient art meanings. Ten publications were relevant to the to the topic. Ancient literature and contemporary literature focused the viewpoint of the death welcoming culture that is the ancient South American culture.

Result: Theoretical concepts are presented by means to define the culture's belief and acceptance in various cultural practices. Art depictions gives context to the ancient South American rituals and practices. Exhibition sites provides insight of these practices and the people who inhabited the area.

Conclusion: The review highlights the death welcoming culture of various civilizations of the Andean region. Death acceptance within the ancient South American cultures can be found in different forms of context such as art depiction, ancient literature, and through archeological sites of tombs and mummies.

Theoretical approaches, the cultures' beliefs, practices, and rituals can be analyzed to support the idea being death welcoming culture.

[Explore the Posters in the Hallways of Stevens Science Center]

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE PLAZA FROM 2:45 TO 4:30

SESSION II 2:50-4:05

Group A:

HB 225

Papers in Social Science

Nick C. de Castro

Natalie M. Davis
Vincent T. Gawronski

Racist (not Naked) and Afraid: The Foundation of Right-Wing Authoritarianism in American 2016 Voters

This paper quantifies the elements that have led to the rise of populist authoritarianism in the United States. With the election of Donald J. Trump to the presidency and the legitimization of several anti-democratic policies and attitudes, it is necessary to identify what factors have led the American electorate to move away from 240 years of liberal democracy in favor of more authoritarian principles. This research examines literature cataloging the rise of right-wing, populist authoritarianism in the western world in the past two decades. It uses data from the 2016 American National Election Study (ANES) Time Series Survey to show a significant, positive relationship between two independent variables: racial resentment and xenophobia, and one dependent variable: Right-Wing Authoritarianism. Day by day, the United States is fundamentally changing; this research helps to explain why

Mary Hannah Gentry,
Abigail Knight, Evan Whisnant

Natalie M. Davis
Bob Slagter

Authoritarians and/or Populists: Political Orientations among Alabama Residents

Analysis of recent national elections includes extensive discussion of authoritarian dispositions and populist orientations as influential in voter's decision making. This paper examines the relationship between authoritarianism and populism in the mass public in Alabama. We find little evidence of a strong relationship between authoritarianism and populism. Our preliminary evidence indicates that authoritarianism is associated with attachment to the Republican party while populism is associated with attachment to the Democratic party. Authoritarianism is also associated with negative views on immigration, an issue of importance in Republican party policy. We explore additional correlates of authoritarianism and populism among a sample of Alabama adults.

Courtney Blinn, Christian Quiles,
Kirsten Quinn, William Seward

Natalie M. Davis
Bob Slagter

Are you "Fake News?": Factors Influencing Receptivity to Fake News

The 2016 election campaign raised a new issue in the form of "fake news" While fake news is not new the ability to disseminate it widely through social media is. Populist orientations were also significant in 2016 as demonstrated by the support generated for Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump Some evidence suggests that fake news was intentionally and effectively utilized in support of the Trump presidential campaign. In the present study we explore the factors associated with individual's receptivity to fake news. Additionally, a measure of populist orientation is tested for its effect on individuals' probability of accepting fake news. The study contributes to an understanding of why fake news is accepted readily by segments of the public and debunks the idea that populist orientations are associated with acceptance of fake news.

Matthew Davis, Patrick Erickson,
Caroline Hancock, Luke Huffstutler

Natalie M. Davis
Bob Slagter

"Bad Hombres" and the Advent of "Fake News"

The purpose of our research is to specify the relationship between receptivity to "fake news" and attitudes towards immigrants. While fake news is not a recent phenomenon the use of non-traditional news outlets with wide audience reach to report stories that appear to be real, but in actuality are false, is quite new. Since the wide and rapid dissemination of fake news is a relatively recent occurrence, there is not much

known regarding the impact of fake news. Using a measure where respondents ranked real and fake news stories in terms of the probability the stories are true or false we estimate receptivity to fake news at the individual level. With regard to immigration we focus on attitudes toward undocumented Hispanic immigrants. Prior research indicates that high levels of group narcissism and national in-group identity were significant predictors of attitudes towards undocumented Latino immigrants in the U.S. Our research asserts that people who have negative attitudes regarding undocumented Hispanic immigrants are more receptive to fake news stories. We contend that group narcissism will similarly lead respondents to accept fake news that reflects positively on the in-group or real news that provides negative impressions of an out-group. Results confirm that attitudes towards immigrants are associated with acceptance of fake news stories as hypothesized. Our sample comprises approximately 600 registered voters, contacted by telephone or online, in the state of Alabama.

Kaitlin D'Amato, Catherine Duncan,
Madison Hutchison, William Rayburn

Natalie M. Davis
Bob Slagter

Attitudes Towards International Trade: Is It Economic Insecurity?

The effects of international trade have become a controversial issue in electoral politics in the United States. Particularly, multinational international trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) or the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have come under attack with debates over whether they should be renegotiated or abandoned. Opposition to international trade is also a component of the rise of populist movements in the United States and other Western countries. This paper examines attitudes toward international trade among a sample of adults in Alabama. Since it has been argued that perceptions of economic insecurity are a factor driving populist sentiment we test for a direct link between these perceptions and opposition to international trade agreements. We find only modest support for the effect of perceived economic insecurity with other factors more salient in explaining orientations to international

Shibani Chakrabarty, Lorraine Jordan,
Paul Krane, Colin Matthaei, Hattie O'Hara

Natalie M. Davis
Bob Slagter

Fear of Terrorism: The Impact of Attitudes Towards Immigrants

A proposed travel ban to prevent terrorist attacks has led to speculation regarding the connection between immigrants and terrorism. This paper investigates the relationship between attitudes toward immigrants and fear of terrorism in a sample of adult Alabama residents. The hypothesis that negative attitudes toward immigrants are associated with greater fear of imminent terrorist attacks is tested. Our analysis provides support for this hypothesis with attitudes toward immigrants demonstrating the strongest effect on fear of terrorism among all variables tested. We conclude that the increase in perceived threat of immigrants in America is contributes to increasing fear of terrorist attacks.

Group B:

HB 102

PRESENTATIONS BY DISTINCTION IN LEADERSHIP STUDIES CAPSTONE STUDENTS I Presentations Will Continue into the Following Session

Kayla J. Smith

Kent Andersen

Changing Group Culture: Observing BSC's Spectrum

This qualitative research project investigates organizational culture within BSC's Spectrum, the LGBTQ student organization formerly known as Allies. Specifically, I use Edgar Schein's framework on culture to examine if Spectrum. This framework focuses on external adaptation, internal integration, and socialization of new members. Leadership, in this framework, addresses dysfunction, highlighting and then seeking to change actions and beliefs that impede group performance. For this study, I conducted semi-structured interviews with three officers and two general body members. Four themes emerged from the interviews: 1) a desire for more visibility on campus, 2) an aspiration to educate and advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, 3) a belief that spectrum is a safe space for openness, and 4) a strong desire for increased resources, including an increased budget. I argue that Spectrum has developed a culture. Further, I assert that members of Spectrum are in the process of addressing possible areas of dysfunction, that is, they demonstrate leadership. I conclude by exploring how student groups, such as Spectrum, can employ Schein's cultural framework to effectively achieve their end goals that enhance the practice of leadership.

Lara Screven

Kent Andersen

Leadership Study of Reformed University Fellowship

Purpose: The purpose of this capstone study was to determine whether or not the Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) on Birmingham-Southern College's campus exercises strong or weak leadership. This analysis of leadership is based off of the criteria of the D.A.C Framework of Leadership defined by Cynthia McCauley and Lynn Fick-Cooper.

Methodology: This study was constructed through a series of interviews with several of the Reformed University Fellowship team members, the RUF pastor, and the RUF Girls Intern. All underwent the same exact interview protocol to achieve multiple perspectives.

Findings: Four themes concerning the DAC Framework developed across each interview. Findings include: members value loving, members value accessibility, the group struggles to be inclusive, and the group aspires to reach out to the "fringe."

Practical Implications: While the organization has a shared understanding of the values and necessary improvements, if the struggle with inclusiveness continues to have such an influence on the team as a whole, they may eventually give up trying to address the situation.

Value: This report provides an in depth study of the RUF organization on the Birmingham-Southern College campus, thus offering feedback about what the organization is doing well, and what the organization could improve moving forward with their espoused goals. Recommendations were made for this organization to assist in improving some of the difficulties this team is currently facing.

Emma Moore

Kent Andersen

Varying Levels of Commitment: Leadership in SGA

The purpose of this qualitative research project was to investigate the extent to which the Birmingham-Southern College Student Government Association exemplifies strong or weak leadership. McCauley and Fick-Cooper define leadership as a "social process that enables individuals to work together as a cohesive group to produce collective results" (p. 2). In this conception, leadership is a systemic process that can be examined along a scale from weak to strong with regard to three dimensions: the extent of shared understanding of direction, effective alignment and coordination of desired work, and the level of commitment of members to the group. I conducted semi-structured interview with six SGA members. Three major themes emerged from my findings: 1) all members shared a similar understanding of SGA's main focus; 2) the executive board is perceived to hold more control over tasks than representatives; 3) the level of commitment varied based on position. My findings suggest that leadership on SGA is moderate to weak. I conclude by providing recommendations about how SGA might improve its leadership process.

Kelsey Peake

Kent Andersen

"You Can't Expect Results from Doing Sh*t": Leadership in Relay for Life

This study investigates leadership in the context of Relay for Life, a community-style fundraising event of The American Cancer Society (ACS), at Birmingham-Southern College. According to McCauley and Fick-Cooper's leadership framework, leadership refers to a "social process that enables individuals to work together as a cohesive group to produce collective results" (p. 2). I conducted semi-structured interviews with eight members of the executive board and the American Cancer Society Liaison. Four themes emerged from my interviews: First, the executive members had a broader understanding of Relay for Life's mission than did non-executive members; Second, the executive members want the campus to be more involved and enthusiastic about Relay for Life. Third, lower-level executive members self-reported higher levels of commitment than individuals in the top level executive positions. Fourth, the executive members believed that if members (or potential members) dedicate their time and talents to the organization they will receive desired benefits. My findings will be of use to leadership scholars and practitioners. I conclude with recommendations for how Relay for Life could improve leadership performance.

Ashley Vann

Kent Andersen

AMSA as A Learning Organization

Purpose – The purpose of this study was to determine the extent to which AMSA, the Area Maintenance Support Activities Equipment Concentration Site, exemplified a learning organization.

Design/Methodology – A study was conducted using interviews and observations to see whether or not AMSA implemented the three categories necessary to be considered a learning organization, namely a supportive learning environment, concrete learning processes and practices, and leadership that supports learning.

Results – For AMSA as a learning organization, the themes that appeared were the support and teamwork of the employees, the creativity of the group, and the effective and helpful leadership of the supervisor and others in the group.

Group C: HB 101
PRESENTATIONS BY DONALD C. HARRISON HONORS PROGRAM SCHOLARS II

Ansleigh Davies Greta Valenti
Rapunzel's Downfall: Female Beauty Standards for Hair and Why Women Are Eschewing Them

Women's hairstyles are highly contentious, from military requirements to school dress codes. This project was designed to explore why some women are eschewing these standards. It was carried out in two parts: a survey and a series of interviews. The survey was designed to establish a social norm for female beauty standards for hair on Birmingham-Southern College's campus, and it involved students answering a series of questions about pictures of different hairstyles. Women who have gone against this standard were then interviewed to find out why they had chosen to do so.

Caralyn Patton Sandra Sprayberry
A Modern March on Washington: The Media and the Pro-Life Movement

The media has been and continues to be a powerful influence in social movements. One example of this influence can be seen in the social movement organizations of the pro-life persuasion. The abortion debate, documented since the early 1700s, still exists today. Pro-life social movement organizations, such as the National Right to Life Committee and Concerned Women for America, use media strategies in order to influence public opinion and garner necessary resources. In this paper, I analyze the media strategies of pro-life organizations and of the pro-life movement used both in the 1970s, when *Roe vs. Wade* was passed, and today. Many strategies have been employed, including framing, packaging, undermining the opponents, rhetoric, and internet communications technology.

Andrea Vancil Melinda Thompson
Sacred Land: An Investigation into Environmental Human Rights Abuses in the Cordilleran Region of the Philippines

When the Philippine islands were colonized by Spain and America in the 19th- and 20th- centuries, scattered groups of indigenous peoples throughout the 7,000 islands had to coalesce to establish and protect their rights. Today, those indigenous communities are under constant threat of government militarization, displacement, and loss of natural resources due to the incredibly unsustainable and exploitative practices of foreign-owned, large-scale mining operations. In this presentation, I will outline some of the most shocking discoveries I made while interviewing key actors in the Philippine anti-mining resistance and draw parallels to our own domestic exploitation of indigenous peoples and their sacred land.

Adam Pratt Mark Schantz
My Mother is a Fish: Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* as a Transitional Piece in the Cultural History of Death in the American South

This project discusses William Faulkner's iconic modernist novel *As I Lay Dying* within the context of the cultural history of death. We find that the novel was written during a period of major shift in the culture of death, and we argue that the novel serves as an excellent example of a transitional piece from this period.

Group D: HB 325
Presentations in Art

Timothy McOmber Kevin Shook
Real Boys

Deriving influences from the Cubist movement and Primitive Art, my art contorts, manipulates, and abstracts the human figure. Each figure is its own natural form and can withstand the test of time. The art takes on a life of its own, and the viewer is given a glimpse into the lives of these beings leaving the question: is it the interaction of the human with the art... or quite the opposite?

Emma Knapp

Kevin Shook

The Beauty in Chaos

My art celebrates self-awareness in the face of fragility. Through the process of creating these pieces, I am reminded that a beautiful strength can arise in the midst of chaos. Each of my sculptures conveys the reconciliation of these paradoxical themes.

Jane Gleissner

Kevin Shook

Memory, Identity, and Narrative

Within the Western tradition, two genres with enduring histories, the portrait and the self-portrait, are directly linked to the artistic exploration of the theme of identity in art today. Much reflection has been given to how portraiture, self-portraiture, memory, and narrative inform both the subject and process. This is the framework upon which my art is built.

Taylor Brooke Akins

Kevin Shook

Rub Some Dirt on It

Transcending the discomfort and vulnerability created by the cultural suppression to outwardly display emotions in the rural south, gives one the power to become your own heroine. My sculptures are removed that reveal the ritualistic and meditative process in addressing the emotional repression and grief.

Group E:

HB 329

Perspectives in Humanities

Sean Moran

Victoria Ott

For Our Children and Our Children's Children: Theodore Roosevelt's Mission for Conservation

While most historians agree that Roosevelt was the first president to make environmental policy a keystone of his administration, they differ over what motivated him to act. Conservationist scholars argued that Roosevelt saved areas of nature and wilderness for future use and development, while others argue that he acted to preserve nature for its own sake. This conflict over the motivation for Roosevelt's environmental policies continues to shape how people view his presidency. Though TR's environmental policies contained some preservationist aspects, his environmental agenda was predominantly based on conservation, and the idea that any government actions should benefit the greatest number of people. Roosevelt wanted to conserve resources and nature for current settlers and future generations' use and enjoyment. He believed in the utilitarian use of land where each area served its greatest purpose, whether it was for agriculture, settlement, a nature reserve to be moderately used for resources or hunting game, or as a scenic treasure to be enjoyed by "our children's children."

Brady Adler, Liz Dial, Louis Fagelson,
Crystal Graves, Callie Haney, Alyson Maye,
Jimmy Nunn, Desi Owens, Becca Rhea

Glenny Brock

Attempting Weirdness: Drawing as a Creative Practice in Three Writing Courses

Since 2015, the students in three writing courses —EH 204: Writing for the Media, EH: 303- Advanced Prose, and EH:305- Journalism Workshop — have committed to a practice of drawing and doodling as part of their coursework. For homework, students would draw things that they had seen throughout their days; in the classroom, inspired in part by the 2005 illustrated edition of *The Elements of Style*, they would illustrate "Elements of Journalism" from

Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel's book of that title.

Initially, students resisted drawing. Sharing their creations made them feel vulnerable, but after the practice became routine, the show-and-tell aspect began to appeal to them. After a few months, some students began to draw and doodle every day outside of the classroom as a way to relieve stress. Some even have their own sketchbooks exclusively for drawing. As young children, we are far more willing to draw something then share our creations. Why do we lose that confidence as we grow older?

SESSION III 4:10- 5:30

Group A:

HB 128

Papers in Education

Cathryn Walker

Louanne Jacobs

Social-Emotional Learning - The Missing Link: Perceptions of the role of Social-Emotional Learning in the Classroom

The purpose of this study was to examine the role of social-emotional learning in the elementary classroom. Social-emotional learning (SEL), such as managing emotions and decision making, is often overlooked due to the demands of high-stakes testing and accountability. I designed this qualitative study to investigate teacher perceptions relative to SEL practice. I interviewed two teachers with varying years of experience and then completed a case analysis and then a cross-case analysis. Findings showed that SEL can impact student learning and there are common practices for including it in everyday classroom instruction.

Louanne Jacobs
Kelly Russell

Alysa Rae Amberson

Differentiation: Perceptions in Practice

This research explored teacher perceptions of and personal experiences with differentiation in current k-12 classrooms. To differentiate means to individualize instruction and assessment to meet the needs of all students. This presentation will illustrate philosophical stance toward differentiation, instructional strategies for differentiation, and impediments to differentiation in k-12 public schools.

Mara Scarbrough

Louanne Jacobs

"I Drew a Woman Doctor...She is a Nurse!": An Investigation of Young Children's Perceptions of Gender and Occupation

Inspired by the United Kingdom's #RedrawTheBalance campaign, "I Drew a Woman Doctor, she is a Nurse": An Investigation of Young Children's Perceptions of Gender and Occupation, explored the extent to which implicit and explicit gender bias affected student's perceptions of gender and career. The study was conducted at a local k-8 public school in Birmingham, Alabama and was designed to unpack the thinking of first grade students.

Group B:

HB 101

PRESENTATIONS BY DONALD C. HARRISON HONORS PROGRAM SCHOLARS III

Sneha Bang

Jessica Eckhardt

Dancing Through the Ages

This study explores the correlation between Indian culture and dance among young Indian women between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one currently residing in the United States. The study investigates why dance has become a hallmark of Indian identity for Indian-American women and what drives first-generation Indian females to continue to dance. Participant observations along with research from books, articles, and surveys completed by Indian women from the southern Alabama region were used to consider this question.

Katherine Polcari

Meghan Mills

Dog Cognition and How It Can Alter a Dog's Ability to Become a Therapy Animal

Animals, specifically dogs, are used in several different forms of therapy, such as offering emotional support, assisting in group therapy sessions, and providing service to those with physical ailments. This paper discusses what factors into a dog becoming a successful therapy animal, which means that the dog is able to provide comfort to people in places such as hospitals, retirement homes, and schools. The main focus of this paper is how dog cognition correlates with a dog's success as a therapy animal. In order to accomplish this, interviews were held with local professionals that work with therapy dogs, a research study was conducted that focused on basic training and obedience, and scholarly articles were also investigated in order to better understand dog cognition, personality, and temperament. While dog cognition is an important factor in a dog's ability to succeed, there are many more variables that play into how a dog functions as a therapy animal. There are concerns outside of a dog's control, such as different environments or different handlers. So, even if a dog has the ability to perceive and understand commands, mood, or atmosphere, it may still not succeed as a therapy animal

Dallas Coyne

Tracy Smith

A Day in the Life of Ayana: How Alabama Law Reinforces Social Reproduction in Fairfield City Schools

“A Day in the Life of Ayana: How Alabama Law Reinforces Social Reproduction in Fairfield City Schools” is a research and narrative essay developed from the roots of the social reproduction theory as theorized by James Coleman and Pierre Bourdieu as well as the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013. These two influences are used to explain the social, cultural, and financial gaps experienced from generation to generation in the Fairfield City School District. Based on the research, a fictional story is created about Ayana, a school-aged girl from Fairfield, Alabama, to explain the influence and impact of social reproduction theory and the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013.

Angela Petulla

Michael McInturff

The Central Focus of the Italian Catholic Church: A Study of Altars and Altarpieces in Rome, Venice, Bologna, and Florence

This project explores the similarities and differences between Roman Catholic altars in Italy during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The comparisons are made under two general categories: artistic history and religious significance. Each category explores specific ideas that were pertinent to the altars during this timeframe; for example, the process of patronage would fall under artistic history while the importance of the Eucharist would fall under religious significance. Supplementary documentation is included to help the audience better understand the different aspects that are discussed in the project because many of them are quite visual. The goal of the project is to develop a template of what creates a typical Roman Catholic altar in Italy during the time period that was studied. Both the strong similarities and strong differences between altars are examined to make this conclusion possible

Group C:

HB 328

PRESENTATIONS BY DONALD C. HARRISON HONORS PROGRAM SCHOLARS IV

Anna Baker

Victoria Ott

Dismantling the Patriarchy: Embroidery as a Subversive Tool

Feminist embroidery has become popular on many websites today. The pairing of bold and progressive messages with the old-fashioned aesthetic of embroidery may seem modern and trendy, but this current embroidery is connected to a long tradition of subverting embroidery’s gendered connotations to challenge social and political beliefs about gender. Embroidery is a symbolic medium for feminists, because for centuries it has been associated with a patriarchal view of ideal femininity in European countries. Feminists from the first- and second-wave feminist movements have used embroidery subversively to advance their causes. The feminist embroidery popular online today is a part of this tradition. In fact, some current pieces of feminist embroidery use the same subversive techniques that the suffragists used in their embroidered protest banners in England in the 1900s.

Mirella Dankova

Pam Venz

Mongolia's Nomads and Migrants: An Illustration of Change

Known for pastoral nomadism, Mongolia has recently seen an increase in urbanization. An exhibit of portraits, landscapes, and interviews relates how nomads and migrants regard the changes and traditions in their lives and the future of nomadism.

Dala Eloubeidi

Lamia Benyoussef

“Strive that the Fingers of your Hand Will Write What is Good”: A Theme-Based Study of the Kufic and Naskh Styles of Arabic Calligraphy

Admired for both its beauty and meaning, Arabic calligraphy continues to be an important art form for Arabic and non-Arabic speaking cultures alike. Boasting a rich history that spans more than 1400 years, a study of the development of Arabic calligraphy reveals several important insights. By focusing on the development of two scripts, namely the kufic and naskh styles, it is the purpose of this study to analyze various calligraphic specimens to explore key themes that highlight the essence of this art form. These themes include the relationship between calligraphy and politics, the religious and the secular, and the notion of a living art form. Through these themes, the mutually constitutive relationship between calligraphy and its uses is exemplified through a creative piece focusing on the Syrian crisis.

Marisa Sitz

Daniel Coyle

From KIX to BHM: Lessons in Starting a Video Blog

The creation of a new video blog channel was attempted in order to communicate with loved ones and to critically consider experiences had while studying abroad in Japan. Basic filming and editing skills were developed and will be discussed, but the focus of the project is to organize and present personal viewpoints and informational lessons on Japanese culture and dynamics. This presentation will cover the creative difficulties, successes, and failures of the project while conveying the hopeful merits of creating content uncomfortably and thoughtfully for personal and relational growth.

Group C:

HB 225

English Department Senior Conference Presentations

Conner Hayes

John D. Tatter

Space, Place, and Psychosomatic Subjectivity: Free Will, Five Shots, and the Enigma of Ethics in Albert Camus's *The Stranger*

Albert Camus's 1942 novel, *The Stranger*, an archetypal work of philosophical absurdism, significantly problematizes existential agency. This project, exploring Camus's equivocal depiction of ethics in the novel, is both a literary investigation with the intent of explicating the novel's enigmatic ethical subtext, and, moreover, one which addresses a philosophical conundrum requiring clarity – the dilemma of ethical agency in a deterministic universe. The novel, when read ethically, and when considering its protagonist as illustrative of the absurdist-determinist individual, illumines particularities of both of this project's research aims. By delineating ambiguous aspects of ethical action in *The Stranger*, this project, additionally, conjectures a new philosophical model of conceiving existential ethical agency. Situated in a multifarious theoretical framework comprising psychophilosophically materialist and social geography critical lenses, this project posits that, while environmental factors may not, categorically, govern the freedom of choices, they do, however, to certain extents, shape idiosyncratic "psychosomatic" situations of human beings. "Psychosomatic," in this sense, means to express humans' psychophenomenological and existential relation to particular places and spaces. By considering the climactic beach scene of the novel, in which Camus's protagonist murders a nameless Arab, this project endeavors to explicate the ostensibly inexplicable, ethical message concealed in the novel, one which critics have ignored in their treatments of the text, and, furthermore, to provide insight regarding an often disregarded facet of the free will and determinism dilemma – existential ethics – and, by doing so, access the tenability of sound ethical volition in an absurd universe.

Elizabeth Ann Hosmer

John D. Tatter

"The Point is the Journey": Exploring the Function of Space in Gabrielle Zevin's *Elsewhere*

This paper seeks to explore Gabrielle Zevin's novel *Elsewhere* through spatial theory. Using framework from Yi-Fu Tuan and Tim Cresswell, this analysis will establish *Elsewhere* as a non-place and how this placelessness functions for the protagonist, Liz. The novel follows Liz after death to a place called *Elsewhere* where residents age backwards until rebirth. This rebirth and reverse aging allows all of the residents to continue to learn and grow and prepare for their new lives. This form of afterlife is different from other religious ideas such as the Catholic limbo and the Buddhist bardo because of the transitions allowed within the space; however, both the space and place function to aid Liz in her adjustment to death and transition to a new form of life.

Clayton Joseph Crawford

John D. Tatter

"The Family is the House's Soul": Finding the Soul in *The Corrections*

This essay will examine the concept of the home for the Lambert family in Jonathan Franzen's *The Corrections*. Using Anton Vydra's interpretation of Gaston Bachelard's famous theories on space and place, I will examine how the home can transform between a hostile and an intimate place. After introducing the common perception of the novels and a short summary, this paper examines the author's personal experiences with an intimate home turned hostile and Chip's (his lead character) transformation as he accepts a hostile home as an intimate place. Finally, the home serves to illustrate impermanence in *The Corrections*, or rather, the pain of growing up and growing old.

Caroline Patricia Hyde

John D. Tatter

Power(Point) of Place: Examining Methods of Home Creation in Jennifer Egan's "Great Rock and Roll Pauses"

How do people create a home? Jennifer Egan explores this process in her novel *A Visit from the Goon Squad*, a book that consists of several short stories that fluctuate in time and setting and occasionally share characters. One of these short stories, "Great Rock and Roll Pauses," particularly explores this process of home creation. Using the context of social geography, this essay discusses how one character creates a sense of place for herself and her family by making art and concludes that understanding this chapter, how the characters struggle to make a place for themselves in a highly globalized and digitalized world, leads to a fuller understanding of the book as a whole.

Group D:

HB 325

Presentations in Business

Lara Catherine Collier

Carolyn Garrity

Birmingham: A City Forged by an Entrepreneurial Hammer

This paper studies the history of entrepreneurship in Birmingham, AL. Birmingham is a city that was founded by entrepreneurial pioneers and continues to be shaped by entrepreneurial forces. These forces are viewed from several different perspectives, including prominent figures in key industries such as iron and steel, banking, healthcare, retail, technology and education. It also examines the entrepreneurial roots behind key neighborhoods in the city. The research delineates business infrastructure that helped businesses grow and thrive, as well as the barriers to this success. Finally, the paper looks at the projected future of city and the ongoing impact of entrepreneurial leaders

Melaina Hissam and Mary Hannah Gentry

Mary Harrison

Bakeries in the South: A Qualitative Research Study of Business Start-ups

People in the South are known for their hospitality, especially when it comes to sharing their stories and sweets. We conducted in-depth interviews with ten established bakery owners in the Birmingham, Huntsville, and Nashville areas. Our purpose was to determine the ways people act on their passion for starting a bakery and the steps they took to turn it into a successful business. Products ranged from tradition southern staples to innovative modern treats, indicating that bakeries are not all the same. We analyzed the results of the interviews and found the common strategies used for starting a business and maintaining success. We found that passion is more important than a culinary background and that social media can be the key to marketing success. We had our own experiences with social media by starting our own blog and Instagram dedicated to our project. We will discuss the four main characteristics that make a bakery successful, as well as the motivations and hesitations for starting a business.

Breanne DeBaets,
Caroline Irby, Evan Piedrahita

Carolyn Garrity, Mary Harrison,
Jennifer Skjellum, Tracy Smith

Magic City Match

Our confidential dating service provides college students in the greater Birmingham area with an additional source of connection through highly researched psychological data. Our personality questions have been carefully selected in order to provide truly compatible matches. All customers must first be verified with a college student email address and take our free survey on our website.

Jacob Drescher,
Dylan Rose, Cliff Poe

Carolyn Garrity, Mary Harrison,
Jennifer Skjellum, Tracy Smith

Iron City Apparel

Iron City Apparel is a local firm that designs and distributes quality apparel in four distinct markets. Retail, wholesale, special event, and an online presence guarantee that we obtain the market penetration necessary to create a successful organization geared toward local market trends. We design our garments based on local themes that promote our region as a welcoming and positive experience that people want to be a part of. All our designs are done "in-house" and our number one priority is taking care of our customers. Service and quality products are what we aim to provide to every customer who visits us. Social media has been vital to our success as a primary source for reaching our base. Iron City Apparel is the place to shop for unique quality clothing at affordable prices. Your satisfaction is our guarantee!

Dallas Coyne,

Carolyn Garrity, Mary Harrison,

Scott Barton, Meredith McAdory

Jennifer Skjellum, Tracy Smith

Perfetto Polish

Perfetto Polish is a high-end, hand-crafted lip and body scrub. Customers can use this product to exfoliate their dry, dead skin while leaving it hydrated with a fresh scent. Each product contains organic coconut oil, essential oils, and granulated white sugar. During Jan-term we sold and shipped our products to 7 different states (including Alabama) and 4 different live locations in the Birmingham area. Since Jan-term we have changed our name to Perfetto Brands, added bath bombs to our product line, begun the process of receiving our LLC, sold wholesale to boutiques in Alabama, and entered into the Birmingham Venture Club Spark Match contest.

Group E:

HB 102

PRESENTATIONS BY DISTINCTION IN LEADERSHIP STUDIES CAPSTONE STUDENTS II
Continued from Prior Session

Marjory Day

Kent Andersen

“A Cult Isn’t Necessarily a Bad Thing”: Leadership at Camp Winnataska

This qualitative research project examines how the college-aged female staff at Camp Winnataska called “Comanches” idea of and capacity for leadership are affected by their experiences. I employ Wilfred Drath’s leadership principles to examine how Comanches understand and practice leadership. Four themes emerged from semi-structured interviews with past Comanche members: 1) Leaders are more than the person in charge and may lead by example and practice selfless leadership, 2) Comanches learn teamwork, work ethic, and taking initiative, 3) Comanches gain confidence in their leadership abilities, 4) Comanches don’t know how to describe why leadership occurs. Ultimately, I argue that the Comanches change their prevailing leadership principle from personal dominance, where one assumes leadership is a quality of the leader, to relational dialogue, where the responsibilities are shared collectively. Further, I argue that the Comanche’s conceptions of personal responsibility, shared work, and inability to articulate the leadership among the group fit with Drath’s conception of relational dialogue. I conclude with characteristics from Camp Winnataska that other groups can use to create more communal responsibility and member’s confidence in leadership abilities

Angela Petulla

Kent Andersen

A Study of Group Culture in *Bagheera*

This study examines the organizational culture of *Bagheera*, the student-run magazine at Birmingham-Southern College. According to Edgar Schein, organizational culture refers to the shared basic assumptions of a group or organization, including how the group has learned to adapt to the external environment, integrate work and activities among members of the organization, and how to socialize new members. I conducted semi-structured interviews with five of the members of *Bagheera*. Three themes emerged from the interviews: members expressed frustration with external support for *Bagheera*, frustration with their own organization and delegation of tasks; and frustration about an apparent lack of communication and clear criteria for performance within the group. I argue that the group does not demonstrate effective group culture, and consequently is in need of leadership which will serve to address dysfunction. I provide suggestions about how the group could improve its culture.

Mersedes Engle

Kent Andersen

Assessment of A College Going Culture and Culture Capital within Birmingham City Schools: A Qualitative Report and Program Evaluation

When the achievement gap between the nation’s wealthiest and the poorest students grows instead of shrinks and the racial minority difference in academic achievement becomes larger and remains stable across time, this means there is a fundamental problem with the federal and state education system. This problem has ramifications as it inhibits a student from applying to, being prepared for, and going to college, a reality that high school students, school districts, and college and career preparatory programs must address. These factors have implications for the Birmingham Education Foundation (Ed), a nonprofit education organization invested in getting Birmingham City Schools students in Alabama on the path of college, career, and life readiness. In this context, the question becomes: are Ed students getting a valued added experience out of the college and career programs offered by Ed? That is, to what extent does Ed prepare students for college and career readiness?

To answer this question, a preliminary program evaluation of Ed was conducted through surveys and interviews to assess how the expressed outcomes (students on the path to college, career, and life readiness) of Ed's college and career preparatory programs align with the experiences, learning, and knowledge of students participating in those programs.

The research conducted has implications and relates to the broader field of education and college and career preparatory research. The presentation also provides recommendations on how to improve the survey instrument and interviews for ongoing programmatic evaluation at Ed.