

**Welcome to the**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts**  
**Undergraduate Research Conference**  
**Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Schedule of Events

**8:30 AM - 9:45 AM**

Conference Registration\* (Bowman Lobby)

**9:00 AM - 9:15 AM**

Welcome Remarks from Dean of  
Academic Affairs, Monica Joslin

**9:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

Paper Presentations I A (Bowman 119)

Paper Presentations I B (Bowman 122)

Paper Presentations I C (Bowman 205)

Paper Presentations I D (Bowman 220)

Paper Presentations I E (Bowman 319)

Paper Presentations I F (Bowman 206)

Special Session I G: Race & Ethnic Politics  
(Bowman 201)

Special Session I H: Collaborative Research  
in Early Modern British Literary  
Studies (Bowman 203)

**10:45 AM - 11:45 AM**

Poster Session (Venable Gym)

Special Session

**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**

Keynote Address and Luncheon  
(Campus Center Gym)

Welcome Remarks from President Birge  
Scholarship Opportunities: Graziana  
Ramsden

Keynote Address by James Chapman ('15)  
Pamela Dennis Scholarship Award

**1:00 PM - 1:30 PM**

Meet the Keynote Speaker (Sullivan  
Lounge, Students Only)

**1:15 PM - 2:15 PM**

Performance II A: Speak the Speech!  
Shakespeare's Voices Illuminated  
(Campus Center Dance Studio)

Paper Presentations II B (Bowman 119)

Paper Presentations II C (Bowman 122)

Paper Presentations II D (Bowman 201)

Special Session II E: Interdisciplinary  
Worlds (Bowman 203)

Special Session II F: Hemispheric Black  
Literatures (Bowman 205)

Special Session II G: Images of Healing and  
Suffering in North Adams and Beyond  
(Bowman 220)

**2:30 PM - 3:30 PM**

Performance III A: Physical Dialogue:  
Contact Improvisation and Scene  
Work (Campus Center Dance Studio)

Artist Talks III B (Bowman 319)

Creative Writing III C (Murdock 218)

Paper Presentations III D (Bowman 201)

Paper Presentations III E (Bowman 122)

Paper Presentations III F (Bowman 220)

Special Session III G: Interdisciplinary  
Worlds II: Perspectives on Education  
(Bowman 203)

Special Session III H: Arts Management:  
From Theory to Practice (Bowman  
205)

**3:45 PM - 5:15 PM**

Art Exhibit and Reception (Bowman 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Floor)

Philosophy Mini Conference (Murdock 218)

*\*Conference Registration will continue in  
the Bowman Hall Lobby until 11:00 AM.  
The Registration table will be moved to  
Venable Gymnasium during the poster  
session from 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM.*

## ***Paper Presentations (I A)***

*Bowman 119, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM*

**Title:** Strategies to Conserve Farmland in Central and Northern Berkshire County

**Author:** Sarah Guidetti, Meghan Haynes, & Adam Galambos

**Advisor:** Elena Traister

**Abstract:** Farmland and prime agricultural soils are a finite resource. In partnership with Berkshire Natural Resources Council and Berkshire Agricultural Ventures we explored strategies for farmland preservation in Northern Berkshire County. Farm owners face increasing development pressures, issues with program accessibility, and farmland succession planning. Specifically, we investigated issues facing farmers in Cheshire, Lanesborough and Adams and proposed recommendations for preservation and conservation of individual parcels that meet the minimum criteria of certain state, local and federal programs. We conducted a GIS analysis of farmland in these municipalities and focused on parcels which are prime candidates for preservation that are not currently utilizing available assistance programs. Results will help these organizations steer their efforts towards furthering the preservation of existing farmland.

**Title:** Sustainability and Syrian Refugees

**Author:** Isamaya Hagstrom

**Advisor:** Rita Nnodim

**Abstract:** Today, people, politics, and economies are more interconnected than ever before. This presentation will focus on the Syrian crisis; a human tragedy, and a foreign policy nightmare. Since 2011 Syria has been at war with itself, displacing 5.67 million people, and leaving many to attempt survival amidst warring parties, oppressive regimes, and drought. Still, today, there seems to be no end in sight to the devastating conflict. Bordering countries such as Lebanon and Jordan are buckling under the influx of refugees who were initially considered impermanent. Now, several years have passed, national and local economies are crumbling, and the refugees often face sub-par human conditions. Unfortunately, the Syrians are not alone 1 in 113 people are categorized as displaced. We are facing a collective crisis, and learning from Syria, we must adopt policy using sustainability as a prerogative rather than impermanence.

## ***Paper Presentations (I B)***

*Bowman 122, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM*

**Title:** The Impact of Soviet Secrecy on the Space Race

**Author:** Tianna Darling

**Advisor:** Anthony Daly

**Abstract:** Between the end of World War II and the 1970s, the United States and the Soviet Union were locked in a competition for control of the next frontier: outer space. Sergei Korolev led the Soviet effort; he was a brilliant rocket engineer who had survived imprisonment in the Gulag. His opponent was Wernher von Braun: he had led the German rocket program under the Nazis and then became the head of the U.S. team. Within the context of the Cold War, the United States was incredibly open about their space program; however, the Soviet Union closely guarded their scientists and methods. This paper examines the impact that the Soviet tradition of complete confidentiality had on their rocket program. Based on archival materials along with secondary sources, this research suggests that the secrecy of the Soviet Union contributed to their early successes but ultimately limited their accomplishments in the rocket program.

**Title:** Harriet Jacob's Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: Breaking Away and Conforming to the Slave Narrative and the Sentimental Novel

**Author:** Tessa Sestito

**Advisor:** Zachary Finch

**Abstract:** Harriet Jacob's Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: Breaking Away and Conforming to the Slave Narrative and the Sentimental Novel will investigate the degree to which the 19th century African-American writer Harriet Jacobs conforms to and breaks away from traditional conventions of the slave narrative and the sentimental novel in her autobiography Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: Written by Herself. Sections of Jacobs's work will be analyzed to identify noticeable comparisons or contrasts between the text and both genres, and I will interpret such findings alongside credible and relevant academic scholarship. Although Jacobs draws from several characteristics of both genres, this paper will focus on the sentimental novel's use of stock characters, religious overtones, and the idea of motherhood, along with features associated with the slave narrative such as its rare discussions of a female slave's sexual exploitation and the autobiographical nature of Jacobs's narrative.

**Title:** Imagining the Nation: Educational Censorship and Banned Books in American Schools

**Author:** Jade Schnauber

**Advisor:** Sumi Colligan

**Abstract:** Theorist Ernest Gellner argues that education fosters nationalism in school children, instilling a construct of nation that is distorted and potentially exclusionary. This research explores the list of banned books in American schools, highlighting the disproportionate number of books about the life experiences of people of color that are not allowed in school curricula. Despite first amendment protections, there is censorship of narratives of people who do not fit the image of "ordinary" or "ideal" American citizens. These deliberate omissions continue to play a role in promoting a narrow, racist, and xenophobic construct of our "imagined community."

## ***Paper Presentations (I C)***

*Bowman 205, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM*

**Title:** Expanding the Definition of Love: Self-Report and EEG Analysis of Reactions to the Complex Emotion

**Author:** Elsa Rose Mastico

**Advisor:** Sharon Claffey

**Abstract:** The study of Love has overlapped among disciplines for thousands of years. As social beings we are driven to describe it and understand how it can be one of the most powerful emotions that we feel. The current paper discusses a completed senior thesis in terms of the process, results and conclusions. The research is divided into two experiments that seeks to understand how relationship satisfaction, jealousy, and passionate love intertwine through self-report and analysis of electrode frequencies using an electroencephalogram (EEG). The first study was a survey that looked at self-report responses on relationship satisfaction, passionate love and jealousy. The second study was an EEG analysis which looked at neural responses in the frontal lobe when passionate love and jealousy were elicited. Both studies validate previous research on passionate love and imply a necessity for new research methods for studying the emotion in the future.

**Title:** The Rise and Fall of the Congo Free State

**Author:** Emily Morris

**Advisor:** Anthony Daly

**Abstract:** Imperialism is one of the most profoundly controversial areas of history. The colonization of the world at the hands of the European empires drastically changed the course of world history. One of the most well-known and discussed colonies during the late nineteenth century to the twentieth century was the Belgian Congo, which is known today as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The atrocities committed under the reign of King Leopold II form a terrifying and grotesque era in modern history. For my paper, I will be analyzing the roles that the public played in both continuing the Congo Free State and King Leopold II's crimes against humanity, and the popular efforts to help end Leopold's reign there, specifically focusing on the Congo Reform Association.

**Title:** Currency in a Digital Age: The Rise of BitCoin and Other Cryptocurrencies

**Author:** Jessica Kozak

**Advisor:** Chali Nondo

**Abstract:** The objective of this paper is to analyze the relationship between BitCoin returns and key economic variables, such as interest rates, GDP growth rate, inflation, exchange rates, and investor sentiments. I also intend to explore the history and the technology behind cryptocurrency, and to investigate how this technology is going to revolutionize modern and future currencies. BitCoin is the most popular cryptocurrency in the market today, and it is a new type of money that has no central bank or authority and is completely digital. I will use time series data that contains the value of my personal BitCoin wallet (an initial investment of \$10 U.S. dollars) over the course of two months to analyze the relationship with the above-mentioned variables. I will also depict graphically the volatility of BitCoin to aid in explaining the changes in the prices of cryptocurrencies using data from this year and previous years.

## ***Paper Presentations (I D)***

*Bowman 220, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM*

**Title:** Of Corpse Paint and Coloraturas: A Treatise on the Commonalities Shared by Metal and Opera

**Author:** Falyn Rose Elhard

**Advisor:** Christine Condaris

**Abstract:** Heavy metal and opera; perceived as two of the most disparate and cognitively dissonant musical and performance styles in the world today, these genres could not possibly experience much interplay, nor appeal to the sensibilities of like-minded people... could they? It is with the goal of dismantling this prevalent misconception that I have sought to write about the intersection of metal and opera. Through an examination of the instrumentation and performative presentation employed by these two genres, I seek to emphasize how they frequently embody many of the same constitutive artistic characteristics, themes, and ideals, particularly as this has manifested within the past three decades.

**Title:** The Future of Cuba's Economy

**Author:** Sam Payne

**Advisor:** David Cupery

**Abstract:** Cuba lost roughly 80% of its imports and exports when the USSR collapsed in 1991. The government was forced to open Cuba as a tourist destination in order to gain foreign currency to import enough food and fuel to ration to their citizens. Tourism became a way for Cubans, who made less than \$20 a month, to receive the Western wages and products. Raul Castro embraced reforming the economy to allow private and foreign enterprise centered around tourism. In 2008 banks began lending to farmers. By 2011 entrepreneurs could receive loans. And in 2012 Raul Castro opened up most sectors of the economy to self-employment. Almost all Cubans agree more change is needed. This presentation will focus on the recent trends of Cuba's ever-changing economy, including first hand observations from the March 2018 travel course.

**Title:** Building & Designing a Semi Autonomous Quadcopter

**Author:** Dominick Demeo

**Advisor:** David Eve

**Abstract:** The purpose of this presentation will be to explain the design challenges and hurdles I faced building and programming a semi-autonomous quad-copter for my senior project of 2018. I will go over the importance of proper weight distribution and how it effects flight characteristics. I will also give a brief glimpse into the wiring and programming of the Arduino based flight controller which I built. After that I will explain how the quad-copter is able to hold its position and adapt both altitude and position as obstacles arise. At the end I will show a couple of short video demos of the quad-copter flying and tracking objects autonomously.

## ***Paper Presentations (I E)***

*Bowman 319, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM*

**Title:** Muons in the MINERvA Detectors

**Author:** William Fines-Kested

**Advisor:** Emily Maher

**Abstract:** Located at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory near Chicago, IL, the MINERvA experiment studies high energy particles. Using MINERvA data, I studied the lifetime of a fundamental particle called the muon. I will present the results for this study which shows that the observed lifetime agrees with the theoretical prediction. This method can be expanded to future particle beam physics experiments to test theoretical predictions.

**Title:** China in the Age of Imperialism

**Author:** Sam Broderick

**Advisor:** Professor Jones-Sneed

**Abstract:** China has been the most populated country in the world for thousands of years. Its civilization is one of the oldest and most powerful in human history. Why was it then that the age of Imperialism in the nineteenth century was one of defeat, humiliation and unequal treaties? I argue that it was in large part due to longstanding attitudes in China's leadership, which emphasized looking down on foreigners and believed China to be the ruler of the world. I will be examining the Chinese inferiority to the West in terms of technology and the consequences for this as well as their attitudes and policies towards other nations.

**Title:** The Boxers

**Author:** Mark Guarino

**Advisor:** Anthony Daly

**Abstract:** The Boxer Rebellion, a deadly uprising in early 1900 China, resulted in the deaths of thousands of Chinese and a few hundred foreign nationals. Because of the massive amount of foreign intervention and influence in China at the time, many Chinese believed that the Westerners were weakening the nation and harming the people along with it. The uprising was started by a secret Chinese organization known as the "Righteous and Harmonious Fists" a.k.a. "The Boxers." They would be the ones to rise up and challenge the foreign nations for their intrusions into their once great nation. My presentation will look at what happened in China that led toward the uprising and how it seriously affected one of China's longest lasting empires.

## ***Paper Presentations (I F)***

*Bowman 206, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM*

**Title:** De-Stigmatizing Disability: The Power of " \_\_\_\_\_ "

**Author:** Michael Masley Hannett

**Advisor:** Amber Engelson

**Abstract:** In recent years, disability has become a hot topic for discussion, often accompanied with a common ideology of “fixing” or “adjusting” students who are disabled. This fix-it mentality places mainstream students as normative and disabled students as problems. Defining students with learning differences as wrong, instead of different, can lead to major repercussions for many students. In response to the issue, Jean Kiedaisch and Sue Dinitz advocate for Universal Design, a teaching approach that reframes learning differences as the norm, not the exception, and accepts what all students bring with them as important parts of their identities. Drawing from their theory, my talk will take an autoethnographic approach, moving between published research, poetics, and my own personal experience as a learning-disabled student with the hopes of further destigmatizing disability.

**Title:** Tongues We Can Resist: Translanguaging as an Approach to Legitimizing Non-Dominant Discourses in the Academy

**Author:** Justin O'Connor

**Advisor:** Amber Engelson

**Abstract:** College campuses nationwide are enriched and invigorated by the diversity of language brought to class by students from every conceivable background. Despite this scope of discourses, however, the academy generally recognizes one specific mode of communication in writing: the strict grapholect that is Edited American English. To examine this struggle for expression, I use a historical approach, beginning with the CCCC’s affirmation of Students’ Right to Their Own Language and ending with the successful implementation of non-dominant discourses in an exemplary translanguing writing classroom. Along the way, I address the problematic ways the academy has previously viewed these discourses—as “alternative” and as acceptable only within hybridity. In the process, I explore patterns of power within the academy and argue for the translanguing approach as a remedy for the toxic domination of EAE.

## ***Special Session (I G): Race and Ethnic Politics***

*Bowman 201, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Samantha Pettey*

*This session focuses on the political similarities and differences between African Americans/blacks, Latinos/Hispanics, American Indians, and Asian Americans. Papers will cover a broad range of topics including policymaking, voting behavior, intersectional identity, inter-minority group relations, as well as racial resentment. Some papers relate these political themes to racial and ethnic minorities currently serving in the American political system. Other papers will present original research focusing more broadly on these topics.*

**Title:** Race & Ethnic Politics: Equity Legislation

**Author:** Makayla Parkin

**Advisor:** Samantha Pettey

**Abstract:** In my presentation, I will be answering the following question: Are democratic controlled legislatures more likely to have legislation that contain equity language, especially on social justice issues that affect minorities, than legislatures that are controlled by the Republican party? My theory is that this is true because the Democratic party is more associated with advocating for laws pertaining to social justice issues than republicans. I will be looking at legislations like Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) reform marijuana and criminal justice legislation compared to other states whose legislature is mainly republican.

**Title:** Race and Ethnic Politics: Catherine Cortez Masto

**Author:** Victoria Muñoz

**Advisor:** Samantha Pettey

**Abstract:** In March 2015, Democratic Party Leader and Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid announced that he would be vacating his US Senate seat after three decades in office. The open seat was hotly contested—both Republicans and Democrats put forth multiple candidates for the primary election. It finally came down to former Nevada attorney general Catherine Cortez Masto (D) and US Representative Joe Heck (R). On November 9, 2016 Cortez Masto won the general election with 47.1% of the vote. Cortez Masto became the first Latina to be elected to the US Senate. In this presentation, I use Cortez Masto as a case study to explore themes of racial and ethnic politics, such as descriptive representation and intersectionality. I focus on Cortez Masto's campaign strategies and outcomes, using content analysis of her campaign speeches and advertisements. I will discuss the impact of her historic win on the growing Latino voting population and race and ethnic politics in general.



**Title:** Cory Booker: An Advocate for Social Justice

**Author:** Zoe Elwell

**Advisor:** Samantha Pettey

**Abstract:** Cory Booker is currently senator of New Jersey and could quite possibly be the leading advocate for social justice reform our country so desperately needs. Booker was raised in Harrington Park, New Jersey by his mother and father, whom are a biracial couple. Cory got his first yearning to correct racial inequality when his parents sought out housing rights activists to help them buy their first house after being denied because of the color of their skin. After law school, Booker founded his own non-profit organization to aid low income families find housing. This presentation will discuss how Cory Booker uses his political agenda to push for his most valued issues that would alter the racial and ethnic social hierarchy that hurts that vast majority of minorities in the United States.

**Title:** Race and Ethnic Politics

**Author:** Emily Hardy

**Advisor:** Samantha Pettey

**Abstract:** Race and ethnicity has been a topic for discussion in the realm of politics for quite some time now. In the paper that I have written, I have researched a specific person who holds office that is racially/ethnically diverse, Val Demings. Ms. Demings is currently serving as a representative from the 10<sup>th</sup> congressional district in Florida. I researched in depth about specific policies she has endorsed and how she is able to represent more than just her district by being in a place of political opportunity.

**Title:** Race and Ethnic Politics Case Study: S. Kamala D. Harris

**Author:** Mikaela Serrano-Moore

**Advisor:** Samantha Pettey

**Abstract:** Kamala D Harris is the first African-American women to represent the state of California. Harris identifies with the Democratic party and has been in office since January 3rd, 2017. Kamala is the third women from California to serve in the U.S Senate. She was previously the 32nd Attorney General of California, serving from 2011 to 2017. Not to mention, she was the first African-American women to serve as the district attorney for San Francisco from 2004 to 2011. Kamala Harris has been passing milestones since the start of her career in 1990, serving as a deputy district attorney, making her not only my case study but someone to look to as a powerful women of color. My paper will explore the many achievements of Ms. Harris.

## ***Special Session (I H): Collaborative Research in Early Modern British Literary Studies***

*Bowman 203, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Rosanne Denhard*

*"Collaborative Research in Early Modern British Literary Studies" will feature the results of two research collaborations in 16th/17th century British literary studies focused on exploring these texts within their original historical and cultural contexts. The students will present their joint papers, followed by a panel discussion foregrounding their collaborative process as women scholars.*

**Title:** "For the Good of Both Sexes": Examining John Milton's Fair Treatment of Women in His Writing

**Author:** Caitlin Mayes & Allison O'Keefe

**Advisor:** Rosanne Denhard

**Abstract:** A piece of written work is created within the parameters of its time period. Every work comes from a place, time, and social circumstance. These provide context by which the work is interpreted. It is wrong, then, to apply modern notions of feminism to the English writer John Milton (1608-1674); we must instead seek to understand his work in its original context. In this paper presentation and discussion, we interrogate several of John Milton's writings which represent women, and come to the conclusion that he, in specific regard to the time period in which he writes, represents women fairly. This project is a collaborative work between two female writers. Each partner reads differently and adds diversity to the perspectives in the piece and this presentation will also reflect the importance of collaboration in examining written work, particularly in a female tradition.

**Title:** Texts & Contexts: Collaborative Research in Early Modern British Literary Studies

**Author:** Eliza Randazzo & Jaclyn Ordway

**Advisor:** Rosanne Denhard

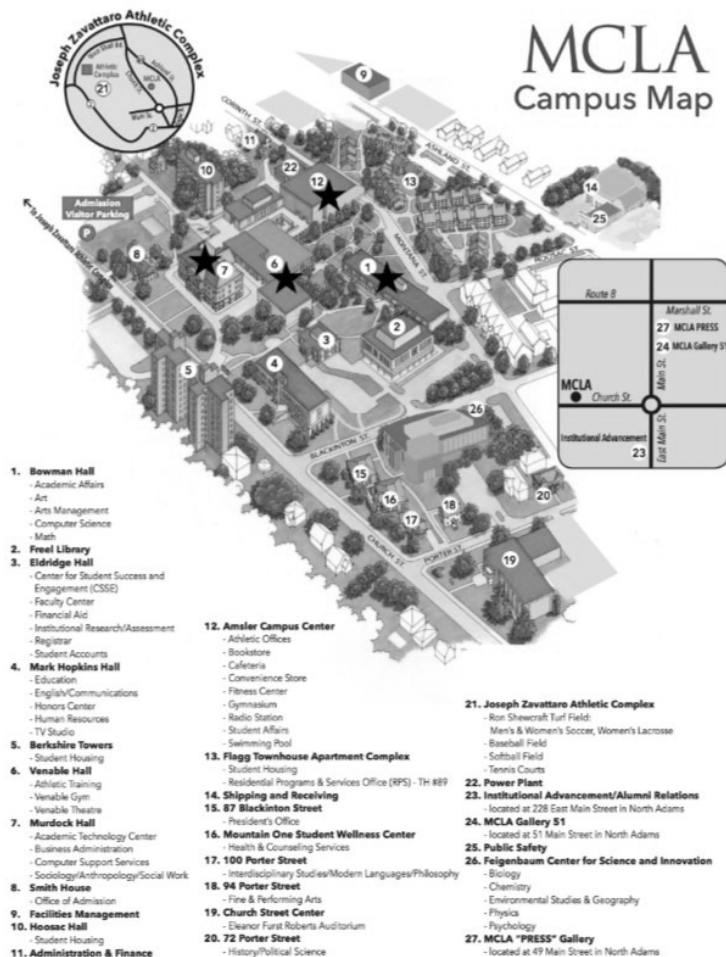
**Abstract:** In William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (1610/1611), power dynamics are explored relating to their contribution to a well-functioning society. The play's driving force is Prospero's desire to regain his rightful place as Duke of Milan, from which he was overthrown through the usurpation of his rightful power. Through collaboration in research and discussion, we explored these dynamics to learn how they were set right in the play. Shakespeare uses the play to comment that a society, in order to function, needs to have certain power dynamics that are not abused. For example, the King of Naples had misused his power over Prospero years earlier, which required the King to understand the feelings and fears Prospero went through when he was betrayed. Prospero also must learn regarding his own uses of power and magic. At the end, Prospero regains his original political power and gives up his magical control of others.

# Special Session: The History of MCLA's People

Faculty Sponsor: Katherine Carroll

Are you curious about the first African American to graduate from the college with a four-year degree? Did you ever wonder what the rules and regulations were for students in the 1950s? MCLA Narratives investigates the history of MCLA's people, programs, and buildings. Students in Art & Collective Identity (ARTH 311) conducted research in the college archives and created a series of historical markers to display across campus from April 17 through April 26. MCLA Narratives offers snapshots of people and events in the college's past rather than a comprehensive history of the college. This exploration allows us to ask questions about the ways in which the interpretation of space and the contextualization of people and events shape our sense of shared identity. See if you can locate all seven historical markers!

- |                |                  |                |               |                    |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Breanna Castor | Chris Curtin     | Mel Fortini    | Melissa Gay   | Allison Gregory    |
| Kalieg Hayes   | Maddison Lamonda | Rachel Mancour | Kayla Narel   | Barbara Reeves     |
| John Ringer    | Najah Sims       | William Taylor | Macie Turrell | Cheyenne VanBramer |
- Faculty Sponsor: Katherine Carroll



## MCLA NARRATIVES LOCATIONS

### Bowman Hall

- Room 221
- Second floor atrium window

### Venable Hall

- Room 5, Empowerment Lounge
- End of gymnasium hallway

### Murdock Hall

- Room 313

### Amsler Campus Center

- Room 316, Student Government Association office
- Sullivan Lounge

## ***Poster Session***

*Venable Gymnasium, 10:45 AM – 11:45 AM*

### **Poster 1**

**Title:** How We Broke Colombia

**Author:** Theodore Jones

**Advisor:** David Cupery

**Abstract:** This is a poster detailing my experiences while participating in this year's Model UN course and at the conference itself. It will include written accounts and important visuals that show how the crisis committee that I was a part of evolved from a simple drug war, to a desperate game of cat, mouse and assassinations, ending with the destruction of the capitol, the second death of the president, and the formation of approximately five different independent states where Colombia used to be, one of which controlled by the cartels. I personally ended alive and at the head of New South Colombia with two other former members of the Cabinet.

### **Poster 2**

**Title:** A Qualitative Investigation of Retrospective Perceptions of Self-Deception in Relationships

**Author:** Ian Cappelli

**Advisor:** Benjamin Wood

**Abstract:** My project is entitled “A Qualitative Investigation of Retrospective Perceptions of Self-Deception in Relationships.” Although an important topic in many psychological fields, self-deception, or the action or practice of allowing oneself to believe that a false or unvalidated feeling, idea, or situation is true, is rarely studied empirically. Evolutionary psychologists argue that self-deception is quintessential to survival in our social environments, while Freud and Sartre famously thought that self-deceptions had a solely negative influence on a personality. My research interrogates the purpose of self-deception phenomenologically by asking those who have undergone self-deceptions in previous relationships to detail their perspectives. We will then be able to see if any themes arise from this data that could assist further research.

### **Poster 3**

**Title:** MCLA Civil Rights Bus Trip II

**Author:** Joann Ault, Stevie Desire, Kathleen Harrison, Declan Nolan, Rae Ross, Adazae Shepherd-Edwards, & Brittany Watson

**Advisor:** Ely Janis

**Abstract:** This poster examines the African American Civil Rights Movement's legacy and lessons that can be learned for social activism today. During MCLA's Spring 2018 Civil Rights Travel Course, presenters visited not only important historical sites but also met with a wide range of veterans of the Civil Rights movement. The poster contains images of the trip as well as our analysis of what the movement means for social change today. In particular, we will focus on the legacy and lessons learned from the role of music in the movement, the Freedom Riders, the Children's Crusade, the struggle for voting rights, and the legacy of slavery in American society.

#### **Poster 4**

**Title:** Superstitious Behaviors in Rats Reinforced with Sweetened Condensed Milk under 10 Second Durations

**Author:** Kabas Elmeligy, Nicole Nadeau, & Brianna Lamb

**Advisor:** Thomas Byrne

**Abstract:** Superstitious behaviors are behaviors that are accidentally reinforced. Previous studies have shown that rats can learn to lever press for durations of up to 30 seconds, however none have examined the possibility that duration-based reinforcement schedules may result in accidental reinforcement. The objective of the current study is to examine the frequency of superstitious behavior in rats trained to hold down a response lever for durations of 10 seconds when the consequence for doing so is an immediate delivery of sweetened condensed milk. We are monitoring occurrences of superstitious behavior using continuous video recording of daily 20 minute sessions. Behaviors that could be considered superstitious in our experiment include rearing, sniffing, and biting arbitrary parts of the operant chamber. We are examining the possibility that other repetitive behaviors are superstitious as well.

#### **Poster 5**

**Title:** The SGA Budget Current and Future

**Author:** Nicole Hastry

**Advisor:** Celia Norcross

**Abstract:** My Presentation is about the Student Government Association Budget Process and Spending. I researched the budget allocation processes of other schools similar to our own. Using this research, I have deduced similar tactics used that worked for us and new strategies that the Student Government Association may want to try for future years. I then assessed our current use of funds displayed those on graph forms and in comparisons. I then used that information to propose future rules , regulations, and suggestions for the next coming years.

#### **Poster 6**

**Title:** Identification of Bacterial Endosymbionts of the Sea Anemone *Diadumene lineata*

**Author:** Brittney White

**Advisor:** Ann Billetz

**Abstract:** This research focuses on uncovering the identity and potential relationship between the bacteria that reside within the sea anemone *Diadumene lineata*. Currently, there is little known about this organism. Our research group is examining the morphology and behavior of *Diadumene lineata*, while I am focusing solely on the relationship between the anemone and its endosymbiont bacteria. The anemones were collected from a marina in Mystic, Connecticut. The anemones were homogenized and the homogenate was plated onto marine agar for cultivation of endosymbiont bacteria. Pure cultures were obtained and characterized as to colony morphology, cellular morphology, arrangement, and gram reaction. The bacteria will be identified by 16S rDNA analysis. This data will provide insight into the bacteria associated with *Diadumene lineata* and their potential protective role within the anemone.

### **Poster 7**

**Title:** The Mathematical Parameterization of the World Pool in the XY Plane

**Author:** Christopher Gamble & Kelli Garrant

**Advisor:** Erin Kiley

**Abstract:** Our project was to translate the English word “pool” into a single equation which, when given to a pen plotter would write the word “pool” with constant speed. Then program a pen plotter using our equation to draw out “pool”. To do this we needed to convert the lines someone would make with a pen into vector equations. To do this we first broke the word up into individual shapes and described those shapes with unparameterized equations. Next, we parameterized the equation in respect to t. This assigns a time over which the line is drawn. Then we adjusted the equation parameters to maintain a single speed. Finally, we programmed the pen plotter using the language sage. This project was not without failings, we failed to program the plotter to plot each word individually. However, ultimately, we did succeed in plotting the word “pool”.

### **Poster 8**

**Title:** Interaction of Morality and Substance Use on Campus

**Author:** Jordan Baroni, Whitney Woolley, & Kodi Day

**Advisor:** Maria Bartini

**Abstract:** Given public concern about substance use on college campuses, we are conducting a survey to examine MCLA student awareness of college policies on substances and substance use, their rates of use and their general attitudes toward substance use in general. We are particularly interested in how students’ moral reasoning predict their substance use on campus. Our findings are potentially important for student support services on campus and student affairs professionals.

### **Poster 9**

**Title:** Student Produced Marketing Videos

**Author:** Morgan Noller, L'Rae Brundige, Jake Daugherty, Benjamin Durland, Raja King, Henrietta Koramoah, Mohammed Rashid, Naiera Robinson, Kevin Speach, Jillian Tietgens, J.T. Murray, Nicholas Castle, Devin DeLuca, Connor Ogborn, Samuel Haaf, Drew Pare, Isamaya Hagstrom, Bielka Reinoso, Leah Harper, Kyly Horton, Gabrielle Kernozek, Katherine Langlois, Elizabeth Symanski, Jailyn Matos, Eva Marie Weeks, Audrey McDonald, Fiona Wilson, & Zhao Yuzhou

**Advisor:** Thomas Whalen

**Abstract:** BADM 270 Marketing students were divided into "marketing agencies" and assigned a "client" on campus. Their task was to create a 2-minute promotional video. Student teams recorded, edited, and produced the videos. The eight best videos are presented.

**Poster 10**

**Title:** NAMUN 2018 Ad Hoc Committee: The Mukden Incident

**Author:** Michael McAndrew

**Advisor:** David Cupery

**Abstract:** I will be presenting a poster about my participation in 2018 North American United Nations Conference. I was on the Ad-Hoc Committee, which was about the Mukden Incident and the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931. As Seishiro Itagaki, I was one of the perpetrators of the Mukden Incident and was one of the commanders charged with expanding Japanese holdings in Manchuria. I will discuss Japanese motives for trying to expand into Manchuria, power struggles among the Japanese elite, and the international threats to Japanese expansion. I was able to expand my power by using international interest in Manchuria to my advantage.

**Poster 11**

**Title:** MCLA Civil Rights Bus Trip

**Author:** Kylie Bonilla, Lakeria Darkins, Sophie Delice, Makayla Parkin, Carina Thompson, Kai Warren, & Lorinda Kalajian

**Advisor:** Ely Janis

**Abstract:** This poster will discuss the legacy of the African American Civil Rights movement and its relevance to social activism today. This study focused on the experiences gained by presenters during MCLA's Spring 2018 Civil Rights Travel course. During this trip, we visited not only important historical sites associated with the African American struggle for equality but also met and interacted with a range of veterans of the Civil Rights movement. The poster contains images of the trip as well as our analysis on the lessons learned from this historical movement.

**Poster 12**

**Title:** Art is Saving the World

**Author:** Jordan DeGaetano

**Advisor:** Michael Diltthey

**Abstract:** Our world is inundated with art. From fine art to music to theater to film to architecture to advertisements to fashion to makeup to food, art is so deeply ingrained in culture that we devour it unconsciously. It is this cross-cultural connection between individuals that unites us through visceral, aesthetic reactions. Although science is often the first step toward facilitating change, art forces an additional, emotional reaction that reaches people on a deeper level and inspires them to act. When we harness this power, we use art to as a vehicle to appeal to people's senses of pathos to provoke action to address and solve world issues. In today's age of ever-present media, we consume more art on a daily basis than ever before, and it is saving us one day at a time.

### **Poster 13**

**Title:** Comparison of Cnidae Size and Animal Size for the Sea Anemone *Diadumene lineata*

**Author:** Emily Magleby

**Advisor:** Anne Goodwin

**Abstract:** Sea anemones belong to the phylum Cnidaria. All members of this phylum contain organelles called cnidae (nematocysts and spirocysts), which are used for predation and defense. A scaling effect was observed for cnidae in anemones of the genus *Anthopleura*, in which spirocyst length, but not width, correlated with size (wet weight) of the sea anemone. The purpose of our research was to determine if this same scaling effect is observed in *Diadumene lineata*. Spirocysts and two types of nematocysts (basitrichs and macrobasic p-mastigophores) were photographed and measured using ImageJ. These measurements were plotted against the average basal diameter of each anemone. No scaling effect was observed for spirocysts, basitrichs, or macrobasic p-mastigophores.

### **Poster 14**

**Title:** Disparities In Mental Health Usage For College Students

**Author:** Edna Pires

**Advisor:** Benjamin Wood

**Abstract:** Racial and ethnic minority students tend to utilize counseling services relative to their level of need and not relatively to their racial and ethnic campus representation. This paper explores disparities in mental health usage for college students based on racial and ethnic differences by examining the historical, cultural and social factors to help fill this gap in understanding of why there is disparities in mental health usage among college students based on racial and ethnic differences. The College Student Mental Health Survey (CSMHS) serve as a first step towards gaining a better understanding of the current health disparities for college students population. Previous research has given evidence that minority students experience different outcomes from counseling based on their attitudes toward mental health services, coping resources around their environment and racial bias in mental health care.

### **Poster 15**

**Title:** North American Model United Nations 2018 – General Assembly, Third Committee: Social, Cultural and Humanitarian

**Author:** Darnell Henriquez

**Advisor:** David J Cupery

**Abstract:** My Topic is about my experience on the Third Committee of the general assembly for the North American Model United Nations in 2018. I represented India and the topic discussed was how should nations handle misinformation and digital sovereignty. During my time there, I had to build alliances and coalitions with other nations to attempt on passing 2 working papers with differing objectives. My research onto my nation's stances on issues such as digital sovereignty and freedom of speech along with international relations aided me greatly as to convincing other nations onto why they should have had me become a sponsor for both papers. For this poster I will describe both of the papers that I worked on, the process it took in order to develop them as well as a general explanation of what the timeline looked like for all three days of the conference.



### **Poster 16**

**Title:** Bat Vocalizations in New England

**Author:** Idaliz Diaz

**Advisor:** Elena Traister

**Abstract:** Throughout history the creation and use of technology has had the potential to develop a more sustainable way of living. This activity is an investigation of bats and their vocalizations to be used to develop an activity for a future environmental studies course. I am gathering information about bats, their habitats and their sounds to create a database that has the known sounds of the different species of bats. The future activity would involve using a recording device to record bats in the area. The students will then be able to match the recorded sounds to the saved sounds to identify the species. In doing this they will be able to monitor the bat populations in the area.

### **Poster 17**

**Title:** My Model UN Experience

**Author:** Andrew J. Baillargeon

**Advisor:** Professor Cupery

**Abstract:** My poster will depict my experiences at the Model United Nations Conference in Toronto, Canada, where I represented Wladyslaw Bartoszewski in a simulated version of the Independent Commission of Experts' evaluation of the Swiss actions during WWII. The commission which I was in was known as the Independent Commission of Experts. The ICE's goals in these conferences were to determine whether or not Switzerland truly was neutral during World War II, and drafting a final report pertaining to Swiss' actions during WWII for an official public statement. Ultimately, the committee finished its final meeting, establishing that the Swiss were not neutral and determining the official numbers and actions that the Swiss took to promote German ideals and, without a doubt, aiding them during the WWII era.

### **Poster 18**

**Title:** Symbiont Identification from *Cassiopeia* sp.

**Author:** Kevin Wallace & Lynn Moorhead

**Advisor:** Anne Goodwin

**Abstract:** Mangrove jellyfish (*Cassiopeia*) are found in warm coastal waters which are affected by climate change. *Cassiopeia* form mutualistic relationships with dinoflagellates from the genus Symbiodinium which have a narrow temperature range. The goal of this study is to sample DNA from the dinoflagellates and use Illumina sequencing to identify the clade. DNA extraction was performed using a Qiagen PowerWater extraction kit. The DNA was then run through PCR using primers that amplify the dinoflagellate DNA. The primer function was confirmed with DNA gel electrophoresis. The samples were then sent out for Illumina DNA sequencing. The electrophoresis showed bands meaning the dinoflagellate DNA was successfully amplified using the primers.

### **Poster 19**

**Title:** Corporate Event Planning Vs. College Event Planning

**Author:** Shannon Esposito

**Advisor:** Celia Norcross

**Abstract:** My poster will take an in depth look between the similarities and differences between corporate events and college events. For example how corporate events tend to be regulated on what you can and cannot do, while college events are open to the student's interpretation of what they want to do. Another example being college even planning is planning for students, corporate events planning is typically done for donors or customers. This poster will also show the transition college event planners have getting corporate jobs as well. The transition requiring skills such as learning how to put on fundraisers, planning different size events, and how to market to different audiences.

### **Poster 20**

**Title:** Comparative Odonate Biodiversity in Two Northern Berkshire Ponds

**Author:** Alexis R. Bedini, Heather L. Nielsen, and Marisa A. Zable

**Advisor:** Eric T. Doucette

**Abstract:** Odonate surveys in two northern Berkshire ponds with similar aquatic floras, are similar in Odonate abundance but differ in species composition and richness. Bridges Pond, in Williamstown, MA, in a suburban setting has an Odonate fauna dominated by the Anisopteran family *Libellulidae*. Mausert's Pond, in Clarksburg, MA, surrounded by a forested matrix and light human development has an Odonate fauna dominated by the Anisopteran family *Aeshnidae*. Both water bodies support lower abundances of *Zygoptera* (damselflies), with Lestidae dominant at Mausert's Pond and Coenagrionidae dominant at Bridge's Pond. We investigated correlations between Odonate faunas and water quality, water body size, and substrate composition.

### **Poster 21**

**Title:** North American Model United Nations 2018

**Author:** Bryan Vega

**Advisor:** David J Cupery

**Abstract:** This research was collected in preparation to represent the delegation of Israel in the North American United Nations. I was in the Fourth Committee, General Assembly that dealt with the recognition of the Kurdish people crisis. As, I Israel expressed my most sincere condolences towards the suffering of our fellow Middle Eastern brethren however I remained mindful of the volatile nature of the Middle East, as well as making the safety of the people of Israel a priority. The second task my committee was tasked with was to reform peacekeeping and allow the implementation of a robust mandate or to keep peacekeeping as is. As Israel I expressed why we would be in favor of a robust mandate, emphasizing that Israelis are familiar with the horrors of the humanitarian crisis and ethnic cleansing, however the delegation of Israel also expressed the importance of state sovereignty.

**Poster 22**

**Title:** The Effects of Negative Emotions: Emotion Regulation Strategies and the Impact on Information Recall

**Author:** Ilana Rose Kittrell, Sarah Marie Kenney, & Rachel Rosanna Sullivan

**Advisor:** Ruby Vega

**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to examine the impact of negative emotions on college student comprehension and recall of information. Further, the potential mediating role of two emotion regulation strategies (reappraisal of importance and reappraisal of outcome) will also be investigated. Previous research on the impact of negative emotion on learning has primarily focused on the effectiveness of reappraisal strategies in reducing the negative effects of sadness on memory. This study will attempt to replicate those findings and extend previous work by investigating the impact of reappraisal strategies on anxiety experienced during learning situations. Sadness and anxiety are common emotions experienced by college students, so coping strategies that can help students reduce and manage these negative emotions would be beneficial to their academic success.

**Poster 23**

**Title:** Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: Using an Intersectionality Lens to Inform a Shift in College Students' Beliefs as a Mode of Understanding Feminism

**Author:** Ilana Rose Kittrell

**Advisor:** Benjamin Wood

**Abstract:** Intersectionality refers to the junction between social categories. Privilege and oppression meet at these crossroads and affect everyone in one way or another. College students are seen as a major catalyst to social change and are greatly influenced by a school's culture. If they can self-reflect via learning about intersectionality, they should be able to expand their thinking to similar issues. The purpose of this study is to investigate whether educating college students on intersectionality can result in a shift in understanding on the issues of diversity, inclusion, and equity; thereby leading to a willingness to entertain the core values of feminism. Taking a representative sample of the MCLA student population, this study uses a pretest-posttest methodology, accompanied by a workshop program. It is hypothesized that solidifying an understanding of intersectionality, specifically the privilege and oppression related to intersecting identities, increases an individual's readiness to acknowledge the ideologies of feminism.

#### **Poster 24**

**Title:** The Music Industry

**Author:** Augustin Ndayikeza

**Advisor:** Celia Norcross

**Abstract:** Hans Christian Anderson once stated, “Where words fail, music speaks.” Music is considered an outlet for many people. Creating a focus on the history of music and its impact on society both culturally and financially will allow viewers to understand the roots of music. Research will indicate when the music business began, who started it, and how music got introduced into society detailing its creative styles and foundation. The music industry is very lucrative and the profits within the music industries have created large market shares. Studies will compare the U.S. music industry to other countries like Spain showcasing the profit cycle for business owners. The presentation will showcase where hip hop started, and how many legends were founded; as well as, what year hip hop became popular by the radio hosts and other states. How will music generate profits and influence people in the future.

#### **Poster 25**

**Title:** The Social and Academic Aspects of the College Experience: How Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Athleticism Affects Perceived Social Support and Academic Success

**Author:** Faith Loyko & Katherine Langlois

**Advisor:** Professor Sharon Claffey

**Abstract:** Different factors influence a person’s college experience. Social support can be important, particularly to non-heterosexual people (e.g., Doty *et al.*, 2010). Gender has also been found to impact social support (e.g, a need to belong) and this may be particularly important for college students (e.g., Baldwin *et al.*, 2017). Academic success plays a major role in the college experience and can be affected by multiple things, such as, gender and athletics. Female athletes have been found to perform better academically than male athletes (e.g, Bailey & Bhattacharyya, 2017). This study is investigating how sexual orientation, gender, and athleticism may affect a student’s perceived social support and academic success by using an online survey. It is hypothesized that students’ athleticism will increase a students’ academic success and perceived social support. It is also hypothesized that a students' sexual orientation and gender affects their academic success and perceived social support.

#### **Poster 26**

**Title:** Growing Healthy Garden Program

**Author:** Emily Hardy & Ryan Perkins

**Advisor:** Elena Traister

**Abstract:** The availability of technologic advances has the potential to greatly improve the sustainability of agricultural practices. The Growing Healthy Garden Program helps increase food security in areas that lack it in Northern Berkshire County. We are working together with Jennifer Munoz to help raise seedlings that will be given to communities for their gardens that they can harvest throughout the growing season in order to provide more healthy options to eat. We have conducted troubleshooting experiments in the greenhouse located on top of the science center where we will be caring for these seedlings until they are ready to be given back to the community.

### **Poster 27**

**Title:** Natural History Specimen Preparator

**Author:** Emily Hardy

**Advisor:** Daniel Shustack

**Abstract:** Natural history collections are useful for a variety of scientific and educational purposes. For example, specimens collected from different time periods and locations provide information about annual, seasonal, and individual variation across and within species. The Environmental Studies Department at MCLA has a growing collection of bird and mammal study skins and skulls from New England. Fresh specimens are salvaged from mortality events like road kills and window strikes. In order to prepare the specimens for the collection, their fleshy insides are removed and replaced with cotton to create a round study skin that approximates the size of the living animal. The presentation will highlight the value of natural history collections and describe the process of preserving specimens.

### **Poster 28**

**Title:** College Student Retention

**Author:** Rosy Gil Diaz

**Advisor:** Benjamin Wood

**Abstract:** College student retention is a very important component of a college's success. Factors that influence student retention are student's happiness, student academic standing, student involvement on campus, and student's relationship with faculty and staff, among other factors that are related to the students' personal and family life. All of these factors are important to track and monitor to ensure that a student has all of the tools and support that they need to continue with their college career. Conducting focus groups with students and getting their perspective and opinion on why they continue with their education and the reasons why they are successful or not, can help make changes on campus that could benefit the retention rates of the college. The deeper understanding of what the students like, don't like and want to see change can be the key to making campus and academics better for the MCLA college population.

### **Poster 29**

**Title:** Control Efforts in Invasive Species

**Author:** Kristen Mabey

**Advisor:** Elena Traister

**Abstract:** The purpose of this study is to advance our scientific knowledge by utilizing technology as a tool to enhance conservation methods. More specifically, this research, will use technology to map out the spread of the invasive species *Alliaria petiolata*, commonly called garlic mustard, in Field Farm, a property owned and managed by the Trustees of Reservations. Garlic mustard has been spotted in various locations throughout Field Farm and to better control the spread, GIS mapping will be utilized to map the extent of garlic mustard infestations, calculate the size of the patches, and assess the density of the patches. This information will allow better planning to better control the spread of the invasive garlic mustard.

### **Poster 30**

**Title:** Quantification of cyclic di-GMP from E.coli

**Author:** Samuel Winkley

**Advisor:** Carolyn Dehner

**Abstract:** Bacteria are able to sense and adapt to a changing environment. They alter their gene expression and virulence accordingly, so they may survive, proliferate, or conserve resources when needed. The signaling molecule cyclic di-GMP enhances biofilm formation, while inhibiting motility, ultimately affecting virulence. We focused on temperature as the environmental “cue,” emulating the transition from an outside environment (23°C) to one inside a human host (37°C) with uropathogenic E. coli, to see if c-di-GMP levels were thermoregulated. Cells were harvested at various time points after the temperature shift, and extracted nucleic acids were run on a High Performance Liquid Chromatograph. Our results showed a significant increase in cyclic di-GMP concentration as early as one hour. These results imply that the shift to human body temperature may serve as a “cue” for the bacteria to form a biofilm, which may aid in protection and survival in the human host.

### **Poster 31**

**Title:** North American Model United Nations 2018- Fourth Committee of the General Assembly: Russian Federation on the Use of Offensive Force in Peacekeeping and the question of the Kurdish People

**Author:** Joe Bellas

**Advisor:** David Cupery

**Abstract:** I plan to present during the poster session my research that took place for my participation in the North American Model United Nations. I was in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly in the present, that dealt with the issues of the use of offensive force in peacekeeping operations as well as addressing the question of the Kurdish people. As the Russian Federation, I participated as a delegate that represented a major power in the world today. I will discuss the discussions and resolutions that the committee had in regards to both topics discussed; the use of offensive force in peacekeeping operations and the question of the Kurdish people.

### **Poster 32**

**Title:** Morphological Analysis of Spotted Hawkweed (*Hieracium maculatum*)

**Author:** Lena Labdi & Michael Friedman

**Advisor:** Eric T. Doucette

**Abstract:** *Hieracium maculatum* Sm. (spotted hawkweed), is a perennial European plant that has naturalized in the northeast. The species has varying amounts of anthocyanins, ranging from entirely green leaves to heavily pigmented leaves; a trait we hypothesize to be related to sun exposure. This taxon has been variously treated as a species, as a form of another species, or not recognized at all. Entirely green-leaved specimens can be misidentified as other species of *Hieracium*, including taxa that we hypothesize that do not occur in New England. To test this, we collected plants and seeds from sun and shade conditions at six sites, measured them for a suite of forty-two morphological traits and performed statistical analyses on the morphological data set. In addition, the seeds were used in a reciprocal common garden experiment to test anthocyanin production, with light intensity as the variable.

**Poster 33****Title:** Parametric Equations for the Use of Math Modeling**Author:** Phoebe Pelzer**Advisor:** Erin Kiley

**Abstract:** Parametric equations are commonly used to express coordinates of points that make up a geometric object not easily accessible with simple equations. Instead of defining the x and y coordinates separately, a third variable called a parameter is included. The parameter for this project was time and when combined with the x and y variables respectively produced an image that was then able to be examined. The geometric object for this project was the word Nadeje which is the Slavic word for hope. This project will combine the use of math coding and art to inspire students that one can combine things that they enjoy while also realizing that math can be included in everyday things that surround us. Mathematics can create beautiful images and patterns and throughout this talk, symmetry and its role will also be explained in depth; many of the images we see today owe a great deal to symmetry.

**Poster 34****Title:** Optical Measurements of Boron Subphthalocyanine Chloride**Author:** Phoebe Pelzer & Evan Kalinowsky**Advisor:** Kebra Ward

**Abstract:** In conventional solar panels, the absorption of a photon will free a single electron which can be converted into an electrical current. Materials are now being investigated for their ability to produce two free electrons through the absorption of just one photon. This process is called singlet fission, and an upcoming material being studied for exhibiting this phenomenon is Boron Subphthalocyanine (SubPc). SubPc absorbs light in the visible spectral range and one of the wavelengths that can excite the material is 532 nm. This is the same wavelength at which the Physics Department's new pulsed laser can operate, and allows optical measurements to be taken. In this study the pulsed laser and a spectrometer will be used to measure the optical characteristics of SubPc. These measurements include fluence, transmission, degenerate four-wave mixing (DFWM), absorption, and emission spectra.

**Poster 35****Title:** Model UN: Roberto Escobar in the Colombian Conflict**Author:** Sam Payne**Advisor:** David Cupery

**Abstract:** The North American Model United Nations 2018 Integrated Crisis revolved around the Colombian Conflict. Five rooms consisted of a simulated Colombian Cabinet, Congress, Conference for Marxist-Leninism and Communism, Conference for a Conservative Colombia, and Conference for Pan-Colombian Narcotics Trade. This poster will review the research conducted for the role of Roberto Escobar, brother of the infamous Pablo Escobar and accountant of the Medellin cartel. This poster will also outline the events that unfolded during the three day simulation in Toronto.

### **Poster 36**

**Title:** Quadcopter Research

**Author:** William Cottrell

**Abstract:** Quadcopters, which have fallen in price in recent years, can be used in many research applications that once would have been unsafe or highly expensive. The quadcopter is now being used in research such as monitoring logging practices and whale DNA analysis. The MCLA Environmental Studies Department is in need of a lab activity introducing students to the uses of drones for conservation. With the help of an air quality sensor, areas can be mapped around the campus and nearby locations. Research shows that air pollution causes shortened life, loss of lung capacity, decreased lung function and the possibility of cancer. Graphing and analyzing the data collected will allow comparisons of the air quality at different locations on and near campus. This technique is only possible with a use of a quadcopter and should give a different perspective of our surroundings.

### **Poster 37**

**Title:** Vernal Movements of Western Massachusetts Wood Turtles, *Glyptemys insculpta*

**Author:** Charles Najimy

**Advisor:** Eric Doucette

**Abstract:** We studied the springtime movements of five Wood Turtles, *Glyptemys insculpta* (LeConte) for four years at field sites within the Housatonic River watershed in Berkshire County, MA. *Glyptemys insculpta* is a species of Special Concern in Massachusetts, and is experiencing threats range-wide. Turtles were radio tagged and tracked via telemetry, with biweekly telemetric recordings marking turtle location, as well as ground, water, air, and turtle temperature. We analyzed these data to infer the roles of ground, water, and air temperature on vernal turtle movement and hibernation emergence, including the potentially different reactions to rapid temperature spikes versus extended periods of warmer weather. These data will also allow us to gauge consistency of yearly travel distances and locations, including preferred nesting and wintering habitats. These data can inform both local scale, state, and regional conservation and habitat planning.

### **Poster 38**

**Title:** Model United Nations- Nigeria

**Author:** Isamaya Hagstrom

**Advisor:** David Cupery

**Abstract:** During the poster session, I will present and explain the two key phases needed to succeed in the North American Model United Nations Conference. Specifically, in-depth research, and the practice and application of public speaking. As a representative of Nigeria in the Food and Agriculture Organization General Assembly, I was tasked to diplomatically communicate with many other countries to address the pressing issues of desertification and the development of biotechnology. Fortunately, Nigeria succeeded in gaining both alliances and strategic benefits that required an intensive understanding of the topics above, which ultimately earned me an award in the NAMUN conference.



**Poster 39**

**Title:** Renewable Energy in North Adams

**Author:** Isamaya Hagstrom & Maija Santos

**Advisor:** Elena Traister

**Abstract:** A team of students from MCLA worked alongside Eric Buddington, a representative of North Adams City Council, to ascertain the possibility of the city going solar. In pursuit of solar production data, the team had to take into consideration three processes of renewable energy: production, transmission and consumption. Renewable energies such as wind and solar can be challenging to incorporate into the existing grid because of their intermittent nature. However, the investment in solar energy can prove to be lucrative due to incentives such as the Massachusetts SMART program, which rewards solar production. The results of this study can help the North Adams City Council determine whether or not to incorporate solar energy into the currently existing electric grid.

**Poster 40**

**Title:** College Student Life and Adjustment

**Author:** Kara Adams, Ashley Wilson, & Kasha Wissman

**Advisor:** Maria Bartini

**Abstract:** Though stress is an inevitable part of life, it's becoming increasingly evident in college students (e.g. Gallagher, & Weaver-Graham, 1995). Our objective is to measure the effects of academic related stressors on anxiety in college students and its relation to academic performance (GPA). MCLA college students will be recruited to complete an online survey about their daily life and academic stressors, their feelings of anxiety, and about their academic performance (GPA). If we find a strong correlation, we'll have a better understanding of the impact academics has on stress.

**Poster 41**

**Title:** Cross Sectional Design on College Students and Their Rate of Sexual Harassment Versus the Rate of Report for Sexual Harassment on MCLA Campus

**Author:** Emily Moulton, Leslie Tayi, & Adam Conquest

**Advisor:** Maria Bartini

**Abstract:** Throughout history the rate of sexual harassment has not increased or decreased, per say, but the rate of reporting these incidents surely has risen. Unfortunately, in the college setting, 90% of the time sexual harassment and sexual aggression's go unreported (Ellman-Golan, 2017). Our study will be a cross sectional design on first through fourth year college students and their rate of sexual harassment versus the rate of reported sexual harassment. We will also explore possible sex, gender, and race differences in rates of experience with sexual harassment. It is an important study to see inside statistics on the sexual harassment rates on our campus, in hopes to build a safer community for our students and make sure students know the resources at hand.

#### **Poster 42**

**Title:** Psychology of the Arts

**Author:** Simone Dalton

**Advisor:** Celia Norcross

**Abstract** I am presenting a literature review on how art affects mood. I will present previous research on the matter and what I have observed during the time of my internship. I have been organizing certain events in order to get the community more involved in the arts and taking note of how they seem to be reacting to these small projects. I will present any observations I make and include previous research on this topic. Since this is not IRB cleared, I cannot make any claims or record data, but I will be writing what I have observed and simply doing a literature review on past research that is relevant to these projects.

#### **Poster 43**

**Title:** How Climate Change is Affecting Brown Pelicans

**Author:** Rosalee Walter

**Advisor:** Elena Traister

**Abstract:** The use of technology is an exciting new development in conservation, as “big data” can be shared among the community, and it makes the documentation and tracking of organisms more efficient. eBird is a website where birders can document their observations, which are in turn validated by the scientific community. Brown pelicans can typically be found along southern and western sea coasts in North America. However, as a result of climate change, the National Audubon Society predicts that the brown pelican’s winter range will experience a northward shift by 54 percent by the year 2080. This study compares sightings documented with eBird with the range shift prediction. The years from 1998-2018 in the month of January have been compared to test for evidence of this claim. The results did show a slight shift in range, although more would be expected over a longer period of time.

#### **Poster 44**

**Title:** Dark-eyed Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) and Their Plumage Microbiota

**Author:** Emily Tarnawa

**Advisor:** George Hamaoui

**Abstract:** Bird plumage is known to carry diverse microbial bacteria and fungi. Some of the microbial species are known to degrade keratin, the protein which makes up feathers. However, it is not fully known how these microbial communities vary across individuals within a species. In this study, we sampled microbes from a small songbird, the Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*). Between December 2017 and March 2018 we trapped Juncos behind the MCLA Science Center. We plucked feathers for extraction and sequencing of microbial DNA. Then, we wiped their belly feathers onto four different growth media and cultured the microbes for isolation and identification.

**Poster 45****Title:** Model UN- the Colombian Conflict**Author:** Sarah Groux**Advisor:** Professor Cupery

**Abstract:** I had the opportunity to take on the role of a social conservative party member in the Colombian Conflict at the North American Model UN conference. The party's role was based upon Christian values and condemned the growing of coca as well as drug trafficking that was evident in the Cali and Medellin cartels as well as the FARC, ELN and paramilitary groups. During the conference the conservative party and I drafted resolutions attempting to decrease poverty in the rural countryside of Colombia as well as eradicate corruption from congress and the cabinet. Resolutions had to be done in a strategic way. In order to gain bipartisan support for resolutions it was important to use specific language that appealed to both the liberal and conservative parties. On my poster I'll include resolutions that were passed and also those that were well put together but looked at less favorably.

**Poster 46****Title:** Turtles of Central Alabama: A Biodiversity Survey of Oak Mountain State Park**Author:** Kaylyn Swenson**Advisor:** Daniel Shustack

**Abstract:** In the midst of global climate change and mass extinction, understanding population dynamics of sensitive species is essential. Turtles have temperature-dependent sex determination and are particularly threatened by changes in climate. Oak Mountain State Park in Shelby County, Alabama provides freshwater turtle populations representative of the southeastern United States, although very little is known about current populations. In the summer of 2017, a biodiversity survey was conducted to study the park's turtles. Turtles were captured and assessed using morphometry and mark-recapture techniques to determine species abundance, sex ratios, and age structure. Sex ratios observed across these species slightly favored females. Data loggers buried in the park's nesting beaches for several weeks suggested nest incubation temperatures that would reduce predominantly male hatchlings. This research serves as a point of reference to evaluate change in turtle populations at Oak Mountain State Park in order to develop conservation strategies.

**Poster 47****Title:** An Assessment of Student Satisfaction at MCLA**Author:** Jackson O'Brien, Alyssa Reddy, & Matthew Lee**Advisor:** Maria Bartini

**Abstract:** Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) is located in the rural Berkshires. MCLA tries hard to create an enjoyable learning environment for students by providing activities, clubs, and sports. Peer connectiveness has long been a focus to help improve the lives and connectedness students feel on campus. Using the Social Connectiveness Scale and Student Outcomes Survey, we looked at the relationship between social and educational aspects in respect to majors. MCLA may be able to implement changes to majors and/or program offerings to help increase students' connections on campus using the information we gathered.

**Poster 48**

**Title:** North American Model United Nations 2018 - The Food and Agriculture Organization: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

**Author:** Meghan Cook

**Advisor:** David Cupery

**Abstract:** My poster will present the research I did for my participation in this year's North American Model United Nations as well as the objectives and outcomes of my committee. I was in the Food and Agriculture Organization that was dealing with two issues, desertification and biotechnology. As the country of Ethiopia I had to champion the interests of my country in these issues. I will describe the discussions on both desertification and biotechnology, the obstacles we faced in committee and how we dealt with them as an organization. My allies and I were able to get two resolutions passed, each strategically dealing with the topics.

**Poster 49**

**Title:** Response Duration is Sensitive to Both Immediate and Delayed Reinforcement

**Author:** Bri Sarno

**Advisor:** Tom Byrne

**Abstract:** We investigated the duration of lever pressing by rats when the delivery of appetitive reinforcers was contingent upon response duration. In the first experiment, response durations increased when duration requirements were imposed, and they decreased when duration requirements were removed. This occurred whether reinforcers were immediate or delayed by 8 seconds. In order to maintain the integrity of the delay intervals, reinforcer delivery was dependent upon lever depression only, and release was not required. In a second experiment, both lever release and a response duration of at least 4 seconds were required for reinforcement. Compared to immediate reinforcement conditions, delayed reinforcers increased both variability and the length of the maximum response durations. In a third experiment, immediate reinforcers were delivered contingent upon lever depression under a variety of duration requirements. Across all three experiments, rats emitted numerous response durations that were too short to satisfy the reinforcer requirements.

**Poster 50**

**Title:** Canada Arms Trade

**Author:** Eamon Hanlon

**Advisor:** David Cupery

**Abstract:** I plan to present during my poster presentation about my experiences during the 2018 NAMUN conference. I participated as Canada in the Arms Trade Treaty Committee in which I did in depth research, worked with people to come up with resolutions, and used a poison pill strategically. I will discuss both the Arms Trade Treaty as a whole, as well as Canada and its specific role in the Arms Trade Treaty.

**Poster 51**

**Title:** Being in Brely, Haiti

**Author:** Abigail Walsh, Nicholas Bassett, Juliane Clark, & Katie Howe

**Advisor:** Spencer Moser

**Abstract:** The nine students who participated in the Alternative Spring Break trip to Haiti were deeply impacted by both their individual and collective experiences. The students were immersed in one small rural village for one week; absorbing, sharing, learning and being as actively involved as possible. This poster presentation will document and highlight some of the student's shared insights, perspectives and feelings, as well as the cross-cultural impact of the trip.

**Poster 52**

**Title:** Startle Response in Zebra Fish (*Danio reino*)

**Author:** Tor Bashista

**Advisor:** Justin Golub

**Abstract:** When frightened animals will seek shelter. The criteria for shelter varies, but in a novel environment, animals will see out areas that allow for the greatest camouflage, called background matching. Choosing a habitat that matches provide animals with decreased chance of predator encounter, and an increased chance of surviving any predator encounters through cryptic and disruptive coloration mechanisms. In this experiment, we observed zebrafish (*Danio reino*) in an aquarium with drab and bright backgrounds. We are initiating a startle response (simulated predator attack) in zebrafish and tracking their movement and proximity to each other. The expectation is that fish will group together (herding; defensive mechanisms) against the background that will provide the greatest color match, and protection from predators.

**Poster 53**

**Title:** North American Model United Nations 2018 – Arms Trade Treaty Committee: The Islamic Republic of Iran

**Author:** Alexander Stewart

**Advisor:** David Cupery

**Abstract:** My poster presents the research that I have done to prepare for the North American Model United Nations conference. During the conference, I represented the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Arms Trade Treaty. As a delegate of Iran, my responsibility was to make changes to the Arms Trade Treaty that would benefit the nation. I would focus on the resolutions that were introduced and passed. By the end of the conference, the final treaty did not fit with the interests and concerns of Iran.

**Poster 54**

**Title:** Model United Nations Malayan Emergency

**Author:** Drew Weisse

**Advisor:** David Cupery

**Abstract:** I will present the research I did in preparation for my role in the Malayan Emergency of 1948-1960 simulation at Model United Nations. I will then describe the conflict as it transpired during committee. As Major-General Roy Urquhart, I was in charge of leading troops against Malayan Communist Party guerrillas while working with my political allies to ensure the British position in Malaya after the conflict was favorable to future commercial interests. I became an expert in the background of the Malayan Conflict, using my knowledge to change the course of history over several simulated years of the Emergency.

**Poster 55**

**Title:** Sediment Transport and Salinity of the Hoosic River

**Author:** Noah Henkenius, Kristen Mabey, and Hannah Wait

**Advisor:** Elena Traister

**Abstract:** Construction of dams along rivers has disturbed sediment flows, impacting wetland ecosystems and deltas. A consequence of ice removal from roads using sand and salt is higher salinity in rivers. This has a negative impact on both aquatic organisms and humans. Our objective is to evaluate the effects of applying salt to roads on water quality in the the Hoosic River. YSI 566 probes will measure salinity. Water samples will be filtered and dried in an oven at ~105°C for forty-eight hours to measure suspended sediments. We anticipate documenting spikes in salinity following spring wet weather events. Suspended sediment levels will be measured to assess the effect of upstream dams on downstream sediment transport in both wet and dry conditions. This will allow assessments to be made if dams upstream are significantly impacting sediment transports.

**Poster 56**

**Title:** The United States Water Crisis

**Author:** Kathryn Mancini

**Advisor:** Susan Edgerton

**Abstract:** There is currently a water crisis in the United States, which I believe to be an important national issue, despite its low level of public awareness. This poster discusses the current water consumption in the United States, and the issues with this usage, along with the injustices to specific communities that have resulted. Some of the issues discussed include water pollution, climate change, over-extraction, and population growth, as well as injustices such as the water pollution in Flint, Michigan and water scarcity in regions of California.

## ***Lunch***

*Campus Center Gym, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm*

Lunch is provided for URC presenters, their faculty advisors, and guests. Please make sure to pick up your lunch tickets during registration.

## ***Undergraduate Scholarship Opportunities***

Professor Graziana Ramsden, Ph.D. will give a brief presentation on national scholarship opportunities for students.

## ***Keynote Address: James Chapman ('15)***

*Campus Center Gym, 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm*

James Chapman graduated MCLA with a degree in Physics and Mathematics. He is currently a Ph.D. student at Georgia Institute of Technology. His research interests are in autonomous systems for material design. James was awarded the American Chemical Society's article of the month in January 2016.

## ***Meet the Speaker: Sullivan Lounge***

*1:30 pm – 2:00 pm*

*For Students Only*

Students will have the opportunity to have an informal question and answer session with the keynote speaker following the luncheon. James Chapman will be available to answer any questions you have about his experiences both at MCLA and after graduation. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn from someone who has walked in your shoes not too long ago.

***Performance (II A): Speak the Speech!: Shakespeare's Voices  
Illuminated***

*Campus Center Dance Studio, 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Laura Standley*

***Performers: Rachel Bartlett, Julie Castagna, Tim Downs, Joslyn Eaddy,  
Timothy Fontaine, Devin Gibbs, Amanda Gilmore, Rachel Grzelak, Ella  
Lafontant, Mitchell McCauley, Kevin McGrath, Sebastian Phillips, Joseph  
Sabin, Braxton Vittori, Fiona Wilson, & Maggie Winslow***

*Students from Advanced Acting: Shakespeare bring his famous characters to life. Through a wide range of monologues from Shakespeare's plays, students explore heightened language with style, authority, and lyricism.*



## ***Paper Presentations (II B)***

*Bowman 119, 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM*

**Title:** Analysis of Wellness Concepts in Undergraduate Institutions

**Author:** Elsa Rose Mastico

**Advisor:** Benjamin Wood

**Abstract:** In the last couple decades, wellness has been viewed in the as a fundamental component of counseling. The discussion of combining wellness with counseling centers has been a widely discussed topic throughout undergraduate institution's as it creates an interdisciplinary approach to health that can be highly beneficial to all students. The integration of wellness concepts is thought to commonly be centered on the combination of physical health services and therapy services on campus but there is minimal research that actually deciphers whether or not this is true. The current research is an extension of Dr. Benjamin Wood's research that aims to analyze the conversations surrounding wellness in a systematic way by looking at wellness concepts in colleges and how they are defining the term. The current paper discusses the addition to the project as well as the overall findings and implications for further discussions surrounding wellness integration in undergraduate institutions.

**Title:** Challenges to Arab Unity: The Case of The United Arab Republic

**Author:** Drew Weisse

**Advisor:** Robert Bence

**Abstract:** The joining of Egypt and Syria into one country, the United Arab Republic, lasted roughly three years between 1958 and 1961. The promotion and support of Nasser's Pan-Arab vision assisted in the creation of this union, but could not overcome the separate interests and practical reality inherent in the process of uniting two neighboring countries. The case of the UAR reveals that possible attempts at Arab unity are likely to be mired in the historic, political, and cultural realities that states currently use both for identification and differentials between other countries with similar backgrounds.

**Title:** The Master of Death and Deception: King Leopold's Acquisition of the Belgian Congo

**Author:** Zoe Elwell

**Advisor:** Anthony Daly

**Abstract:** King Leopold II of Belgium was one of the most remarkable rulers during the age of imperialism. Unlike most dominant empires in Europe, responsibility for the material success and infamous atrocities of the Belgian Congo rests on Leopold himself. He was a master of manipulation and his thirst for power paved the way towards one of the most lucrative colonies of the late 19th and early 20th century. His legacy is one of greed and the dehumanization of Africans. How could one man possess the prize jewel of Africa when the rest of Europe was fighting in the game of world domination?

## ***Paper Presentations (II C)***

*Bowman 122, 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM*

**Title:** The Protégé: Nathaniel Hawthorne's Influence on Herman Melville's Writing

**Author:** Benjamin G. May

**Advisor:** Zachary Finch

**Abstract:** Literary and artistic periods happen as a result of writers and artists coming together and sharing ideas, techniques, and philosophies. The relationship between Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville exemplifies this phenomenon and lends insight into the literary period known as the American Renaissance. The correspondence between Hawthorne and Melville demonstrate that, not only did they discuss literary issues, but that those discussions had a profound impact on how Melville approached his work. The result is a body of work so thoughtful and well-constructed, that it is at the heart of a literary period that gave prominence to American writers on the international stage. A close examination of these correspondences and the resultant works of literature shows specifically which techniques, and artistic philosophies that Melville adopted from Hawthorne and how that impacted the way Melville wrote and thought.

**Title:** Contesting Deaf Culture in America: Access, Agency, and Representation

**Author:** Victoria Martischnig

**Advisor:** Sumi Colligan

**Abstract:** The purpose of this research is to better understand the correlation of Deaf culture, access to sign language/interpreters, and the controversy surrounding the cochlear implant. One of the main foci is the idea of "elective disability" and why so many people within the Deaf community choose to remain deaf, even with the option of the cochlear implant available to them. In exploring this conundrum, I examine representations of deafness that are in tension with each other, both from within and outside of the Deaf community. Ultimately, I argue for sign language interpreters as a human right and the ability of Deaf social actors to exercise agency in determining their own identities and modes of societal participation.

**Title:** French Colonial Expansion and Indigenous Resistance in Vietnam

**Author:** Sam Burgess

**Advisor:** Anthony Daly

**Abstract:** French involvement in Vietnam can be traced back as far as the late seventeenth century with the exploration of Catholic missionaries. This area evolved into one of their most prestigious and perhaps one of the most troubling colonies. The first purpose of this presentation is to identify some of the key motivations, ambitions, and circumstances that made the territory that would be referred to as Indochina such a vital portion of French colonial possessions and to focus on the importance of the Catholic church, international diplomacy, and control of trade hubs. The second purpose of this presentation is to explore aspects of early Vietnamese resistance to French colonial expansion in different forms and to focus on early appeasement by the Hue court and the development of Nationalist and Communist forces within Vietnam.

## ***Paper Presentations (II D)***

*Bowman 201, 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM*

**Title:** The Marxist Critique of European Imperialism

**Author:** Henry Ayles

**Advisor:** Anthony Daly

**Abstract:** The purpose of this presentation is to review the extent to which prominent Marxist figures—through both theoretical contributions as well as concrete attempts to implement socialism—impacted the international anti-imperialist/anti-colonialist movements of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This presentation will consider how dialectical materialism, the Marxist methodology which states that all conflict radiates from class struggle, was utilized by socialists to frame capitalism as an economic system wholly dependent upon the exploitation of profit, with special attention paid to the unequal distribution of the means of production and ownership of modern technology in the European colonies. Particular attention will be paid to criticism of the Boer War by the British Left and the formation, functions, and historical dissension between delegates of the Communist International.

**Title:** Relationship Dynamics with Self-Deception

**Author:** Caitlyn Hunt

**Advisor:** Benjamin Wood

**Abstract:** The purpose of this presentation is to explore different theories regarding self-deception and to look at self-deception in terms of heroes and villains in literature. The focus will be on the character dynamics that form and the role self-deception can play in these complex relationships. These relationships and interactions will be analyzed in order to see if self-deception has an impact or if there are other forces influencing these dynamics.

**Title:** China, Britain, and the Opium Wars

**Author:** Teresa Leahy

**Advisor:** Anthony Daly

**Abstract:** My presentation will examine the Opium Wars (also known as the Arrow Wars) that were fought in China by Britain during the time period of 1839-1860. The British intentions behind these wars, Chinese reactions, and why the wars were fought will be covered. The land disputes, and the imperial mission of the British Empire will also be examined in this presentation, drawing from primary and secondary sources from both sides of the war. Lasting effects on China and the effects of the wars on relations between China and Britain will also be explored, including the Treaty of Nanjing and the British acquirement of Hong Kong Island.

## *Special Session (II E): Interdisciplinary Worlds*

*Bowman 203, 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Rita Nnodim*

*Understanding, analyzing, and finding answers to the complex issues that people face in contemporary societies within an increasingly interconnected world demands creative pathways toward knowledge, calls for ways of thinking 'outside the box,' and requires venturing out beyond established disciplinary boundaries. Emerging interdisciplinary student-scholars presenting in this panel open up such creative, outside-the-box, and integrative perspectives as they engage a plurality of important topics in culture and society.*

**Title:** Treating Mental Illness Through an Interdisciplinary Approach

**Author:** Edith Sherburne

**Advisor:** Rita Nnodim

**Abstract:** This paper investigates, through interdisciplinary perspectives, alternative approaches to the treatment of different forms of mental illness, such as anxiety and mood disorders (depression). In the context of alternative approaches that have emerged at the intersection of spirituality, medication, and psychology, my paper engages more specifically with Reiki – a healing practice that involves the laying of hands on different areas of a client's body, thought to channel energy flows that are believed to induce processes of healing toward mental and physical well-being. Beginning with an outline of the history of Reiki and an overview of its practice as an alternative healing art, the paper analyses the effectiveness of Reiki, and considers the perspectives of Reiki practitioners. This paper has allowed me to analyze a different form of treatment than what is typically expected and has shown me the power that faith and medicine can play when they're used together.

**Title:** Harry Potter and the Motivation of Neville Longbottom

**Author:** Jason W. Gray

**Advisor:** Rita Nnodim

**Abstract:** This paper takes a look at one of the Harry Potter series' most overlooked characters, Neville Longbottom, through the lens of various motivational constructs in educational psychology. From his (very) humble beginnings we look at his needs according to Maslow, specifically his need of "belonging". Considering Neville's developmental trajectories, the paper will analyze the character's initial lack of confidence and self-efficacy, and demonstrate, drawing on motivational theory, how education through scaffolded lessons as well as positive reinforcement and close mentoring enable personal, social, and cognitive growth. Ultimately, Neville evolves from a character who can barely stand on his own feet to a fully adept wizard who becomes an unsung hero of the series, and even returns to Hogwarts to teach a subject which became his primary interest, another motivational construct, and hopefully offer more students the same supports that he received himself.

**Title:** Media Representations of Schizophrenia

**Author:** Kendall Archambeau

**Advisor:** Rita Nnodim

**Abstract:** Following an overview of psychological and medical perspectives on schizophrenia and a discussion of treatment approaches, my paper will focus on media representations of schizophrenia in literature and movies. The widespread perception of people with schizophrenia as unpredictable, dangerous, and violent is strongly shaped by stereotypical media representations. My paper seeks to investigate how movies and literary texts sustain such stereotypes, but also how movies and literary texts can and do contribute to new kinds of representations that better reflect what it might mean to live with schizophrenia.

**Title:** Youth Homelessness and Education

**Author:** Kircys Canela

**Advisor:** Rita Nnodim

**Abstract:** Youth Homelessness and Education is a paper that investigates the socio-psychological, economic, and educational struggles of young people in the US who experience homelessness or live under precarious housing conditions. My research is based on a review of both qualitative and quantitative studies in sociology, education, and psychology, thus creating an interdisciplinary framework of analysis. The paper raises awareness of the multiple and complex issues faced by an often unseen and unrecognized population group - homeless and precariously housed youths - and addresses possibilities of providing both educational and social/psychological support.

## ***Special Session (II F): Hemispheric Black Literatures***

*Bowman 205, 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Jenna Sciuto*

*This panel seeks to move beyond the confines of the nation state to examine 20th- and 21st-century prose by writers of African descent in the Americas through a hemispheric lens. This lens will elucidate important connections, such as diverse colonial histories, the enduring hold of colonial ties, and varying social constructions of race in these spaces*

**Title:** Mad Women in the Caribbean Attic

**Author:** Lianne Gallant

**Advisor:** Jenna Sciuto

**Abstract:** This paper presents an intersectional feminist analysis of two contemporary Caribbean works: Shani Mootoo's *Cereus Blooms at Night* (1996) and Edwidge Danticat's *Breath, Eyes, Memory* (1994). Both novels write back to the trope of the "mad woman in the attic," first addressed by feminist scholars Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar in 1979. Building upon such preexisting gender theory, I view Mala Ramchandin from *Cereus Blooms at Night* and Sophie Caco from *Breath, Eyes, Memory* through both a gendered and racialized lens. My reading creates space for a more nuanced understanding of the complex connection that exists between sexual trauma and mental illness with a particular focus on the complications specific to women of color.

**Title:** Black Flawed Female Protagonists in Literature, Television, and Media.

**Author:** Amber Harris

**Advisor:** Jenna Sciuto

**Abstract:** Too long Black female protagonists have had to be perfect. Whether this be literature, television or film, Black Women have had to be model citizens: The perfect wife, mother, and human. However, in recent years we have had a shift. Black women can be full-dimensional characters who sometimes have personalities and morals are questionable. Annalise Keating from *How to Get Away with Murder* is a prime example of this. She's drinks too much, works too much, and her morals are questionable at best, but the series does an excellent job of giving her a complex backstory. I will analyze this example alongside *Kindred*; *Breath, Eyes Memory*; and *Black Panther*. This presentation is extremely important because it shows young brown girls, in particular, black women that they don't have to be perfect. They can just be themselves.

**Title:** Linguistic Layering: Translingual Writing and Hidden Meaning within *Cereus Blooms at Night*

**Author:** Valerie Smalls

**Advisor:** Jenna Sciuto

**Abstract:** This presentation, “Linguistic Layering: Translingual Writing and Hidden Meaning within *Cereus Blooms at Night*”, explores the use of non-English language vocabulary within Shani Mootoo’s text and the depth this literary choice adds to the novel itself. I will give a brief overview of translingual writing practices and the logic behind such choices within the context of creative writing. However, the bulk of the presentation will identify the numerous uses of Trinidadian Creole, Indic, Spanish, and French linguistic features in Shani Mootoo’s novel. Following this identification, I will clarify the meaning of such words through my research and will apply this newfound understanding to concepts, characters, and locations, among other elements. My overall intent is to encourage readers of literature to avoid glossing over words, phrases, and language use that lies outside the boundaries of the English language, as such choices are not often made at random.

## ***Special Session (II G): Images of Healing and Suffering in North Adams and Beyond***

*Bowman 220, 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Anna Jaysane-Darr*

*How do we represent everyday suffering? How do we represent healing? Students in this session bring together original images, drawings, and interview data to examine how people manage illness, bring about healing, communicate suffering, and find resilience.*

**Title:** In the Lymelight

**Author:** Audrey Burch

**Advisor:** Anna Jaysane-Darr

**Abstract:** As of 2010, Greene County is ranked number two on the list of top ten counties for Lyme disease in New York State. Many family members, friends, and loved ones are affected by Lyme in this area. Lyme can remain undiagnosed for long periods of time and can have impacts for life even after diagnosis. Through documenting personal encounters with Lyme, loved ones were given the autonomy to document its impact on their daily lives in respect to trauma, suffering, healing, family life, and difficulty in accomplishing daily tasks. Representation of these experiences were expressed and documented through original photographic evidence that was presented to and inspired by the interviewees and represented key takeaways of personally important struggles on the chronic disease. Through investigating and documenting the physical, emotional, and social aspects of what it means to live with Lyme demonstrates to others the lifelong experience, struggle, and healing process.

**Title:** Western Mass Images as Emotional Health Triggers

**Author:** Elizabeth Haight

**Advisor:** Anna Jaysane-Darr

**Abstract:** The final project for my fall 2017 Anthropology class, Culture, Health and Illness, was a photo project in which we were given a fairly broad interpretive assignment documenting a local health topic via personal narrative and photographs. My project focused on the concept that many Western Mass artists with whom I am acquainted, openly admit they suffer from mental health issues. Western Massachusetts is a cultural destination with its classic and contemporary visual art, literature, music, and education. A series of ten photographs were taken in Berkshire, Franklin, and Hampshire Counties. A general invitation was sent out on social media (Facebook) requesting artists of any genre who suffer from mental illness to volunteer to view a series (10) of random photographs to which they would respond with an emotional narrative.



**Title:** Mental Illness and Suicide within the Contexts of College Age Students

**Author:** Holly Brunow

**Advisor:** Anna Jaysane-Darr

**Abstract:** In this project, I decided to explore the student perspective of mental health and suicide. I knew initially that many students are often personally affected by this topic, so learning what they thought was not going to be easy. I asked the participants to draw a picture of what they thought of when they thought of mental health and suicide. I learned somewhere that writing can be cathartic: so, I thought it might allow them to volunteer more information than they might if it was a one on one interview. I gave each participant a list of questions and allowed them to choose what they wanted to answer and asked them to describe their picture. The result was some very personal stories and some very in-depth descriptions of what students think about mental health and suicide.

**Title:** Body Image & Weight: Our Science Obsessed Society

**Author:** Maggie Dobson

**Advisor:** Anna Jaysane-Darr

**Abstract:** My project for the course *Culture, Health and Illness* explained the issues of body weight and science within our culture. I was able to find examples through social media, like Instagram, and physical examples of food on the MCLA campus. Furthermore, I was able to discuss with the students on different statistics and opinions on the science of weight in our society.

### ***Performance (III A): Physical Dialogue: Contact Improvisation and Scene Work***

*Campus Center Dance Studio, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Laura Standley*

***Performers: Rachel Bartlett, Julie Castagna, Tim Downs, Joslyn Eaddy, Timothy Fontaine, Devin Gibbs, Amanda Gilmore, Rachel Grezlak, John J. Kelly, Meri Mauro, Mitchell McCauley, Kevin McGrath, Sebastian Phillips, Joseph Sabin, Braxton Vittori, & Fiona Wilson***

*Students from Intermediate Acting connect movement study to voice and character with contact improvisation. Developed by dancer/choreographer Steve Paxton, contact improv is a partnering dance improv form that utilizes energy and weight exchange between two people. In a series of contemporary scenes, students explore this highly energetic technique alongside a play, developing partnering skills, spatial awareness, coordination, and sustained movement, while creating dynamic scenes for stage performance.*

## ***Artist Talks (III B)***

*Bowman 319, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Melanie Mowinski*

**Title:** Grounded

**Author:** Halie Smith

**Advisor:** Melanie Mowinski

**Abstract:** My artwork focuses on the bare roots of life, through this I have discovered the beauty of simplicities and routines. The slightest change in environment underground can radically change the appearance of the growth above. That is also true within the family context and circles of interactions in people's lives. The irritations of life are almost as important as the triumphs, stepping back and looking at the events of one's life can reveal deep roots of work, depth, core values, obsessions, and personal perceptions of reality. The roots that make us who we are make excellent canvases for art. My presentation will speak about the importance of these roots in finding who we are, and how bringing light to these roots can be used as a tool to bringing people together.

**Title:** Off-White

**Author:** Nicole Stearns

**Advisor:** Melanie Mowinski

**Abstract:** With the intention of broadening the definition of being American while exploring the implications of what that means, Nicole Stearns creates mixed media art works which primarily consist of paintings and collages. She draws influence from her personal experience as a biracial woman, in addition to outside influences including contemporary artist activists and political current events. Seeking to contribute to the currently sparse representation of mixed race/Asian American people in American media and culture, Stearns makes herself visible by proclaiming her narrative and adding to the broader American narrative. Through the creation of self-portraits, Stearns plays with the role of editing. In changing, emphasizing, or omitting certain facial features or details, she works to display the variable and multitudinous nature of herself through the lens of her mixed race and American identity in order to further establish relatable role models for the benefit of those who might sympathize with her plight.

**Title:** Antithesis

**Author:** Samantha White

**Advisor:** Melanie Mowinski

**Abstract:** To highlight the beauty of interdisciplinarity, this work threads together the creative and the analytical through visual representation. In this series, anatomical studies are handled as carefully as point placing on the graphs they closely resemble, creating a similarity in both process and product. Developing interconnectedness, my work hopes to illustrate the mutual benefit of that which is often separated. Beyond this one, relationships between internal and external body, human and environment, and gender gaps are all explored throughout these pieces, which dig at the roots of terminology, the roots of separation, and the roots of tradition. Piecewise poetry adds layers to the drawings in both medium and subject matter to urge viewers to consider this intersectionality in areas broader than the work itself.

**Title:** The Human Connection: Honoring Communication Through Advocation

**Author:** Molly Gurner

**Advisor:** Melanie Mowinski

**Abstract:** Communication dominates today's society, and many take it for granted. The Human Connection: Honoring Communication Through Advocation, was motivated by a desire to honor the communication that was taken from a family member due to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). The project involves the creation of a typeface from handwriting samples of the family member lost to ALS. I manipulated her letters with Photoshop, Illustrator, and Type Tool to create the typeface. I then used the typeface to create an informational cube and a poster series to advocate for ALS. I did this in hopes of communicating to others how important it is to work towards a cure for this disease. Throughout this talk, I will address the ways communication is stripped from these individuals, ways that are used in aiding their communication, and why it is important to me to use my platform to advocate for this cause.

**Title:** Who I See, Who They Know

**Author:** Jacqueline Smith

**Advisor:** Melanie Mowinski & Greg Scheckler

**Abstract:** This work focuses on the effects of positive self-esteem on women, revealing their own inner strength. Media and social standards have dictated that it is more widely accepted to be self-deprecating and modest, rather than being outright proud and positive about who you are. This portrait process highlights the very personal and in-depth ways in which a woman can be beautiful, powerful, and should show off who they are. This is done by using an interview process of twenty questions. The answers are used to highlight on the outside what the model loves about themselves on the inside. This shows their true colors. The photograph taken of the model for the portrait can be just as influential or unrelated to the final painting as they please.

***Creative Writing (III C)***

*Murdock 218, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Zachary Finch*

**Title:** Fire

**Author:** Donjea Smith

**Title:** Creative Writing Reading

**Author:** Jacob Valenti

**Title:** Creative Writing Reading

**Author:** Koree Woodley-Adjei

**Title:** Creative Writing Reading

**Author:** Madeline McConnell

**Title:** Creative Writing Reading

**Author:** Madison Mayer

**Title:** Creative Writing Reading

**Author:** Bethany Robinson

**Title:** Creative Writing Reading

**Author:** Lindsey Vachon

**Title:** Creative Writing Reading

**Author:** Maya McFadden

**Title:** Creative Writing Reading

**Author:** Ian Cappelli

**Title:** Creative Writing Reading

**Author:** Iris McPherson

**Title:** Seeking Reinvention

**Author:** Brody Torres

## ***Paper Presentations (III D)***

*Bowman 201, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM*

**Title:** Exploring Dark Tourism in Salem: Commodification and Misrepresentation at a Historical Site

**Author:** Rachel Terlizzi

**Advisor:** Sumi Colligan

**Abstract:** This project critically examines tourism in Salem, Massachusetts in order to explore the complicated interplay between the history of the Salem witch trials and the contemporary tourist industry. I address how agents of memory reconstruct the history of Salem as a commodity. Using virtual ethnography and participant observation I analyze fright tourist attractions. The mnemonic and fright value of Salem concurrently enhances the dark tourist experience and detracts from the lessons that tourists could acquire from a more authentic understanding of what transpired during the Salem witch trials.

**Title:** Children and Politics

**Author:** Victoria Muñoz

**Advisor:** Samantha Pettey

**Abstract:** Young people are America's future, however, over the past 50 years there has been a decline in young adult interest and participation in many important facets of civic life, most notably voting. Experts worry that if interest and competency in politics continue to wane, there will be significant challenges for the American democracy. So how do we teach children to become citizens? What lessons are they taught in school and at home about civic life and politics? What factors influence the knowledge we gain in childhood and how does that affect later political engagement? I examine the influences of socioeconomic status, race, gender, education, and civic knowledge of middle school student across the United States using the National Educational Longitudinal Study. I will discuss all of these questions and more in this oral presentation.

**Title:** Morality versus Mental Illness: Understanding and Addressing the Enigma that is Pedophilia

**Author:** Zoe Elwell

**Advisor:** Ben Wood

**Abstract:** The term pedophilia is thrown around very loosely in American vernacular and with it comes a negative and gruesome portrayal. Pedophilia is a subset of paraphilia disorders in the DSM 5. Although considered a mental health disorder, there continues to be misunderstandings about it due to the moral and ethical injustice that is associated with it. There will be a focus on examining the differences between what the field of psychology knows about pedophilia and what the public assumes about the disorder. This presentation will engage and address pedophilia as a psychological disorder and hopefully stimulate questions on how we should choose to handle and treat society's most tabooed outcasts.

## ***Paper Presentations (III E)***

*Bowman 122, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM*

**Title:** Education in British India: Imposing Overseas Ideologies

**Author:** Anthony J Sabbio

**Advisor:** Anthony Daly

**Abstract:** Education is of fundamental importance in all modern societies. As a result society's morals and values are reflected in education, but what if these ideals were imposed by a foreign nation? That was the case for the British colony of India throughout the 19th century. The colonizers of India took on the role of educators for the indigenous people and as a result many western ideals were brought to the east. This paper will look at the major themes of education in British India critically and look at the lasting effect of education in the region.

**Title:** Title: Hutu vs. Tutsi: How Belgian and German Colonization Influenced the Onset of the Rwandan Genocide.

**Author:** KiLee Fortier

**Advisor:** Anthony Daly

**Abstract:**

It is no secret that the colonization practices of the European empires in the 19th and 20th centuries influenced the regions in which they settled. The real question is, to what extent did the actions by these imperial powers affect the outcomes of specific regions? The 1994 genocide in Rwanda can be directly linked to actions taken by Germany and then Belgium in their decades of colonial control in the region. Although tribal feuds and barriers had always existed, the exploitation of the area's resources and people created a path of continued political and cultural instability, which exacerbated tribal divides and lead to the onset of the Rwandan genocide.

**Title:** Mrs. Mazie Hirono

**Author:** Mark Guarino

**Advisor:** Samantha Pettey

**Abstract:** Mazie Hirono is a current United States Senator of Hawaii and is a key figure in the representation of Asian Americans and all other minority groups in the US. When looking at the political system of America, there is a severe lack of minority representatives that are able to get their voices and ideas heard that could benefit the minorities of the country. Mrs. Hirono had to conquer many barriers, not only because of her race, but because of her gender as well. Senator Hirono made it to the position she's in today because of her dedication and hard work despite participating in a system that is clearly unequal and unjust.

## ***Paper Presentations (III F)***

*Bowman 220, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM*

**Title:** “Speak English!”: Including Immigrant English Language Learners in Western Academic Discourse

**Author:** Lianne Gallant

**Advisor:** Amber Engelson

**Abstract:** When educators engage in the myth of a monolingual United States, they participate and perpetuate a particular brand of all-American ethnocentrism that has surfaced in the wake of the 2016 presidential election. I share a selection of English Language Learner (ELL) immigrant narratives with the purpose of demonstrating the multiple ways in which the American education system fails ELL students. Through the practical application of Gee’s discourse theory, we can shift away from academic prescriptivism and move towards a linguistically inclusive classroom that values all voices and literacies.

**Title:** European Empires: The Rebellion of Morant Bay

**Author:** Makayla Parkin

**Advisor:** Anthony Daly

**Abstract:** The focus of my presentation will be the Morant Bay Rebellion that occurred on October 11, 1865 in Jamaica. Hundreds of black peasants protested widespread injustice and poverty that were impacting their communities heavily. In response, the governor at the time, Edward Eyre, used brutal violence to suppress the protests and punish hundreds of Jamaicans. This reaction caused a backlash in Britain. These are the research questions that I will be addressing: what were the causes of the Morant Bay Rebellion in Jamaica and Governor Eyre’s response? What were the most important outcomes? In the presentation, I will be covering topics such as the interests of the actors involved, how the rebellion affected life after the event, and how it set the foundations of society and political institutions in Jamaica.

**Title:** Memes of Reduction

**Author:** Sam Payne

**Advisor:** Benjamin Wood

**Abstract:** This presentation will attempt to explain the cycle of partisan political discourse on the internet and will present independent research suggesting possible methods of depolarization. Political rhetoric has grown increasingly vitriolic across the political left and right of the United States for decades, culminating in the "two Americas" displayed in the 2016 presidential election. Internet memes became an important factor for understanding the current political climate. Members of the far-right and far-left both employ ironic exaggeration in their memes. This irony is often lost on the other side, who uses a literal translation of memes to demonify their political opponents and justify increasingly drastic actions. This is unlikely to deescalate on its own, as both sides rhetoric is strengthened by the ironic memes of the other side. However, there are online communities that seem to have the ability to depolarize political extremist.

## ***Special Session (III G): Interdisciplinary Worlds II: Perspectives on Education***

*Bowman 203, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Rita Nnodim*

*Understanding, analyzing, and finding answers to the complex issues that people face in contemporary societies within an increasingly interconnected world demands creative pathways toward knowledge, calls for ways of thinking 'outside the box,' and requires venturing out beyond established disciplinary boundaries. Emerging interdisciplinary student-scholars presenting in this panel open up such creative, outside-the-box, and integrative perspectives as they engage topics related to education and society, ranging from environmental studies in elementary school classrooms to bilingual education and English language learners.*

**Title:** Pedagogical Explorations of the Zone of Proximal Development, Multiple Intelligences, & IDST Learning

**Author:** James Swinchoski

**Advisor:** Professor Rita Nnodim

**Abstract:** This presentation examines the concepts of the Zone of Proximal Development (Lev Vygotsky), Multiple Intelligences (Howard Gardener), different learning styles at multiple levels of education, and demonstrates how standardized testing fails to consider diversity in learning. Based on a range of case studies of interdisciplinary education programs at other colleges, I suggest that not only do these programs enable students to understand connections across the disciplines and to apply interdisciplinary methods in their own research, but these programs also have the potential to take cognizance of different learning styles and multiple intelligences, enabling all students to succeed. My presentation concludes with suggestions relating to how we can improve IDST programs and shape a curriculum that creates connections across the discipline and that meets the educational needs of a diverse range of students.

**Title:** English Language Learners, Identity, and the Classroom

**Author:** Emily Resabala

**Advisor:** Rita Nnodim

**Abstract:** Discourses on identity are often preoccupied with the impacts of identity-categories based on race/ethnicity, social class, religion, and gender. Language, by contrast, is often overlooked. And yet, language is central to the shaping of collective and individual identities, particularly in contexts of migration. My interdisciplinary paper focuses on ELL students (English Language Learners), and aims at opening up critical perspectives on current educational approaches in public schools that are intended to support ELL learners. My paper will be using interdisciplinary frameworks that draw on insights from sociology, immigration studies and education, and includes insights on academic success and the social and cultural well-being and development of immigrant students within the public school environment. The presentation will conclude with reflections on how alternative pedagogical models, a well-designed curriculum, improved collaboration between schools and parents investment in teacher education can provide an environment that better meets the needs of ELL students.



**Title:** Evaluating the American Education System with a Goal Mindset: Rethinking Curriculum and Operation

**Author:** Wren Williams

**Advisor:** Rita Nnodim

**Abstract:** The historic development of our public education system was based on fundamentally different ideals, desired outcomes, and social structures than the ones relevant today. Our society values innovation, independence, critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration far more than ever before. There is thus a discrepancy between what our society expects an individual to be capable of and what our schools teach. In my interdisciplinary paper, I propose possible curriculum changes based on many areas of research. In particular, my paper will emphasize true understanding and mastery of material, formative assessment and metacognition, relevant Life relevant skills and thought processes, a supportive and collaborative community, constructivist teaching methods, as well as increased guidance and support for teachers.

**Title:** Teaching Environmental Education as a Foreign Language

**Author:** Nicole Hall

**Advisor:** Rita Nnodim

**Abstract:** Presenting an interdisciplinary look at examining if environmental education (science) can be taught with the same principles as a foreign language (art). The paper will cover a brief background on linguistics, language acquisition, environmental education, and finalizing with a look at each aspect in a combined method with a test lesson plan for practical use.

## ***Special Session (III H): Arts Management: From Theory to Practice***

*Bowman 205, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Lisa Donovan*

*Key to arts management is real world practice. A four-student team in the Applied Theatre Marketing course will present the results of their extensive market research, the strategies they applied and the results of those implementations. In addition, five students engaged in area internships will present on their learning experience.*

**Title:** Theatrical Marketing: An Applied Case Study

**Author:** Meri Mauro, Aletta Brown, Kamryn Dunton, & Marguerite Winslow

**Advisor:** Diane Scott

**Abstract:** The Advanced Applied Theatrical Marketing team researched, developed, and implemented a marketing plan to increase MCLA student attendance at MCLA Theatre main stage productions. During the Fall 2017 semester, the team performed significant research on current attendees and the target market culminating in a marketing plan. In the Spring 2018 semester, the team applied the techniques outlined in the marketing plan with the overall goal of increasing MCLA Student attendance to 15% of the MCLA undergraduate population. In this presentation the team will discuss their data collection and analysis, the implemented changes, and the resulting attendance outcomes.

**Title:** Grants Research & Conference Planning Assistant Internship

**Author:** Maggie Dobson

**Advisor:** Lisa Donovan

**Abstract:** Interning with the MCLA Office of Institutional Advancement/Alumni Association, my role in advancement includes alumni relations, fundraising, conference planning, grants, and the MCLA Foundation, Inc. I will talk about the learning in their internships as they review grant listserves and determine grants that MCLA might apply for compile list of grants, draft grant templates according to guidelines and assist in event preparation, signage, and setup, and with hosting/ushering during events, such as lectures, meetings, conferences, and commencement. I will also speak about my past internship and how being an Arts Management major has helped me decide on my future career goals.

**Title:** Internship in Event Planning and Management at the Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations

**Author:** Falyn Rose Elhard

**Advisor:** Lisa Donovan

**Abstract:** Interning with the Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations, my role as a Special Events Intern includes learning the ins and outs of event planning and management, through the experience of coordinating the event planning for this spring semester's Hardman Residency. My responsibilities included all logistics, internal and external communications, and printed materials.

**Title:** Internship at the Berkshire Cultural Resource Center

**Author:** Max Telpansky

**Advisor:** Lisa Donovan

**Abstract:** Interning with the Berkshire Cultural Resource Center my role community engagement strategies with two artists over the course of the semester. This includes recruiting volunteers, working with BCRC and resident artists to ensure a positive experience as well as helping with marketing the events.

**Title:** Internship at the MCLA Advancement Office

**Author:** Aletta Brown

**Advisor:** Lisa Donovan

**Abstract:** Interning with the MCLA Office of Institutional Advancement/Alumni Association Aletta Brown roles in advancement includes alumni relations, fundraising, conference planning, grants, and the MCLA Foundation, Inc. Aletta will talk about the learning in their internships as they review grant listservs and determine grants that MCLA might apply for compile list of grants, draft grant templates according to guidelines and assist in event preparation, organization, signage, and setup.

**Title:** Internship at the Susan B. Anthony Museum

**Author:** Breanna Castor

**Advisor:** Lisa Donovan

**Abstract:** Interning with the Susan B. Anthony Museum as the Administration and Financial Management intern Breanna Castor's role in the museum is to immerse herself in learning every aspect about how a historical home is run from finance to exhibit creation with small side projects such as events and coloring books along the way. Breanna will talk about her learning in the internship from her experiences giving tours, creating an exhibit for children's shoes and developing a curator talk, supporting marketing and developing budgets.

## ***Student Art Exhibit and Reception***

*Bowman 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Corridor, 3:45 PM – 5:15 PM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Melanie Mowinski*

**Title:** Identity

**Author:** Sin Barros, Elizabeth Denault, Christopher Doubiago, Gillian Fournier, Isaac Heltai, Joseph Kauila, Jared Lafontaine, Natalie Lamptey, Kay Laviola, Kristen Mannel, Jennifer Murphy, Sophie Rice, Tala Rousseau, Crystal Shemchuk, & Chloe Solomon

**Advisor:** Melanie Mowinski

**Abstract:** How are compositions created? Where does one begin? With the grid or without the grid? This project explores figure/ground relationships, focal point, scale and proportion using a letterpress printing technique called pressure printing. In addition, the composition were developed through the conceptual lens of Identity. Who are you? How do you perceive yourself? What parts of your identity do you take for granted? Students answered these questions through composition development using text and image. The final work is a drum-leaf artist book of all the pressure prints together.

**Title:** Paradigm Shift

**Author:** Kendall Archambeau, Emery Bibbins, Bailey Brissett, Aryel Brosnan, Jacob Davis, Sarah Defusco, Kelly Gibson, Kathleen Harrison, Samantha Hinds, Nia Little, Moira Mathieu, Maya McFadden, Jordan Paul, Sophie Rice, Kelsey Sherman, Nicole Stearns, & Wren Williams

**Advisor:** Melanie Mowinski

**Abstract:** Paradigm Shift artist books and creations are the products of a creative process called “plunder books” in which participants contributed assorted items, including tins, maps, wire, felt, tea bags, poker chips, and hangers. Each artist then selected items from this assortment in an order based on a number they randomly selected from a lottery. Using the items selected during this process, each artist created a book-like object. Each one of these creations is linked to a poem that inspired the maker’s use of the “plunder items.” This project was created in collaboration with students in former MCLA visiting professor Josh Ostraff’s new class in Virginia. MCLA students chose poems and objects and exchanged them with Ostraff’s students

**Title:** Rooted

**Author:** Halie Smith

**Advisor:** Melanie Mowinski

**Abstract:** My artwork focuses on the bare roots of life, through this I have discovered the beauty of simplicities and routines. The slightest change in environment underground can radically change the appearance of the growth above. That is also true within the family context and circles of interactions in people’s lives. The irritations of life are almost as important as the triumphs, stepping back and looking at the events of one’s life can reveal deep roots of work, depth, core values, obsessions, and personal perceptions of reality. The roots that make us who we are make excellent canvases for art. My presentation will speak about the importance of these roots in finding who we are, and how bringing light to these roots can be used as a tool to bringing people together.

**Title:** Story of My Life

**Author:** Jordan Paul

**Advisor:** Melanie Mowinski

**Abstract:** This collection represents three different childhood lessons, pillars of my identity, and my progression as an artist over the past year. The sketchbook, which was created in Melanie Mowinski's Studio Art and Society course of Spring 2017, chronicles my exploration of different visual artists, poets, and artistic styles. "Quantifiable" is a one-page book about the measurements of happiness, and "Scraps Forced Together" is the product of found objects and recycled materials. Both were created in Melanie Mowinski's Book Arts course of Spring 2018. As a child, I was taught to love the process of learning, to appreciate the things that I was given to work with, and to always have a positive outlook on life. Each book embodies one of these invaluable lessons.

**Title:** Off-White

**Author:** Nicole Stearns

**Advisor:** Melanie Mowinski

**Abstract:** With the intention of broadening the definition of being American while exploring the implications of what that means, Nicole Stearns creates mixed media art works which primarily consist of paintings and collages. She draws influence from her personal experience as a biracial woman, in addition to outside influences including contemporary artist activists and political current events. Seeking to contribute to the currently sparse representation of mixed race/Asian American people in American media and culture, Stearns makes herself visible by proclaiming her narrative and adding to the broader American narrative. Through the creation of self-portraits, Stearns plays with the role of editing. In changing, emphasizing, or omitting certain facial features or details, she works to display the variable and multitudinous nature of herself through the lens of her mixed race and American identity in order to further establish relatable role models for the benefit of those who might sympathize with her plight.

**Title:** Antithesis

**Author:** Samantha White

**Advisor:** Melanie Mowinski

**Abstract:** To highlight the beauty of interdisciplinarity, this work threads together the creative and the analytical through visual representation. In this series, anatomical studies are handled as carefully as point placing on the graphs they closely resemble, creating a similarity in both process and product. Developing interconnectedness, my work hopes to illustrate the mutual benefit of that which is often separated. Beyond this one, relationships between internal and external body, human and environment, and gender gaps are all explored throughout these pieces, which dig at the roots of terminology, the roots of separation, and the roots of tradition. Piecewise poetry adds layers to the drawings in both medium and subject matter to urge viewers to consider this intersectionality in areas broader than the work itself.

**Title:** An Original Typeface

**Author:** Jackson T. O'Brien

**Advisor:** Shawn McIntosh

**Abstract:** An independent study course, Advanced Typography, was designed to explore the world of digital typography. Throughout the semester a series of hand drawn letters were brought together to form one cohesive font. This font, once complete, will be one of many which will make up a new original typeface. This project breaks down the process from idea to hand drawn design to the creation of digital files. Once complete, this typeface will be available online for anyone to access and use.

## ***24<sup>th</sup> Annual Philosophy Mini Conference***

*Murdock 218, 3:30 AM – 5:15 PM*

*Faculty Sponsor: Matthew Silliman*

**Title:** Phenomenological Investigation of the Musical Experience

**Author:** Dylan Girouard

**Advisor:** Matthew Silliman & Paul Nnodim

**Abstract:** The consensus among philosophers seems to be that the world of mathematics and empirical evidence is far removed from the subjective realm of experience. How then is it possible that music touches the fabrics of human experience, but is at the same time explicable in mathematical terms? This paper will study how music simultaneously appeals to idealism's strong emphasis on the subjective experience and satisfies the requirement of realism for a foundation of justification of truth claims. In taking a Heideggerian-phenomenological approach, I will argue that the apparent schism manifest within epistemological debates regarding music and sensual experience is the result of philosophers conflating ontical entities with ontological ones.

**Title:** The Anxiety of Authenticity: A Look at Sartre's 'Nausea' Through Heideggerian Philosophy

**Author:** Allison Gregory

**Advisor:** Paul Nnodim

**Abstract:** Jean-Paul Sartre wrote *Nausea* in 1938, eleven years after the publication of Martin Heidegger's revolutionary book *Being and Time*. Combining Heidegger's work and the ideas of French existentialists, Sartre created a character, Antoine Roquentin, who moves through the novel in a state of 'Nausea' and eventually coming into his authenticity. His journey embodies the Heideggerian movement from living as an inauthentic Dasein to an authentic Dasein, or from living according to the rules of a society or group (known as Das Man in Heideggerian philosophy) to coming to the realization that one can make their own decisions in life. This movement includes fear, anxiety, fallenness, and thrownness, all concepts explained in detail in *Being and Time*. This presentation aims to focus on Antoine Roquentin's condition throughout Sartre's novel through the lens of Heideggerian philosophy by delving into Roquentin's 'Nausea' and how he comes to realize his place within his world.

**Title:** Equipmentality and Politics

**Author:** Michael McAndrew

**Advisor:** Paul Nnodim

**Abstract:** In *Being and Time*, Martin Heidegger develops the concept of equipmentality. Dasein looks at things in the context of *pragmata*, that is, their utility as equipment. Along with this, Heidegger says that some equipment serve as signs and references, which point to a referential totality without necessarily requiring that people have access to the equipmental totality. This idea can be applied to politics. Out-groups are made into signs and references for larger problems that they are not a part of. In the average life of the citizenry of a given country, these signs and references are not questioned. For these signs and references to be questioned, the social world in which they take place must be broken in some way, similar to what Heidegger refers to as obstructiveness or breakage. In this paper, I will examine how the social worlds that allow for certain signs and references to sustain themselves were broken and the effects of this breaking.

**Title:** Commitment to Identity

**Author:** Kimberly Murphy

**Advisor:** Paul Nnodim & Zachary Finch

**Abstract:** An interdisciplinary work that questions the guidelines and restrictions of identity. Closely building off of Maggie Nelson's *"The Argonauts"* which is not only a piece that moves through different genres, it is a work of constant metamorphosis: a rebuilding. With hopes to underline the limitation in academia: are we being trained to write like a man? Does academia in its stringency withhold individualism and true understanding because we try to diminish subjectivity? Language cannot hold things together indefinitely, and neither should form. How do we navigate uncertainty?





## ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

The talent, dedication, and hard work of the conference participants made it possible. We have had a record number of student participants this year, and we congratulate them on their fine achievements.

The front cover is the artwork of a former student, Vasillis Kostantinids

The Undergraduate Research Conference Program was organized by:

Justin Golub, Chair of Undergraduate Research

Jenna Sciuto, Associate Chair of Undergraduate Research

Ann Billetz, BIOL

Anthony Daly, HIST/POSC

Shawn McIntosh, ENGL/COMM

Melanie Mowinski, FPA

The Undergraduate Research Conference Committee would like to thank Jennifer Ware in Advancement for her exceptional conference planning, and Karen Claramunt for her organization and planning. Thank you to Aaron Bieniek and Forrest Houghton for handling the large volume of posters to be printed and ensuring all the conference technology worked as well as possible. Thank you to the student volunteers and the faculty who moderated the various paper sessions.

### Faculty Moderators:

Tara Barboza

Thomas Byrne

David Cupery

Rosanne Denhard

Lisa Donovan

Amber Engelson

Zachary Finch

Bridget Gormalley

George Hamaoui

Ely Janis

Anna Jaysane-Darr

Christopher MacDonald-Dennis

Melanie Mowinski

Rita Nnodim

Victoria Papa

Samantha Pettey

Nicole Porther

Graziana Ramsden

Jenna Sciuto

Matthew Silliman

Laura Standley

Benjamin Wood

Share your favorite quote, photos, and about your experience at the Conference on Instagram using #MCLAURC2018. The best posts will be awarded a prize!

