Catherine Cole

Why Has the United States Not Ratified the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty?

Thesis Advisors: Nancy Kassop, Political Science
Patricia Sullivan, Honors Program & Communication (Rhetoric)

The U.S. has not ratified the UN Arms Trade Treaty, while 78 other nations have become willing parties to it. The treaty is meant to keep all conventional arms, large and small, out of the hands for whom they are not intended, limiting illegal arms trade through vicarious liability, stricter registration criteria and compliance reports. The treaty poses restrictions on the U.S. where military and national security issues are concerned. The U.S. arming Syrian resistance and Kurdish forces are of concern due to the possible diversion of arms to ISIS. Domestically, there is a pull against participating in this treaty from within Congress as well as outside of it. Scholarly opinions classify the domestic gun rights/gun control issue as a public health problem on one side and a Second Amendment infringement on the other. Civil interest group influence on Congress comes mainly from the NRA, gun proponents’ biggest lobbyist, which has a strong campaign financing hold over much of Congress, publicly rates politicians, affecting their reputations, and works to block legislation for controls.

The purpose of this paper is to look at the possible causes for the U.S. to not ratify the UNATT and ascertain the most significant reason or reasons in play. Methodology will include research of members of the senate and their affiliations with the NRA, consultation with sources outside of the U.S. who are involved with the UNATT for possible perspectives not shared within the U.S., as well as a comparison of two treaties under the Obama administration, through an analysis of political majorities, and lobbying efforts as pertains to Senate votes for this treaty and the New Start Treaty. There is a likelihood that the causative nature of a Republican majority in the Senate, and influence of civil interest groups on Congress, in the U.S. are the primary reasons for the Senate not ratifying the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty.

Natasha Glanzman

Characters Are People Too: Using Psychology to Create Multi-Dimensional Characters

Thesis Advisor: Kris Jansma, English

Writers treat characters as people. One of the most important aspects of creative writing is making characters “believable”; in order to know how to do this, psychology can open the door to the character’s mind. Using creative writing and psychological theory, I will be using my own characters
as case studies. Though creative writing and psychological principles are different, they both offer a unique perspective on analyzing character design. My characters will be evaluated on their multi-dimensionality and susceptibility to in-character consequences based on creative writing research, as well as how they behave if placed into a different universe. From a psychological standpoint, they will be treated as case studies through the lens of modern abnormal psychology. Character behavior and mental illness will be explained through the use of DSM-V diagnostic criteria and Cognitive Behavioral Psychology. This half-thesis, half-creative project includes interviews from other writers to show how they create their characters as well as a comparative analysis with my own methods.

Noah Goldowitz

Zhuangzi and Xunzi’s Approaches to Death: Similarities in Differences

Thesis Advisors: David Elstein, Philosophy
Patricia Sullivan, Honors Program & Communication (Rhetoric)

On many occasions Zhuangzi disregards the traditional Zhou dynasty mourning rituals and prefers a more personal approach, accepting whatever individuals believe is the correct ritual for them. Zhuangzi takes the Taoist perspective in matters of death and ritual while Xunzi, an ancient Chinese philosopher who crafted much of his philosophy in response to Zhuangzi, takes a more Confucian position. Xunzi also embraces the rituals even if they are unnatural and artificial because they are valuable and aid in social harmony. This paper will demonstrate that while Zhuangzi’s approach to death is more personal and centered around the deceased and Xunzi’s mourning rituals are geared toward the bereaved, both are too extreme to offer a balanced process for grieving.

Chiara Ostrin

Aroma of Chocolate: Effects on Affect and Creativity

Thesis Advisors: Maryalice Citera, Psychology
Patricia Sullivan, Honors Program & Communication (Rhetoric)

I worked on a semester long study on the effect of ambiance on affect and creativity. This research involved human participants taking the Guilford’s Alternative Uses test for creativity and an online test that asks questions about affect. My hypothesis is that chocolate smells will increase participants happiness as well as creativity scores versus the control group.
### Elizabeth Sweeney

**Appropriation or Appreciation?: An Analysis of Native American Portrayals in Contemporary Popular Culture**

Thesis Advisors: Meg O’Sullivan, Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies/History  
Sue Books, Teaching and Learning

For my thesis, I examined the current ideas on cultural appropriation and how it affects various Native American tribes across the country. As a topic getting more attention, cultural appropriation is an interesting topic in which there is no direct answer as how to solve it. In fact, some people disagree that it exists at all. Through my thesis project I want people to get a whole look at what cultural appropriation involves and how it is negatively affecting Native American tribes.

### Sara Walenta

**The C in LGBTQA+: Experiences of Criminalization for Queer Youth**

Thesis Advisor: Karl Bryant, Sociology/Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies

This work explores how youth on the LGBTQA+ spectrum are criminalized at higher rates than their heteronormative peers. These identities are over-representation within the justice system, which is concerning since they represent a considerably smaller population within the United States. This research will present the work of others in order to give an accurate representation of the known research on this subject. Without understanding their work, there would be no basis for this thesis. Ultimately, this paper will focus on comparing the different forms identities with the LGBTQA+ spectrum are punished—formally or informally.

### Daniel Affsprung

**The Sunless Territory of Non-Identity**

Thesis Advisors: Thomas Festa, English  
Nancy Johnson, English

Expanding on the psychological theory of narrative identity, I plan to argue how autobiographical and purportedly fictional texts of all kinds serve to create and reinforce a notion of identity based on action. I call “identifying acts” a type of behavior learned from texts of all kinds, and through an examination of fiction’s presence in biographic texts will show where the notion of identifying acts is born, and why we ought to be skeptical of our belief in our acts as creative of identity.

### Mairead Atkinson

**Authorship and Credibility Through the Lens of Captain Charles Johnson’s A General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Notorious Pyrates**

Thesis Advisors: Heather Morrison, History  
Reynolds Scott-Childress, History

I will be discussing the importance of female pirates during the 18th century, as well as determining what is true, and what has been exaggerated and sensationalized by early writers to gain their own notoriety.

### Melanie Berardicelli

**The Augie Book Project**

Thesis Advisors: Colleen Cody, Design Services  
Robin Arnold, Art Department

I have conducted extensive research reading/analyzing Caldecott Award-Winning Children’s Books, as well as collecting photographic references and preliminary sketches to brainstorm ideas for illustrations. I created 3 different sample styles and showed them in an official team meeting to choose the final style of the book. I then created a “mock book” to determine the composition and content of each page. I met with my advisors throughout the process of developing the final plates of each illustration to discuss edits and how to make each page flow into the next. I kept a journal of my progress, which I shared with Robin Arnold to evaluate my progress. The book is currently complete and the final proof is being sent in soon for publication. I will be meeting with the Augie Book
Team to discuss marketing and promotion of the book. Photographic records will be made during the book readings and signings. I will be hosting an event at the Elting Memorial Library to teach children “what do illustrators do?” I will be meeting with journalists for videotaped interviews and written articles for the promotion of the book.

Brianna Best

I Shall Be His Death: Mechanisms of Gender Transgression in Euripides The Trojan Women, Medea, and The Bacchae

Thesis Advisors: Andrea Gatzke, History
Kathena DeGrassi, English

In this paper, I will look at gender and sexuality in the texts of two classical authors, Euripides and Ovid. But while there has been much scholarship on homosexuality of a male nature in the classical world, I will specifically be looking at relationships between women—or woman-aligned, effeminate, and androgynous—beings. Euripides was perhaps the most unpopular playwright in the Athens of the day but remains, perhaps, the most relatable of the Greek dramatists to us today. His plays are famous for their treatment of women, specifically in the sense that he gives them a voice. Especially in the Athenian culture of his day, his woman seemed to be unruly and, to an extent, dangerous. I will look at the ways in which his characters transgress boundaries of gender. I give special attention to the plays named for a particular woman (Medea, Helen, Hecuba, etc.) and to his Bacchae and his treatment of the androgynous god, Dionysus. Ovid, on the other hand, comes from a very difficult cultural setting. One of Rome’s many wonderful poets, Ovid wrote widely on the nature of love. As love is portrayed in most cases in either a necessarily gendered or pointedly un-gendered way, exploration into Ovid’s Ars Amatoria and Metamorphoses will yield a fruitful discussion of gender transgression in the Roman tradition. Naturally, how the women/woman-aligned and androgynous characters actually transgress the boundaries of their bodies will be vastly different in the Athenian and Roman context, but that is half the fun of it. I will ask the main question: as cultural parameters that instruct one on how to perform gender changes, how do the ways in which people violate these also shift? And what does it mean that today, in our current Anglo-American literary tradition, we are still telling these Classical stories, these myths?

Heather Bey

The Fierce Five Percent: Women in the Sound Industry

Thesis Advisors: Sun Hee Kil, Theatre Arts
Brett Barry, Digital Media & Journalism

This project will explore how women have helped shape the sound industry and how they are treated in this industry today. The documentary will start by giving a brief overview of some of the women who have greatly influenced the industry through their creations and their way of working. The project will mainly focus on what is happening now, with personal experiences from women and other professionals in the field. Advice from the interviewees will also be included in the piece. The documentary will end with what is currently being done about the small percentage of women in the field, such as organizations aimed at increasing the number of females in the field and combating gender inequality, and what the hopes are for the future of the industry.

Caryn Byllott

Recall/Reconstruct: The Exploration of Memory Through Found Objects and Digital Technologies

Thesis Advisors: Patricia Sullivan, Honors Program & Communication (Rhetoric)
Katherine Wilson, HVAMC/Innovation Center
Aaron Nelson, Art Dept. & HVAMC/Innovation Center

Memory is a pathway of discovering who one is. However, through time our memories become transformed through influence, deterioration, dissociation, and overall perception. Memory exists in an abstract realm that one cannot always readily describe, however the objects we are surrounded by can act as vehicles that guide us through the process of memory. The objects we possess have bare witness to just about everything we as humans have experienced. Within these objects are testimonies of times past waiting to be spoken. The challenge here is the translation of these testimonies. These objects contain hidden truths but in almost every case do not have the means of communicating these stories. It is the aim of my thesis to utilize objects both found and created as I explore the experiences of memory as a means of reclaiming and reconstructing my own history.
Sara DeLessio  
**Bio 102**  
Thesis Advisors: Dimitry Tetin, Art Department  
Amy Papaellias, Art Department

Over the past ten years, the number of students pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, and math, (S.T.E.M) has increased, but unfortunately, there are still an overwhelming number of people who are expected to understand scientific concepts without the same academic literacy. Civic scientific literacy is important for bringing awareness to and taking action against harmful environmental changes, supporting funds for research, and hopefully inspiring bright new researchers. Individuals who are faced with complex ideas without a good understanding of their foundation are forced to rely on whatever information they can find. In many cases, this information comes from politics or the entertainment industry. Some of the most digestible material is designed for children, an outlet which adults might find embarrassing to use. For my thesis, I will organize a biology lesson and present it to an adult audience in a way that is engaging, digestible, unbiased, and accurate. My lesson will focus on honeybees as an example, due to their many instrumental values for humans. I have been in collaboration with biology professors on campus so I can understand the needs of the scientific community and develop a thorough understanding of my topic. I have also been in contact with educators on campus and publishers of popular scientific literature to understand different forms of pedagogy. The final presentation will optimize a combination of scientific learning techniques through a museum display, and using visual language that appeals to an adult audience.

Marianela Diaz  
**Corruption in the Dominican Republic**  
Thesis Advisor: Philip Mauceri, Political Science

In this research paper I hope to find a correlation between past authoritarian governments and the political climate of corruption that is currently upheld in the democratic state in the Dominican Republic. This political climate was established through policies and different tactics used by not only authoritarian leaders but also political representatives throughout government this can also be called political learning. This will be explored through analyzing corruption, authoritarians, existing corruption in the Dominican Republic that exemplify a pay-off system that was common during authoritarian regimes.

Samantha Flax  
**Achieving Equal Land Rights for Women: A Comparative Study of Post-Soviet Countries**  
Thesis Advisor: Ilgu Ozler, Political Science & Latin American & Caribbean Studies

Over the past few decades the issue of equal land rights for women has come to the attention of both governments and civil society within individual nations and on an international level. Women’s equal access to property ownership is essential for them to maintain equal status and resources in all aspects of society. Not only do land rights allow women to increase their income, but these rights also help to improve nutrition and education for children, give women a voice within the family and community, and the ability to live independently without a husband, subsequent to a husband’s death or a divorce. (Prosterman, 2013) Based on research conducted by the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations, most countries have a disturbingly low percentage of female land ownership. For most countries, the percentage of female land owners is under 30 percent, and many are much lower. Even western countries such as the United States and the United Kingdom are extremely low at 13.1 and 13.7 percent respectively. (Doss and Cgiar, 2015) Interestingly, among the countries with the highest percentage of female land ownership are the Baltic States: Lithuania at 47.7 percent, Latvia, at 46.8 percent, and Estonia, at 35.8 percent. (Doss and Cgiar, 2015) This paper argues that the high percentage of female land ownership in the Baltic States can be attributed to the interaction of four factors: lack of violent ethnic conflict, privatization and restitution policies implemented during the transition from command to free market economies, the desire and successful efforts to join the European Union, and the structure of the new welfare states.

Kathryne Gruskin  
**The Evolved Classroom: Using Evolutionary Theory to Inform Elementary Pedagogy**  
Thesis Advisors: Glenn Geher, Psychology  
Lindsey Russo, Teaching & Learning

As the goal of education is to provide children with the skills needed to succeed later in life, it should come as no surprise that there is seemingly unending dispute about how to best educate our children. From an evolutionary perspective, the current system of education in the United States is highly unnatural and mismatched with the evolutionary history of our species. For example, rather than learning in mixed-age playgroups, children in our society find themselves separated into compulsory age-
segregated classrooms completely directed by an unfamiliar adult. By bringing pedagogical methods related to early forms of education into modern schools, there is the potential to minimize adverse effects from evolutionary mismatch. This study surveyed a sample of 361 students from SUNY New Paltz. From this data, zero-order correlations were used to find a relationship between a composite variable representing evolutionary relevance in education and variables representing various measures of success. A further mediation analysis was conducted to better explain the relationships. Results from the study suggest that a relatively evolutionarily relevant education does, in fact, lead to success through both secondary and post-secondary education. These findings support the ability of evolutionary theory to inform elementary pedagogy.

### Wainabi Jung

**The Human Chair**

Thesis Advisors: Greg Bray, Digital Media & Journalism
Nancy Heiz, Communication/Digital Media & Journalism

A lonely chair maker constructs a hollow armchair, intending to use it to rob a hotel, but becomes attached to the human contact he experiences as the chair. This unusual, thrilling tale, written by Japanese author Edogawa Ranampo in 1925, has been adapted for the screen by Wainabi Jung. The film hopes to pay homage to the great black and white thrillers like Alfred Hitchcock’s *Psycho*, as well as the silent films of the 1920s.

### Natalia Keogan

**Women & Migration: How the Media Represents the Latina Immigrant in the U.S. vs. Spain**

Thesis Advisors: Patricia Fitzpatrick, Latin American and Caribbean Studies/Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Sharina Maill-Pozo, Languages, Literatures and Cultures

I will examine the portrayal of Dominican and Mexican women immigrants between two countries, the U.S. and Spain. Intersections of race, class, and gender will be utilized in order to determine why visual media portrays these women, using theories on post colonialism to analyze how this relationship, especially in the case of Spain, might be based on colonial sentiments. Furthermore, the contrast of stereotypical portrayals in visual media will be made by utilizing documentaries in order to broadcast the realities of these women’s lives in both countries.

### Anja Kerkapoly

**Timelines**

Thesis Advisors: Dimitry Tetin, Art Department
Josh Korenblat, Art Department

My thesis is an exploration into modern perceptions of time. I conducted research around how people view, live in, and work with time in our culture today. I focused on time’s relation to memory, and how we use it to make meaning. This project will ultimately be realized via the crafting of time capsules. I created a system/business where I send them out to people to fill and return, and then hold onto them until a specified date in the future on which I will ship them back. I worked extensively in packaging design to design and create this product (the capsule itself) and print design to create all of its instructional materials.

### Kacey Kramer

**Effortfully Ethical: An Examination of the Morality of Prejudice and Applied Intentional Good**

Thesis Advisors: Dan Werner, Philosophy
Cliff Evans, Psychology

It is assumed that those who discriminate are actively hateful. However, this claim is largely contradicted by social psychological research. It is argued that stereotyping is a benign cognitive strategy of categorization that unfortunately often leads to the disastrously negative effects of prejudice and discrimination. This research opens the door to arguments of moral permissibility. To counter, we must recognize that it is on the thoughts or habits that are condemnable but rather our complacency to perpetuate them. We will argue, through the use of Kantian philosophy that morality cannot simply be passive kindness or coincidental compassion; but that it must be an intentional, effortfully conscious state of action. From here we can turn to a productive discussion of proactive change for a more intentional ethical world.
Simon Li

**Krawtchouk Polynomials, Meixner Polynomials and sl2-Modules**

Thesis Advisors: Edward Hanson, Mathematics
Diego Dominici, Mathematics

This thesis studies the correspondence between Krawtchouk polynomials and simple finite-dimensional $sl_2$-modules in an attempt to find a correspondence between the infinite analogues of the two: the Meixner polynomials and Verma modules. Krawtchouk polynomials and Meixner polynomials are both orthogonal polynomial sequences which can be defined by a hypergeometric series and Verma modules are infinite-dimensional $sl_2$-modules. The correspondence between Krawtchouk polynomials and finite-dimensional $sl_2$-modules comes from three-term recurrence relations of the Krawtchouk polynomials and the operators $E$, $F$, and $H$ of simple finite-dimensional $sl_2$-module. We study this correspondence closely and discuss the next steps to find a correspondence between the Meixner polynomials and Verma modules.

Stephanie Lopez

**She That Dwells/Ten Leagues Beyond Man’s Life: An Analysis of Postcolonial and Feminist Revisions of Shakespeare’s The Tempest**

Thesis Advisors: Thomas Olsen, English
Mary Holland, English

William Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* focuses primarily on the plight of Prospero, who endeavors to seek revenge on those who stole his dukedom from him. However, Caliban and Miranda, who play a significant role in the events of the play, are delivered ambiguous fates at its conclusion. Miranda is to be married to Ferdinand, despite being only fifteen, and Caliban is freed from his enslavement under Prospero. Yet, the audience is invited to consider if either of these conclusions are particularly happy endings for either character. Some contemporary adaptations of *The Tempest* including Aime Cesaire’s *A Tempest* and Elizabeth Nunez’s *Prospero’s Daughter*, implicate deep race and gender prejudice that hinder these characters.

Samantha Manno

**The Trade-Off Between Oak Masting and Acorn Size**

Thesis Advisors: Eric Keeling, Biology
David Richardson, Biology

Oak Masting is an event in which oak trees drop a large amount of acorns every few years. Little is known about what triggers this event and what effects it has on the oak trees and the acorns they produce. Over a period of three years, the acorns of oak trees in the SUNY New Paltz campus forest in New Paltz, NY were counted and measured. The acorns were collected from ten oak trees; five were the species *Quercus alba* or white oak and five were from *Quercus rubra* or red oak. The mass, size, and number of acorns varied between the years that the data was collected.

Kyle Marra

**Uncovering the Covered: A Dramaturgical Approach to Ragtime**

Thesis Advisors: Catherine Doherty, Theatre Arts
Meg O’Sullivan, History/Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Theatre is an extremely powerful tool. It has the ability to bring audiences to other places and convey messages. Though it is a relatively young country, the United States has a history rich with themes and events which are crucial to the understanding of U.S. History. These themes and events are portrayed in numerous musicals and it is with these works of art that we can gain insight on how the U.S. has evolved over time and how we got to where we are today. Now more than ever, the presence of theatre to educate young and old alike on the rich and important history of our nation.

Tanner Martin-Ignaffo

**Financial Education Curriculum in New York State: A Critical Study**

Thesis Advisors: Jun Lin, Business
Patricia Sullivan, Honors Program/Communication (Rhetoric)

You are told in school that you need to learn math so that you can use money correctly; however, this is only a half truth. You are taught mathematical theories and algorithms that help you to count money, but the education usually does not elaborate past this. The education, or elaboration of financial literacy, is then left to a parent or guardian; no
matter how equipped they are for the job. How to save, how to spend, what money is worth, how to best invest in the present and for the future are all passed down generation by generation with new knowledge slowly being accumulated along the way. With emerging markets springing up across the world, and a volatile economy at home, it is important to have a strong financial education to build off of that will both help to stabilize this economy and the lives of those within it for a long term future. In this paper, I will propose an evaluation framework for financial education programs offered in public New York State high schools; and a suggestion for future development of the Financial Education Programs offered in public New York State high schools.

Sydney Mott

The History and Development of Postmodernism in Television Comedies

Thesis Advisors: Greg Bray, Digital Media & Journalism
Brett Barry, Digital Media & Journalism

In a broad sense, my thesis will focus on the importance and influence of improv comedy on the development of television comedy shows throughout the last few decades. My seminar in filmmaking project focused on improv comedy in NYC, tying together my video documentary with this thesis.

Raine Nel

Geriatric Care for Elderly LGBTQ+ Adults in the United States: Current Issues and Hope for the Future

Thesis Advisors: Meg O’Sullivan, History/Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
Mette Christiansen, Sociology

This paper aims to look at the residential care options available in the United States for elderly adults and what those options look like when participants identify as a member of the LGBTQ community. I will discuss the challenges faced by these participants that straight and cisgender participants do not face. Furthermore I will theorize how to change the system and implement more comprehensive care programs that are well-rounded and successful in meeting the needs of elderly adults who are also in the LGBTQ+ community. I will do this by comparing programs in the U.S. and discovering methods of care that have been proven to work.

Jackie Quaranto

The Right Way to Write: An Objective Look on a Subjective Topic

Thesis Advisor: Larry Carr, English

I will discuss what makes good, creative writing good. I will break long form fiction down into its most basic elements, from character, to pacing, to craft and everything in between. Drawing on both academic sources and my own editorial background, I will give an unbiased, academic view on the subjective art of writing.

Monica Schneider

The Benefits of Unearthing Traditional and Cultural Practices When a Disaster Strikes

Thesis Advisors: Karla Vermeulen, Psychology/IDMH
Tabitha Holmes, Psychology

Each culture has a different set of norms that they abide by when grieving their dead. Depending on the culture, these norms consist of rituals that may include spending time with the deceased body, placing it in a tomb, or wrapping it to preserve as long as possible. These said rituals hold emotional meaning and can affect the individuals grieving process if they are disrupted. When certain populations suffer from a natural or manmade disaster, one of the most tragic impacts is the displacement of bodies. The absence of the physical body has the capability to make the death seem inconceivable to those that are in mourning. The five stages of grief include denial, anger, bargaining, and acceptance. The disbelief that individuals experience does not allow them to move forward through these stages of grief and prohibits them from having any type of closure.

Alexandra Shea

Elephant Cognition: An Examination of Captivity and Conservation of an Empathetic Species

Thesis Advisors: Glenn Geher, Psychology
Lawrence McGlinn, Geography

Elephants are on the path toward extinction. Culturally revered by many, and shown to possess empathy and higher-order intelligence, African (Loxodonta africana and Loxodonta cyclotis) and Asian (Elephas maximus) elephants face the threats of illegal ivory trade, and the human-elephant
conflict of the legal zoo captivity industry. American zoos have exhibited a
pattern of purchasing wild elephants from Africa to restock captive
populations under the label of conservation. Yet, a disconnect between
captive elephants and the prosper of wild populations is evident. It is
elephant-specific survival strategies, characterized by social behaviors, that
render captivity an ineffective and impractical method of conservation for
these mammals. Observational research has offered substantial support
to the socially driven survival strategies of elephants and their physical
and psychological need exist in the wild, as well as the trauma incurred in
captivity. To analyze the success of zoo captivity in conserving elephant
populations, elephant evolutionary strategies, most notably fitness, life
history strategy, and reproductive success are investigated. Using the 2016
shipment of seventeen wild African elephants to three United States’ zoos
as a case study, the ethics and viability of zoo captivity as conservation are
evaluated and challenged.

Roxolyana (Sana) Shepko-Hamilton

Content Personalization in a Digital World

As it is noticed through standardized test scoring, there are differences
between genders as they are related to speech and language development.
These differences are important to note as a Speech Pathologist. They
provide insight into how to cater therapy sessions for each gender. Through
a literature review, studies have shown the many differences between
genders. Three main differences are seen within the brain (neurologically
based), through learning styles, and interaction with caregivers. The
implications these differences have for therapy sessions should be noted
and put into practice to benefit each client.

Alana Slatky

Gender Differences in Speech/Language Development
and Their Implications for Speech Therapy

As it is noticed through standardized test scoring, there are differences
between genders as they are related to speech and language development.
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provide insight into how to cater therapy sessions for each gender. Through
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based), through learning styles, and interaction with caregivers. The
implications these differences have for therapy sessions should be noted
and put into practice to benefit each client.

Jillian St. Denis

ADHD: Diagnosis, Treatment, and
Beneficial Teaching Strategies

With a prevalence of about 10.2% in children ages 5 to 17, ADHD is
one of the most commonly seen disorders in classrooms throughout the
United States (CDC, 2016). Most teachers receive little to no education
on how to properly educate these students. This thesis will focus on the
background of ADHD and how to efficiently help children with this
disorder in the classroom.

Xiao Mei Su

Saipan—The Forgotten U.S. Territory: How Climate
Change Affects the People You’ve Never Heard About

Saipan, a small-unincorporated U.S. territory, is a place that many
people—specifically U.S. citizens—are not aware of. This is problematic
in some ways because while Saipan functions within a Commonwealth,
it is still under U.S. jurisdiction and is a place that holds much of U.S.
history. In World War II, Saipan was under Japanese colonization, until
June 15, 1944—when the “U.S. Marines stormed the beaches of the strategically Japanese island of Saipan, with a goal of gaining a crucial air base from which the U.S. could launch its new long-range B-29 bombers directly at Japan’s home islands” (“History.com”). It was also on the island of Tinian—a close neighboring island in the CNMI—where the U.S. launched the atomic bombs, “Little Man” and “Fat Boy”, which essentially caused Japan to surrender. After WWII, the U.S. then claimed Saipan as their territory. The island of Saipan and the rest of the CNMI played a very important role in U.S. history.

This paper will briefly outline five main aspects of Saipan: population, politics, economy, urban problems, and culture. The section on Saipan’s population will cover the population of people on island; the distribution of age, race, and sex; the biggest ethnic groups; what kind of migrations take place in Saipan; and the pull and push factors of Saipan. Most of the data from this section is collected from the CNMI 2010 Census Report. The politics section of Saipan will cover Saipan’s position in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands; the laws of the CNMI Covenant; how the CNMI runs under U.S. jurisdiction; and the internal subdivisions of the island. The section on economics will cover the main industries of Saipan—clothing manufacturing and tourism; the main employers on the island; and the distribution of wealth. The section of urban problems will cover the urban form of the city and the problems within Saipan—the two main problems being government corruption and sex trafficking. Lastly, the section of culture will explore the way of life of the indigenous Chamorro people of Saipan and the many immigrants who have also made Saipan their home.

Allison Surgery

And She Will Enter Every Place: The Significance of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union in the Lives of Kingstonian and Ulster County Women in the Pre-Prohibition Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries

Thesis Advisors: Susan Lewis, History
Reynolds Scott-Childress, History

The Temperance Movement was one of the largest sociopolitical movements of the nineteenth century. Women of the white middle classes were the driving force for temperance in the United States. The Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was the largest mass women’s organization at the time. The WCTU embodied many attributes of the “modern woman” that is overlooked. The WCTU was a female designated space that served as a platform for women to be public speakers and outspoken activists. The WCTU had a prominent presence in New Paltz and Kingston. By using local history archives in Kingston and New Paltz I will use primary and secondary documents to determine: did temperance succeed? Temperance “failed” in big cities but they were arguably successful in small towns. My aim is to redefine the meaning of temperance and determine its true legacy. The stigma attached to temperance might be reexamined and the local history from Kingston to New Paltz will add new dimension to the WCTU and legacy of temperance.

Steven Szymczak

Marketing is the Real MVP: Sports as a Business and the Rise of Basketball

Thesis Advisor: Russell Zwanka, Business

Dating back to the first evolution of sports back in the late 1800s, perhaps more specifically the insurgence of the three major American sports, baseball, football, and basketball, sports have largely used marketing techniques to drive revenue for the events. As technology, mediums of viewing, and accessibility to information has increased, a shift has occurred where sports have truly become a business, and how they are marketed is extremely important to their success. As we move from the late 1800s to the 2010s, we’ll delve into the construction of a narrative in sports history, how marketing techniques validated that the sports industry is just another, yet entertaining business, and why basketball will be the king of the sports world as early as 2020.

Nicholas Tantillo

Covering Mental Illness on the Radio

Thesis Advisor: Lisa Phillips, Digital Media & Journalism

My thesis follows a year-long journey covering homelessness and mental illness first in New Paltz, then in Kingston and finally statewide in an attempt to understand the forces that shape mental illness treatment in New York State.
Natassia Velez

Wanting Wellness as Women and Warriors: Gender in the Military as it Impacts Female Veterans Pursuing and Receiving Mental Health Services

Thesis Advisors: Benjamin Junge, Anthropology/Latin American & Caribbean Studies
Lisa Bauer, Psychology

This project seeks to highlight the needs and experiences of female veterans in the United States through an examination of how gender perceptions in the military impact female veterans when they pursue and receive mental health services. The study will have a two part approach. The first aspect is analysis and synthesis of previous research from a variety of different disciplines such as medical anthropology, psychology, and social work. The second aspect of this research is a series of original interviews conducted with female veterans. The original and analyzed research will then be synthesized to provide a broad scope of how gender impacts female veterans. This study will be unique in that it focuses on gender as a structural influence rather than simply a demographic component. It will demonstrate that military perceptions of gender have and do impact females after they leave service, especially as they are re-entrenched in military culture through the Veterans Administration (VA), and as they manage negative mental effects related to their service. This argument will be demonstrated through the investigation of mental health issues, cultural and institutional factors, and the experiences and perceptions of female veterans.

John Weaver

Readers to Super Readers: Utilizing Comics and Graphic Novels to Teach Comprehension and Literacy

Thesis Advisors: Caroline Hopenwasser, Teaching & Learning
Pauline Uchmanowicz, English

Two things are obvious when it comes to elementary school children: they need to gain the skills necessary to be proficient with reading and literacy and they love, or at the very least, recognize the names of various comic book superheroes that have become icons: Batman, Wonder Woman, Superman, and The Avengers. What many don’t realize is how powerful and beneficial a tool comics are in the development of literacy in elementary school students. With rare words (uncommon vocabulary words not likely to occur in common speech) occurring fifty two times for every thousand words, only newspapers, magazines, and scientific articles occurring more often. By integrating comics into the classroom curriculum a positive relationship should be found between students reading them, and their comprehension and literacy growing to reflect that.

Jessica Weeks

Octopaminergic Neural Pathways of Polistes dominulus

Thesis Advisor: Aaron Haselton, Biology

Octopamine is the invertebrate analog to the vertebrate neuromessenger molecule norepinephrine. In insects, octopaminergic neural pathways mediate behavioral and physiological activities that involve nutrient mobilization (e.g. feeding, aggression, and physical exertion). To better understand the importance of octopamine signaling in insects, a detailed understanding of both unique and shared aspects of octopaminergic neuroarchitecture among insects is required. Here we map octopaminergic cells in processes in the adult European paper wasp, Polistes dominulus, using immunohistochemical techniques and laser confocal microscopy.