THE SHOWCASE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY AT MARY BALDWIN COLLEGE

SENIOR PROJECTS  •  HONORS PROJECTS  •  SPECIAL PROJECTS

MAY 8, 2014

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CAPSTONE FESTIVAL HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY THE FACULTY BASED ON THE HIGH QUALITY AND ORIGINALITY OF THEIR WORK AND HAVE ACCEPTED NOMINATION.
In the early days of Mary Baldwin Seminary, a Capstone Festival of sorts existed.

“All final examinations were held in public and members of the Board of Trustees and the townspeople attended to view students parse sentences, do intricate math problems, and recite soliloquies,” writes Professor Emerita of History Patricia H. Menk in her book To Live in Time: The Sesquicentennial History of Mary Baldwin College 1842–1992.

By the late 1800s, the practice of public recitations had disappeared. In 2006, Mary Baldwin College inaugurated a new Capstone Festival.

At each year’s festival, a select group of students, nominated by faculty, present their senior, honors, and special undergraduate activities on display is a testament to the legacy of those earlier years and a celebration of our future.

The Festival is sponsored by the Advisory Board of Visitors, the Office of Sponsored Programs and Undergraduate Research, the Global Honors Scholars Program, and the Committee on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity.

All Photos by Woods Pierce Unless Marked with *
Nikki Brookman
Project Advisor: Sarah Kennedy
Academic Advisor: Abby Arnold
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: A New Historian’s Exploration of Feminist Theory: The Awakening and Kate Chopin
Abstract: Twenty-nine years before Virginia Woolf published her defining text of feminist literature, A Room of One’s Own, Kate Chopin, author of The Awakening and various other works, navigated the turbulent waters of publishing by supporting herself and her children as a professional writer. The strength of her upbringing by a strong father and determination and bravery in addressing women’s roles and issues set her apart as one of the most pioneering of women authors of her time. Woolf presents the roles assigned to women by a patriarchal society as obstructive to a successful literary career. Chopin defies this suppression and courageously presses through the boundaries of womanhood, even in the conservative American South.
Biography: Nikki Brookman is an English major with a minor in education from Virginia. She lives in Ruckersville with her husband, Kevin, and daughters, Maggie and Lilly. She enrolled at Mary Baldwin following a successful career in the mental health field to pursue her love of literature and writing. Nikki plans to pursue teaching high school in the fall.

Lydia Buhl
Project Advisor: Cathy McPherson
Academic Advisor: Sharon Barnes
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multimedia support
Title: From Book to Blockbuster: How Marketing Launches Works of Fiction into Commercial Successes
Abstract: This project examines the role of today’s publishing industry within a market that has largely been influenced by the adoption of digital technology. Although the written word has seemingly lost its place, the emergence of numerous literary blockbusters over the past decade or so suggests that books are not outdated but simply evolving to meet the needs and desires of a more demanding audience. By following the product life-cycle of a typical work of fiction, and then identifying areas in which breakout successes, such as the Harry Potter series, The Twilight Saga, the Fifty Shades trilogy, the Millennium Trilogy, and the Robert Langdon series, have all innovatively deviated from a standard literary marketing plan, this research provides insight into the social and technological forces that are now instrumental to a book’s viral potential, while still supporting the importance of the book’s content itself.
Biography: Lydia Buhl is a marketing communication major with a minor in sociology. She resides in Troutville, Virginia, with her husband and their two sons. Following graduation, she will be pursing her degree through the Adult Degree Program since coming to work at MBC in 1999. She is currently the director of operations at ADP and has plans to continue working at MBC following graduation.

Daryn Cazin
Project and Academic Advisor: Katherine Turner
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: To Kill a Mockingbird in Contemporary China: A Chick-Lit, The Legacy of Harper Lee
Abstract: In the modern American classic, To Kill a Mockingbird (1960), Harper Lee vividly conjured the racial injustice found in small towns across the South. In recent decades, authors such as Kathryn Stockett, Sue Monk Kidd, and Beth Hoffman have produced novels clearly modeled on To Kill a Mockingbird as part of a continuing exploration of race relations in America. Unfortunately, the archetypical characters created by Lee have become degraded stereotypes in some of these later texts. As the characters and plots become more stereotypical, the genre becomes more contrived, distorting the important role of the civil rights movement.
Biography: Daryn Cazin will graduate this summer with an English major and a religion minor; she will then return to her native California where she plans to work as a youth minister.

Ashley Edmiston
Project and Academic Advisors: Maritena Hobson and Sara Nair James
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multimedia support
Title: Reclaiming Rome: Pope Nicholas V’s Humanist Building Projects, 1447–1455
Abstract: Although the pontificate of Pope Nicholas V only lasted from 1447 to 1455, he instituted important philosophical changes to the papacy. Nicholas V’s application of humanism, a new concept both to society and the papacy, is discussed in relation to his building projects. Under Nicholas, Rome became more orderly as public space was regulated and the center of the Christian world for centuries to come.

Kyla Daniel
Project and Academic Advisor: Lisa Keter
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multimedia support
Title: Music as a Learning Tool and Classroom Aid: The Benefits of Integrated Study
Abstract: In today’s society, teachers face many challenging tasks, including holding the attention of their students. One logical resolution to the lack of student interest is to integrate music into the curriculum, not as a separate class, but into the standard classroom. This project examines different ways in which music can be used to benefit students’ ability to learn and create a positive environment. Music is discussed in relation to mathematics, science, and English, demonstrating how it could complement the material in those classes. Classroom plans are included to make evident music’s possible uses. This project also reveals ways in which music could improve study skills, student behavior, and attentiveness, as well as benefit students with various disorders, such as ADHD and autism.
Biography: Kyla Daniel is a senior music history major with an education minor. Post-graduation, this Staunton native plans to pursue a master of library and information sciences in either Chicago, Illinois, or Minneapolis, Minnesota. Presently, however, she plans to take a year enjoying life outside of the world of academia.

Lise Keiter
Project and Academic Advisors: Hill Cole and Amy Tillerson-Brown
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multimedia support
Title: Caffeine and ADHD Medication
Abstract: An integrative review of the literature with various disorders, such as ADHD and autism, demonstrates that there are significant ways in which music can help students in these classrooms. This project examines different ways in which music can be used to benefit students’ ability to learn and create a positive environment. Music is discussed in relation to mathematics, science, and English, demonstrating how it could complement the material in those classes. Classroom plans are included to make evident music’s possible uses. This project also reveals ways in which music could improve study skills, student behavior, and attentiveness, as well as benefit students with various disorders, such as ADHD and autism. Music is discussed in relation to mathematics, science, and English, demonstrating how it could complement the material in those classes. Classroom plans are included to make evident music’s possible uses. This project also reveals ways in which music could improve study skills, student behavior, and attentiveness, as well as benefit students with various disorders, such as ADHD and autism.
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Title: Ideal Versus Reality in Leisure Travel: British Travelers in Florence, 1840-1875
Abstract: The British desire to escape their utilitarian and unromantic life in industrial England drove many to travel to other countries during the mid-nineteenth century. Many of these travelers found their way to Florence, its Renaissance artwork, abundance of art, and sublime views luring them to the city. These travelers, who used their leisure time to search for a faking sense of imagination and joy of life, often found themselves unhappy with the realities that awaited them. This paper discusses the effects British xenophobia had upon leisure tourists in the nineteenth century. During this period, the British exhibited a sense of superiority to much of the world, as they saw most other nations as less modern. The modernization of England also drove its inhabitants to seek out less industrial areas, making cities like Florence a prime vacation spot. However, Florence had, between 1840 and 1875, begun to modernize, which destroyed the idyllic notions of British vacationers. This disconnect fed the xenophobic attitudes the British held towards the Italians, affecting the experiences of British travelers in Florence during this period.

Biography: Ashley Edmiston is a double major in history and art history and is from Chester, Virginia. She plans to seek out a job before going to gradu- ate school for library sciences and art history.

JALYNN EDWARDS
Project Advisor: Chandra Mason
Academic Advisor: Jenna Hott
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Poster
Title: Relationships among Social Dominance Orientation, Gender Role Ideology, and Offender’s Gender on Criminal Sanctioning
Abstract: Research on gender bias in criminal sanctioning in the United States has primarily focused on the gender and age of the offender, as well as the crime committed and the gender of the sanctioner. This study goes beyond previous research by considering the roles that two aspects of personal identity, social dominance orientation and gender role ideology, play in gender bias in criminal sanctioning. Participants were 90 men and women college students who took two surveys to measure social dominance orientation and gender role ideology. Following the surveys, the participants read a vignette of a crime with the gender of the offender randomly determined. Participants were asked to indicate the number of years of prison time they believed the offender should serve. My hypothesis was that participants who display signs of high social dominance orientation and traditional views on gender role ideology would give a harsher sanction regardless of the offender’s gender.

Biography: Jalyyn Edwards is a psychology major with a minor in sociology. She is from Richmond, Virginia. Jalyyn plans on getting her master’s in forensic psychol- ogy and then her doctor of psychology in clinical psychology in order to become a criminal profiler.

CASSANDRA ELAND
Project and Academic Advisors: Mary Hill Cole and Amy Tillerson-Brown
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: “Shrinking Sisters Frantically Calling on Man and Gods”: English Suffrage and Anti-Suffragist Publications and Their Impact, 1890-1914
Abstract: During the age of technological improve- ment in the Victorian era in England, magazines and newspapers produced with women in mind sought to impact the fight for women’s enfranchisement by using a growing medium and representing (or misrepresent- ing) different aspects of the suffragist cause to suit their own purposes, either in a pro-suffragist or anti-suffragist manner. Ultimately, the organizations behind the pub- lications sought to get women either to participate for or against the goal of female enfranchisement.

Biography: Cassandra Eiland is a history major with a minor in English. She is originally from Winchester, Virginia. In the near future, Cassandra hopes to attend graduate school to pursue either library science or history.

SELMA ELSARRAG
Project Advisor: Karl Zachary
Academic Advisor: John Ong
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Poster
Title: Supramolecular Interactions between Peptides and a Glycosylated Molecular Clip: A Computational Study
Abstract: Selective recognition of amino acid residues in peptides by synthetic receptors has garnered much interest, since an understanding of such processes may illuminate fundamental properties of biomolecular dynamics and assist in the rational design of therapeutic agents, sensors, and separation techniques. We have undertaken a computational study of a glycuril-based molecular clip with the model peptides Ace-Phe-Nme (APN) and Ace-Lys-Nme (ALN) with an eye towards understanding the relative binding strengths of result- ing complexes, the particular intermolecular forces driving association, and the conformational changes induced in the peptide. We have observed the forma- tion of a complex with the clip in the case of the AKN peptide but not that of the APN peptide. A compari- son of the hydrogen-bonding between water and the peptide and the inner-sphere structure of the AKN peptide in the complexed and free state has been performed. Methods used include molecular dynamics and quantum mechanics at the density functional level of theory.

Biography: Sela is a triple major in biology, chemistry, and mathematics from Richmond, Virginia. In the fall, she will enter a combined M.D./PhD program at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston Texas and hopes to earn her degree in computational biology.

AMANDA M. FADDEN
Project and Academic Advisor: Daniel A. Metraux
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: China’s Naval Policy: An Aggressive or Protective Force?
Abstract: Beginning in 2000, China’s emergence as a growing naval power has caused considerable anxiety among Pacific nations and the United States. China’s decision to become both a defensive and offensive naval player is beginning to upset the world order. While China undoubtedly should possess the right to have a navy to protect the country’s economic interests, problems have arisen as naval exercises have extended beyond the country’s waters and toward islands in dispute with Japan. This project seeks to understand China’s intent, beginning with China’s history and focus- ing on three key areas in the conflict: China’s percep- tion of sovereignty in the East and South China seas; the difference between intent and perception of military exercises; and how relations with Japan and the United States play into China’s decision to grow its naval force. In order to advise future conflict, China, Japan, and the United States should seek multilateral exercises and mutual agreements to ease growing tensions.

Biography: Amanda Fadden is a junior, majoring in international relations and Asian studies. She also plans to minor in leadership studies. Amanda is a cadet platoon sergeant in the Virginia Women’s Institute for Leadership, current captain of the cross coun- try team, a Global Scholar, and a member of CGU: Changemakers for Women. During her time here at Mary Baldwin, she has earned a three-year Navy scholarship through which she plans to commission as a surface warfare officer in the spring of 2015.

HALLE’ D. HURT
Project and Academic Advisor: Paul Dziebbe
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Poster
Title: The Effects of Triclosan on Skeletal and Cardiac Muscles Abstract: Triclosan is an antimicrobial used primarily to inhibit the growth of fungi and bacteria in most of our soaps, tooth- pastes, and cleaning products. It is now under the inves- tigation of the FDA and EPA for causing adverse side effects to the population and the environment. This proj- ect investigated Triclosan’s ability to impair the function of the cardiac and skeletal muscles. Using large male frogs and the WiPox software, the experiment compared vari- ables such as latency in the skeletal muscle, heart rate, and amplitude in both the treated and untreated subjects. Biography: Halle’ Hurt is a biology major with a biomed- ical emphasis and a minor in sociology. Her hometown is Fredericksburg, Virginia, where she lives with her parents and her younger brother. After graduation, Halle’ plans to further her education and become an anesthesiologist.

MARIAH JENKINS
Project Advisor: Judy Akin
Academic Advisor: Virginia Trotzko
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multi- media support
Title: Improving Children’s Health by Encouraging Women’s Education in Sub-Saharan Africa
Abstract: Sub-Saharan Africa is delayed in its move- ment through the second stage of demographic transi- tion, where high fertility rates decrease to match the lowering mortality rates that occur in the first stage. Both men and women in Sub-Saharan Africa continue to have a preference for six to nine children per house- hold. In addition, child mortality remains high. How can these countries lower their fertility and child mortality rates? Women are the caregivers and bearers of chil- dren, and research shows that increasing women’s educational attainment can improve children’s health. The theory of positive externalities and Amarya Sen’s Capabilities Approach give further validity to the returns of women’s education to the society and individually. In this study, correlations between secondary school- ing rates among females and males, the adolescent fertility rate, and the under-five mortality rate were com- puted and provided further evidence for this claim. We observed countries in Sub-Saharan Africa that proved...
Alexandra Johnson is an English and Spanish major with a minor in economics and business from Staunton, Virginia. As the world realizes the necessity for political and economic reform, she seeks to teach Spanish in secondary schools.

Holly Johnston
Project and Academic Advisor: Laura van Assendelft
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multimedia support
Title: Occupancy Wall Street: A Case Study of Political Opportunity Theory
Abstract: Occupancy Wall Street was one of the most visible groups in American public life in 2011. Two years later, enough time has passed to question the success or failure of Occupy Wall Street (OWS) in relation to political opportunity theory. Can OWS be classified as a social movement, and by what definition? By examining OWS in light of political opportunity theory, it becomes clearer that it was in fact not a social movement, but rather an amorphous collective of individual preferences and choices with somewhat complementary but competing goals. This paper will shed new light on the OWS phenomenon by examining the decentralized leadership style, the anti-leaders of Occupy Wall Street, and the network of Occupy encampments that popped up across the nation. These three components are examined in hopes of answering how OWS could be so visible yet unsuccessful.

Biography: Holly Johnston is a double major in political science and religion with a minor in economics. She is from Danville, Virginia. She presented her thesis at the Midwest Political Science Association undergraduate poster session this past April in Chicago, Illinois. In the fall, she will either attend graduate school or enter the workforce.

Karen Van Assendelft
Project and Academic Advisor: Carey Usher
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: Gang Activity in Rural America and Its Connection to the Components of Social Disorganization Theory
Abstract: This project addresses the question of how the major elements of social disorganization theory help to explain gang membership in rural areas. In addition, the project analyzes the socializing factors of family, community, and school as they are related to the likelihood of gang activity in youth and young adults. Using the basic principles and ideas of social disorganization theory, developed by the Chicago School in relation to ecological theories, the project links crime rates to neighborhood ecology. Qualitative data from surveys of confirmed gang members assesses their biographical information, community, school, and family culture.

Biography: Krystal Jones was born and raised in Norfolk, Virginia, and is currently pursuing a bachelor of arts (BA) in chemistry and a master's of arts in teaching in the fall of 2014. She is pursuing her master's degree in human services while beginning the process of starting her own business. She is a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon and Alpha Sigma Lambda.

Krystal Jones
Project Advisor: Daniel Stuhlsatz
Academic Advisor: Carey Usher
Type of Project: Senior Project
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Linnea Kuglitsch
Project Advisors: Mary Hill Cole and Amy Tillerson-Brown
Academic Advisor: Alan Gergel-Hackett
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multimedia support
Title: “Best Obtained in Seclusion”: Landscapes of Healing and Pleasure at Marienbad and Baden-Baden, 1820–1880
Abstract: Nineteenth-century Britain presented a number of challenges to maintaining one’s mental and physical health. Exacerbated by the social and environmental changes that accompanied the industrial revolution, a cultural obsession with the maintenance of one’s health emerged. Uncomfortable and antiquated cures often boasted minimal success, leading many invalids with...
Maryland. In the fall she will be entering the JD program at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. Charity will be studying criminal law in hopes of becoming a prosecutor.

CHARITY MARTIN
Project Advisor: Laura van Assendelft
Academic Advisor: Douglas Davis and Laura van Assendelft
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multimedia support
Title: Bridging the Political Gender Gap: Is the Farm Team an Adequate Opponent?
Abstract: The political gender gap is a phenomenon that is not new to the political arena. For years, females with political ambition and the desire to be involved in national politics have faced discrimination, but over time organizations have been developed to combat the gender gap. Organizations such as the Farm Team of Virginia are focused on solving this problem and its effects on female participation in politics. The Farm Team endorses women such as Elizabeth Jones in efforts to better their chances in political races. Through careful research and content analysis, this study shows that the Farm Team has the makings of a successful interest group, therefore giving it the foundation to be successful at bridging the political gender gap.

Biography: Charity Martin is a double major in political science and criminal justice from Baltimore, Maryland. The means to seek out more pleasant or effective treatments. Visiting a spa-town to take the waters — to bathe and imbibe mineral water from mineral or thermal springs — offered a popular alternative. Documentary evidence left by British invalids, physicians, and commercially-produced spa-guides demonstrates that travel to continental spa-towns offered rehabilitative benefits that reached beyond their specialized waters. The treatments advertised at the spas of Baden-Baden and Mainenbad emphasized the holistic treatment of their patients, appealing to British health-seekers with offers to relocate them from the industrialized landscape of their homeland to a healthful, picturesque environment that promoted both physical and mental recuperation.

Project and Academic Advisor: Abigail Wightman
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multimedia support
Title: Blueprints to Control: Medicine and Commercialized Spa-Guides in Britain
Abstract: The landscape in proximity to the Blue Ridge Mountain Range has served as backdrop to many institutions dedicated to the care of those considered ill, physically or otherwise. Their purpose-built environments encapsulate the practices and beliefs embraced by the communities they served, as evidenced by the archivally-derived floor plans of two such institutions — Western Lunatics Asylum and Mecklenburg County Sanatorium — founded one-hundred years apart and dedicated to the treatment of two illnesses, madness and tuberculosis. This paper conducts a comparative analysis of the built environment of these institutions, identifying the spatial and architectural elements of healing and control in the context of medical hegemony.

Biography: Lineea Zuege Kuiglitsch is a double major in anthropology and history with minors in public history and psychology. She hails from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Lineea intends to collect several years of practical experience in archaeology before pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Manchester.

KATELYN MAERKI
Project Advisor: when Moshier
Academic Advisor: Virginia Trovato
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multimedia support
Title: Does Age Matter? Quality, Inpatient Care, and the Elderly
Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to assess the quality of inpatient programs regarding the care of the growing population of Medicare patients 65 and older. For the purpose of this research, quality is defined and assessed using Donabedian’s model of structure, process, and outcomes. Through an in-depth analysis of publicly reported data sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital (SMJH), the relationship between quality inpatient care and the elderly is examined. The research demonstrated gaps in data collection at SMJH, as the hospital does not collect some age-related information, thus challenging the ability to draw conclusions from that hospital alone. Comparison and gap analyses were performed to assess the delivery of care and determine if there is a fundamental need for specialized geriatric care delivery. Although publicly reported patient satisfaction scores for SMJH are high in almost every category when compared to national and state averages, the literature shows that there is an open market in the health care industry to align a specialized delivery of care that is high cost, high-utilizing population of elderly Medicare beneficiaries.

Biography: Katelyn is a health care administration major from Waynesboro, Virginia. Through her education and personal experiences, she has developed a passion for elders and the desire to enhance the quality of health care delivery. After graduation, Katelyn hopes to begin a career in long-term care.

EMILY MILLER
Project and Academic Advisors: Mary Hill Cole and Amy Tillerson-Brown
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: Community Leisure for Self-Improvement: The Beginnings of the Chautauqua Movement, 1874–1916
Abstract: Beginning in 1874, summer meetings at Chautauqua were intended to meet the growing need for educating Sunday School teachers. The Chautauqua Assembly began as an intensive two-week program designed to reach those who could not reach New York. It grew into a nine-week summer assembly accompanied by an optional full-year reading program designed to reach those who could not reach New York. This project chronicles the early growth of the movement, attempting to discover what drew people to the assembly and what led them to return, paying particular attention to aspects of the assembly that were considered unique “Chautauqua.”

Biography: Emily Miller is a history major with minors in French and education from Mechanisburg, Pennsylvania. She is enrolled in the BA/MA/MT program and will continue progress towards her masters of arts in teaching at Mary Baldwin in the fall.

Pogge and Nussbaum: A Philosophical Analysis of Citizenship and Immigration
Abstract: In the 21st century, the notion of citizenship has been defined and explained in various ways as it relates and pertains to immigration. Philosophers from Aristotle onwards have defined citizenship and given their own conceptual explanations of what citizenship is. Contemporary philosophers Thomas Pogge and Martha Nussbaum differ on the issue of citizenship and its relationship to immigration. Some of Thomas Pogge’s views emerge from such topics as understanding the distribution of membership, aliens and citizenships, the case for open borders, and the laws of people. Although Martha Nussbaum does not follow the same path and ideology, she draws many of her views from the idea of social contract, the state of nature, and the capabilities approach. However, both philosophers argue that citizenship deals with equality, freedom, independence and, above all, a global conception of justice. Pogge and Nussbaum’s conception of citizenship has the potential to shape and affect U.S. immigration policies.

Biography: Queen Elizabeth Martin is a political science and philosophy major, with a minor in peace and conflict resolution. She is originally from New York. This project chronicles the early growth of the movement, attempting to discover what drew people to the assembly and what led them to return, paying particular attention to aspects of the assembly that were considered unique “Chautauqua.”

Biography: Emily Miller is a history major with minors in French and education from Mechanisburg, Pennsylvania. She is enrolled in the BA/MA/MT program and will continue progress towards her masters of arts in teaching at Mary Baldwin in the fall.
Genevieve Neice was born in Covington, Virginia, and Deeper Energies

Project Advisor: Daniel A. Metráux
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: As I Lay Dying: The External Manifestations of Internal Conflicts

Abstract: Modernist literature broke from the "traditional ways of viewing and interacting with the world" and replaced them with a concern for individualism, "inner self and consciousness," and a "growing alienation of the individual" (Flann). This thesis presents a psychoanalytic analysis, using both Sigmund Freud's and Jacques Lacan's contributions. The study seeks to discern whether young males' perspectives on gender have shifted significantly over time. This is significant because it may influence the way they approach their careers or their relationships in general. The research suggests that gender norms continue to evolve, but at a slower pace than anticipated. Understanding these changes is crucial for creating more inclusive environments in the workplace.

Michelle Radford
Project Advisor: Maria Craig
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Poster
Title: Interaction between Human Cathelanic LL-37 and CpG DNA

Abstract: LL-37 is an antimicrobial protein known to be involved in immune response mechanisms. LL-37 is also suspected to have some key roles in certain autoimmune diseases, such as psoriasis and lupus. Current published models suggest that LL-37 forms complexes with self-DNA and that this interaction allows self-DNA to enter cells. The LL-37/DNA interaction is believed to start a series of cascading events that lead to autoimmune diseases. Understanding the role of LL-37 in autoimmune diseases can offer insight into treatments for the diseases, and the key to the LL-37 role is its interaction with DNA. Knowing specific characteristics about the binding between LL-37 and DNA could lead to treatments that mitigate LL-37/DNA complex formation. In order to characterize LL-37/DNA binding, we have performed electrophoretic mobility shift assays (EMSA), Western Blotting, and Isothermal Titration Calorimetry (ITC). By EMSA, we observe a shift in DNA mobility with increasing LL-37 concentration over the range 1-100 μM. Quantitative analysis of gel images was performed to derive binding curves for the association of LL-37 with DNA. Western Blot analysis in a corresponding concentration range indicate that LL-37 self-associates in the absence of DNA. These LL-37 complexes increase in size as LL-37 concentration increases, and addition of DNA causes LL-37 complexes to decrease in size. The ITC results indicate that there are two binding sites for LL-37/DNA association with a 20:1 peptide:DNA ratio. These data suggest that LL-37 self-associates at concentrations high enough to bind DNA, and that DNA binds to LL-37 complexes by displacing LL-37 self-interacts.

Biography: Michelle Radford is a chemistry major with minors in physics and mathematics. Michelle is from Ferrum, Virginia. She plans to dedicate the early part of her life to public service. Currently, she is waiting for acceptance into the Peace Corps before pursuing further education.

Anna Reilly
Project Advisor: Sarah Kennedy
Academic Advisor: Kerry Mills
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: The Socio-Economic Impact of HIV/AIDS on Indian Women

Abstract: HIV/AIDS has emerged as a serious public health issue across the world, affecting the well-being of men, women, and children. Diffusing across borders as an infectious killer, it has jeopardized domestic and international stability since the 1970s. Highly prevalent in India, which is the third-largest nation with a high rate of HIV, the virus has had negative social and economic implications for women. Socially, it has caused women to suffer from unethical stigma and discrimination, forcing them to live in isolation and endure brutal violence. Economically, the virus places a financial burden on Indian women due to the high cost of medication and treatment. Furthermore, the spread of HIV/AIDS hinders women’s ability to be caregivers and homemakers — vital economic roles that Indian women value and cherish — and places them in a vulnerable position. Unable to attend school or achieve economic stability, many HIV-infected women are forced to enter prostitution, thereby spreading the disease to clients and, worse, to children through mother-to-child transmission. Though actions have been taken to deter the diffusion of HIV/AIDS in India, more aggressive efforts are essential to improve the social and economic wellbeing of all Indian women. It is vital that international, national, and local agencies collaborate to achieve advanced solutions to prevent further destruction in society.

Biography: Shekira A. Ramdass is a junior with a double major in international relations and Asian studies. She is also pursuing a double minor in peacekeeping and conflict resolution and women’s studies. Shekira is the current president of the Mary Baldwin club CGIU: Changemakers for Women, which focuses on serving the needs of at-risk women and girls both domestically and internationally. She is also an active member of the President’s Society and internets seasonally with the Department of State.
Chester, Virginia. Anna hopes to teach elementary school and earn a minor in elementary education from Baldwin College campus. After graduation, Dalila plans to find a fulfilling career in her area of study.

Astrid Salarda is a business major from Houston, Texas. Astrid has dedicated her undergraduate career to community foundations to assist community groups in dealing with increasing social problems in society and to create effective change. The scholarly literature indicates that sustaining the purpose of nonprofit organizations has become more important than ever. In recent years, many community foundations have seen a decrease in funding due to the economic downturn. However, the need for these organizations remains as critical as ever.

Biography: Astrid Salarda is a business major, with a management emphasis and marketing minor, from Houston, Texas. Astrid has dedicated her undergraduate work to pursuing her interest of utilizing the nonprofit business model to improve the social wellbeing of those in need. She intends to continue working in the nonprofit sector after graduating in May.

Olivia Samerdyke is an English major senior with a minor in elementary education from Mary Baldwin College. After graduation, Olivia plans to find a fulfilling career in her area of study. Her current academic interest in the subject. As a writer she hopes to create her own monster someday. She will continue her communication studies in graduate school.

Astrid Salarda is a business major from Houston, Texas. Astrid has dedicated her undergraduate career to community foundations to assist community groups in dealing with increasing social problems in society and to create effective change. The scholarly literature indicates that sustaining the purpose of nonprofit organizations has become more important than ever. In recent years, many community foundations have seen a decrease in funding due to the economic downturn. However, the need for these organizations remains as critical as ever.

Biography: Astrid Salarda is a business major, with a management emphasis and marketing minor, from Houston, Texas. Astrid has dedicated her undergraduate work to pursuing her interest of utilizing the nonprofit business model to improve the social wellbeing of those in need. She intends to continue working in the nonprofit sector after graduating in May.

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of financial statements. The inherent differences of the principles-based IFRS will impact the functioning of current regulations, such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and their ability to encourage professionals to behave ethically. This research investigated the effect this shift to IFRS will have on the auditing profession, which evaluates and approves of a firm’s use of the financial reporting standards.

Biography: Madeline Soriano, from Staunton, Virginia, is a business major and member of Sigma Beta Delta. She is interested in criminology and sociological theory. In her senior project, she explored the bottom up. The products are handmade purses that have been crocheted from plastic grocery bags. The goal of the project is to raise awareness about the damage that single-use plastics have done to our environment and society. Caree On also hopes to encourage people to do smarter things with their unwanted material, instead of throwing it in the trash, by offering to show people how they can transform their trash into something beautiful.

Biography: Kari Watson is a senior studio art major with an emphasis in graphic design. She is from Staunton, Virginia, and enjoys hiking, swimming, photography, and painting in her free time. Kari will start working full time as a marketing manager and graphic designer at Sigora Solar in Waynesboro, Virginia in May of 2014.

Title: "Caree On," transforming trash to beauty, is a product line that has been created and branded from single-use plastics.
MAY TERM ABROAD CAPSTONE NOMINEE

The following student was nominated for the Capstone Festival but is unable to participate because she is on a study abroad program during May Term. We include her information here in recognition of her achievement and commitment to international awareness.

KRISTIN ZIMMER
Project and Academic Advisor: Brenna Patino
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: May Term Abroad
Title: El Escape de la Opresión Doméstica
Abstract: The oppression felt by women in their domestic environments is a common theme in the works of female Latin American writers. The oppression emerges due to the expectations placed on women by their families, society, and themselves. In this project, the theme of oppression was explored by observing female protagonists in works of fiction by renowned women writers of Latin America, including El Eterno Feminino, by Rosario Castellanos, the short story “Cuando Todo Brille,” by Liliana Heker, and the novel Como Agua para Chocolate, by Laura Esquivel. Through means of confronting, coping, and escaping from their domestic oppression, female protagonists in these works find their own personal peace and identity.
Biography: Kristin Zimmer grew up in Adamstown, close to Frederick, Maryland. Kristin will continue her education at Mary Baldwin during the summer and fall, intending to graduate with a masters of arts in teaching by December 2014. She aspires to be an elementary school English as a second language (ESL) teacher.

Congratulations to all students participating in the 2014 CAPSTONE FESTIVAL

Nomination to the Capstone Festival is in itself a high honor. To recognize extraordinary achievement, top honors will also be given in each presentation category (delivered papers; presentations with multimedia support; posters; and visual/audio-visual creations). Panels of three judges will evaluate the creativity, challenge, and execution of the projects as well as the ability of the presenters to communicate the content and significance of their work to a general audience. Top honors awards are accompanied by a cash prize of $150.