The Showcase of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity at Mary Baldwin College

Senior Projects • Honors Projects • Special Projects

MAY 9, 2013

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.
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 their senior, honors, and special undergraduate research projects to the MBC community and the general public. The high quality and breadth of research, scholarship, and creative 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 Committee on Research, Creative Activity, and Scholarship, and the Board of Trustees.

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.

The high quality and breadth of research, scholarship, and creative activities on display is a testament to the legacy of those earlier years and a celebration of our future.

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eight women from the working class who meet to help Germaine glue the million trading stamps she won in a contest. Johanne examined the balanced use of exaggeration and realism in the text and the staging of the play to express the deep sadness and grief of the characters. This structure offered a distorted mirror to the audience, helping them realize the issues that oppressed them. This presentation will focus on the signification of the trading stamps in the hostess’s poverty-ridden life.

Biography: Johanne Beaudoin is a French major in the Adult Degree Program. She was born and raised in Quebec, Canada, but has lived in Charlottesville, for the past seven years. In the fall of 2013, Beaudoin will teach French at the International School of Charlottesville.

KAITLYN CEROW
Project Advisor: Joseph Sprangal
Academic Advisor: Jane Pietrowski
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multi-media support
Title: The Power of Wind
Abstract: Wind power has been used to solve various problems around the world for centuries. In recent years it has been used as a renewable energy source to curb dependence on fossil fuels and reduce air pollution. This research focuses on three options available to a private individual to invest in wind power. First, through tax credits and energy savings, owning a personal turbine has become affordable in most places across the United States. Second, many utility developers have created wind farms by leasing farmland across the country from willing and able landowners without disturbing their land use. Third, socially responsible investing (SRI) is another way to support the industry without such a serious lifestyle commitment. For more risky investments, an example is where one can choose to invest directly into the top three wind power manufacturers worldwide, General Electric and Vestas.

Biography: Kaitlyn Cerow is a Business for a Sustainable future major from Ashburn. She has participated as a member in STARs and is the VWL commanding officer. In May 2013, she will commission as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army in the Medical Service Corps.

ANGELICA FLEMING
Project Advisors: Anne Allison and Paul Callo
Academic Advisor: Paul Deible
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Poster
Title: The Measurement of Estrogenic Activity of Thermal Receipt Paper and its Effects on the Reproduction of Caenorhabditis elegans
Abstract: Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) are toxic and ubiquitous pollutants that interfere with the body’s endocrine system. These chemicals have been shown to produce many adverse effects on many different physiological systems in humans and other species. While many studies on EDCs have been and are being done, it remains uncertain to what extent these environmental pollutants influence the health of humans and other organisms. One particularly common EDC is Bisphenol A (BPA), which can be found in items such as water bottles, the inside lining of cans, and thermal receipt paper that you typically receive after purchasing something at a store. In a study that sampled different thermal receipt papers from across the world, the amount of BPA in receipt papers was determined. BPA was detected in 94% of thermal receipt paper samples at various concentrations. Despite this, there exists scant scientific evidence on the toxicological and endocrine-disrupting effects of thermal receipt paper. In my research, the estrogenicity of thermal receipt paper was quantified using the yeast estrogen assay (YEA) and toxicity effects were tested using a reproduction test with Caenorhabditis elegans (C. elegans), a transparent, free-living nematode. The number of eggs and other organisms were counted over a five-day period after being exposed to different concentrations of thermal receipt paper extract. The results of this study show that thermal receipt paper has estrogenic activity and produce toxic effects on the reproduction of C. elegans. With thermal receipt paper being used every day by major manufacturers and consumers, and exposed to our environment, it is important for the possible harmful effects to be further investigated.

Biography: Angelica Fleming is a biology major with minors in chemistry and sociology from Chesapeake. Fleming has future plans of pursuing her lifelong dream of becoming a family physician. In the fall, she plans to work as a research assistant at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk.

DAVID FOLEY
Project Advisor: Bruce Donies
Academic Advisor: Dan Dowdy
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multi-media support
Title: Salem VA Medical Center Social Media Campaign
Abstract: In an effort to help Veterans in Southwest Virginia improve the quality of their health care, David Foley teamed up with the public affairs office at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salem to promote their social media initiative. By promoting the social media site, David and the public affairs team enabled the hospital to effectively communicate with the Veteran population and provide them with information regarding upcoming health clinics, events, and policy changes.

Biography: Katherine Given is a theatre and history major from Virginia Beach. After graduation she is taking a break from school while still remaining active in her two fields through volunteer work. She hopes to pursue graduate studies in theatre history in the next several years.

KATHARINE M. GIVEN
Project and Academic Advisor: Janna Segal
Type of Project: Special Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multi-media support
Title: Dramatizing Edward Albee’s Three Tall Women
Abstract: Edward Albee’s Three Tall Women tells the story of a 93+ year old woman, covering her life and last moments. Given worked on a February 2013 production at the Mary Baldwin College Theatre with direction Dr. Janna Segal, attempting to tell this story as cohesively as possible. She attended rehearsals and production meetings to help bring the production together. She worked with the audience by designing the lobby and holding talk-backs after performances to engage the Staunton and Mary Baldwin theatre community and promote the social media site. As a result, the show ran for three weeks with the audience actively involved in talking about theatre, life, and aging.

Biography: Katherine Given is a French major in the Adult Degree Program. She was born and raised in Quebec, Canada, but has lived in Charlottesville, for the past seven years. In the fall of 2013, Beaudoin will teach French at the International School of Charlottesville.

LAUREN GREEN
Project Advisor: Bruce Donies
Academic Advisor: Maria Craig
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multi-media support
Title: The Destruction of Bisphenol A and Bisphenol S through Ozonation
Abstract: Bisphenol A is a known endocrine disrupter that has been found in many waste products. These small amounts have been found to cause feminization of fish for use in people as well. Ozonation is an advanced oxidative process that is commonly used to treat waste water to clear it of most contaminants, but like other processes the amount of destruction of bisphenol A seen is small. This work uses ozonation to find out what percentage of bisphenol A and S can be destroyed in under 30 minutes and then compares that to the amount of bisphenol S destroyed by the same process. While bisphenol S has not been studied as much, its similarities in chemical structure to bisphenol A and other endocrine disruptors make it a good candidate for study. Results show that overall it is difficult to destroy even 50% of the bisphenol A through ozonation while it is possible to destroy 95% of bisphenol S.

Biography: Lauren Green is a chemistry major with a biochemistry emphasis. She is from Newport News and after graduating this May she will continue pursuing her dream of working with animals by becoming a veterinarian.

NANCY C. WILL HILL
Project Advisor: Susan Starns and Mary Hill Cole
Academic Advisor: Bob Robinson
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multi-media support
Title: Ever Changing Perceptions of America’s Mentally Ill
Abstract: During World War II, a staffing shortage in mental hospitals across the country led to conscientious objectors (COs) filling the open positions. Seeing the mistreatment and poor living conditions in the mental hospitals, the COs began to educate the public about mental illness.
MICHIELLE JONES
Project Advisor: Katherine Tumer
Academic Advisor: Sarah Kennedy
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: How Female Slave Narratives Divulge the Reality of the African-American Woman
Abstract: In the 21st century, neo slave narratives are emerging and shedding light on an American experience that has been ignored for many years. Authors such as Tom Morrison and Alice Walker have worked to provide insight into the lives of black women, continuing a tradition that began centuries ago with the work of female slave narratives. By examining the ways in which literary devices are used in the narratives of Mary Prince, Harriet Jacobs, and Lucy Delaney, all audience members can understand the many ways that African-American women sought to express their plights. While black women are often in bondage, the words of these narratives show that the change to free status has not ended the haunting ordeals that occurred within slavery. Through the continued observation of the narratives of Prince, Jacobs, and Delaney, the negative view of the black woman continues to be combated.
Biography: Michelle Jones, an English major who is minoring in both creative writing and African-American studies, is from Drewindle. Jones would like to further her studies in English and plans on attending graduate school in August of 2013.

BENJAMIN E. LACY
Project Advisor: Lundy Perry
Academic Advisor: Abby Arnold
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Poster
Title: Endocrine-Disrupting Compounds and Intersex in the Red Breasted Squirrelfish, Lepomis auritas
Abstract: Recent studies have shown certain species of fish inhabiting waters with high concentrations of endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs) have increased incidences of testicular oocytes (a form of intersex) among males. The Squirrelfish (Lepomis auritas) is a popular sport fish native to the Eastern United States, yet little previous knowledge exists about testicular oocyte occurrence in them. The goal of this study was to determine if L. auritas forms testicular oocytes (TO) and if so, do they do so at similar rates to previously studied species. Fish were captured from one site along the Shenandoah River and another along the Middle River. Gonads were excised, sectioned, and stained to determine presence of TO. Voyage samples were obtained and estrogenicity was determined by means of a Yeast Estrrogen Screen (YES). We found that L. auritas does form TO (36% of specimens captured) at comparable rates to the common roach (Rutilus rutilus) but are much less sensitive to EDCs than smallmouth bass (Micropterus dolomieu).
Biography: Ben Lacy is a biology major from Charlottesville. He has enjoyed working with the chemistry and biology departments in fulfillment of his senior project. Future plans will hopefully include dental school.

HANNAH LAYNE
Project Advisor: Katherine Tumer
Academic Advisor: Marjon Ward
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: In the speech “Professions for Women” (1931), Virginia Woolf urges women to kill “the angel in the house” — the nineteenth-century stereotype that keeps women from discovering their true identity. This paper explores how “the angel in the house” is depicted in contemporary literature and film, and its relation to feminist writing. Woolf implies that the traditional role of women in the home limits their freedom to explore their potential. In this paper, I discuss the effects of the traditional role on women’s identity and how it affects female identity in contemporary literature and film.
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Biography: Andria Kibler Maxwell is an art history major and Adult Degree Program student from St. Albans, West Virginia. She spent the last two years working as a teaching assistant and studied abroad in Italy last May. This fall, she will enter a graduate program in art history at either Ohio University or Kent State University, with a full scholarship and teaching assistantship.

SHANEQUA MCDOWELL
Project Advisor: Stephanie Adams
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Poster
Title: LL-37 is a small, antimicrobial peptide that is over-expressed in certain tissues in autoimmune diseases such as lupus and psoriasis. The peptide binds to DNA with unknown specificity and facilitates entry into certain cellular compartments. Upon entering the cell, the complex causes an immune response against self-DNA, and as a result the immune system attacks and damages tissue. In our experiments, we used electrophoretic mobility shift assays (EMSA) to better understand how LL-37 binds to DNA. We found that LL-37 bound to different DNA sequences at constant DNA concentrations of 2.5 µM and LL-37 concentrations greater than 10-15 µM. These results suggest that LL-37 binding to DNA may not be highly dependent on DNA sequence.
Biography: Shanequa McDowell is a chemistry major with a strong interest in biochemistry and a minor in Health Care Administration from Stephens City. She worked as an RA on campus for three years. She plans to apply to graduate school in the coming year.

JESSIMOND MCLAUGHLIN
Project Advisor: Allan Moyé
Academic Advisor: Terry Southerington
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Performance or reading
Title: The New Romans
Abstract: July of 1918 marked the end of Imperial rule in Russia with the assassination of the Romanov family in Ekaterinburg. Prophecy by their controversial death, the Romanov family’s downfall remains one of the most fascinating stories in history. The New Romanov, now, the Brancacci Chapel fresco cycle functions as a sermon reminding the viewer of God’s power, while simultaneously providing support for the papacy, Florentine government, and educating the faithful about proper Christian living for the church and followers.
Biography: Andrea Kibler Maxwell is an art history major and Adult Degree Program student from St. Albans, West Virginia. She spent the last two years working as a teaching assistant and studied abroad in Italy last May. This fall, she will enter a graduate program in art history at either Ohio University or Kent State University, with a full scholarship and teaching assistantship.
a project in screenwriting, seeks to examine the family based on primary sources and re-imagine their lives in modern terms. Nick Romanov is the Governor of Texas who thinks he’s hold on his picture-perfect family. He soon comes to realize, however, that things are not what they seem. His life begins to fall apart, and luckily, a documentary film crew is there to catch (almost) every moment.

**Biography:** Jessi McLaughlin is a theatre major from Johnson City, Texas. She has spent most of her life doing theatre and only in the past few years has realized her passion for film. She intends to return to Austin, Texas, to find a job in the theatre or film industry.

**MANDY MILLER**

**Project Advisor:** Nancy Ross  
**Academic Advisor:** Paul Ryan  
**Type of Project:** Senior Project  
**Presentation Category:** Visual or audio-visual creation  
**Title:** Equa Equa Ulisi  
**Abstract:** Inspired by her full-blooded Cherokee great-grandmother, her “Equa Equa Ulisi,” Miller decided to incorporate selected symbols created from Native American tribes into her ceramic senior project. Using her sculptural pieces as a three-dimensional aspect of drawing, Miller made the symbolic language of the Native American culture more universal. Each piece is a representation of a selected symbol of the Native American culture. The individual pieces are covered in harsh textures that reflect the struggles of the Native Americans, and the similar relationship the pieces share illustrate the unity the Nation still has despite its struggles. Equa Equa Ulisi speaks to the transformation of the two-dimensional symbols of the Native American Tribes into three-dimensional sculptural works of art.

**Biography:** Mandy Miller is a studio art major from Purcellville. This past year, she has served as Honor Council Chairwoman of the Student Government Association. She is currently working to become gainfully employed and one day aspire to earn a master’s degree in public policy.

**IAN GREGORY MOWBRAY**

**Project:** Abigail Nightman  
**Academic Advisor:** Abigail Arnold  
**Type of Project:** Senior Project  
**Presentation Category:** Presentation with multi-media support  
**Title:** Shifting Paradigms: Individualism within American Education and Its Effect on the New Group-Centered Movement  
**Abstract:** In this project, I choose to look at individualism within the educational system and how it affects student outlook towards more sociocentric methods of education. To study this, a survey was given to 35 students on the Mary Baldwin College campus and was used to gauge student attitudes towards group work in their high school and college careers. Students overall showed a negative view towards group work in their high school and college careers, despite many claiming to see the positive learning benefits. From their perspective, this was mainly due to their grades relying on other students’ work. When applying this to American culture more broadly, individualism could be so engrained in youth that social issues such as government-funded healthcare may be seen by those entering the adult world as an encroachment on their individual rights. Shifting teaching paradigms towards sociocentric models may produce citizens who are more socially engaged and aware of the class system and inequalities, possibly increasing support of legislation aimed at social change.

**Biography:** Maria Guadalupe Navarro is a chemistry major with a biochemistry emphasis from Manassas. She is the first in her family to graduate from a four-year college.

**MARIA NAVARRO**

**Project and Academic Advisor:** Maria Craig  
**Type of Project:** Senior Project  
**Presentation Category:** Poster  
**Title:** LL-37 and Interactions with CpG DNA  
**Abstract:** LL-37 is an antimicrobial peptide that is a member of the cathelicidin family protein. The interest in this specific protein has grown since scientists realized that improper levels of LL-37 are associated with chronic respiratory diseases and autoimmune diseases such as psoriasis. The experiment involves performing a gel assay in order to determine the strength of binding of LL-37 to certain DNA sequences. Specific amounts of CpG (DNA) and LL-37 were combined and analyzed by gel electrophoresis to determine whether binding occurs. By analyzing these gels with a gel imager, we were able to develop a method in which we saw the correlation between CpG and band density, and were able to confirm that LL-37 binds to CpG DNA. We also investigated self-associations of LL-37 using Western Blotting.

**Biography:** Maria Guadalupe Navarro is a chemistry major with a biochemistry emphasis from Manassas. She is the first in her family to graduate from a four-year college.

Through chemistry, she discovered her passion is working in the laboratory. She plans to fulfill her dream of working in a pharmaceutical company, but in later in life aspire to become a teacher and inspire other students to be as passionate about chemistry as she is.

**CASEY C. NYE**

**Project Advisor:** Jenna Holt  
**Academic Advisor:** Virginia Trovato  
**Type of Project:** Senior Project  
**Presentation Category:** Presentation with multi-media support  
**Title:** The Role of a Damaged Ventromedial Prefrontal Cortex in Moral Judgment: A Critical Literature Review  
**Abstract:** The ventromedial prefrontal cortex (vmPFC) is an area of the brain that is considered a base for emotions, behavior, and particularly decision making. Studies in humans with bilateral damage to this cortex have demonstrated acquired social conduct deficits, such as the inability to respond appropriately to social cues or the environment or failure to obey conventional moral rules. Primarily, though, patients who have had lesions to the vmPFC display dramatic disturbances in personality and possess an overwhelming lack in their character and social awareness. Nye created a critical literature review of articles written by psychologists who conducted experimental studies that were based on finding a selective deficit in personal moral judgment following damage to the vmPFC.

**Biography:** Casey Nye is a January 2013 graduate, earning a bachelor’s degree in psychology with a concentration in criminal justice, from Lexington. She plans to pursue her goal of becoming a forensic psychologist by applying to graduate school in the fall.
strongest for women under forty, which has contributed to the appearance of eating disorders. The Japanese government has passed laws that state that those with a waist measurement exceeding a certain number must receive diet and lifestyle re-education courses. Until education about weight issues is improved in both countries and society moves away from dieting culture, the obesity problem will likely continue to grow.

Biography: Virginia Pope is an Asian studies major from Alexandria. In the fall, she will enter a master’s of public policy program at the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

TARA S. RIGGS
Project Advisor: Daniel Métraux
Academic Advisor: Laura van Assendelft
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Presentation with multimedia support
Title: Requiem for Disaster: Evaluating State Failure in Yemen
Abstract: The study of state failure is critical to the understanding of the contemporary world order. Yemen, the poorest country in the Middle East, seems likely to become the next country to be added to the list of contemporary failed states. Stephen W. Day recently wrote, in a report in Foreign Policy, that intolerance of political and social differences that exist in both the former North and South Yemen will catalyze true state failure. This project combines scholarly definitions of state failure with the creation of an extensive database that captures the realistic problems of state failure that creates for nations. The significance of state failure in Yemen can be derived from many factors and theories, but examining the implications of state failure in Yemen and the rest of the global community leads to the most realistic impact calculus.

Biography: Tara S. Riggs is a double major in political science and economics from Levittown, Pennsylvania. She has interned for Americans for Informed Democracy and the Hudson Institute’s Center for Political Military Analysis. She will serve as a Charles Koch Fellow at the Institute for World Politics after graduation.

ELLEN SCOTT
Project Advisor: Katherine Tumur
Academic Advisor: Sapphire Shastri
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: A Plunge into Madness: Women and the Pressure to Write
Abstract: This senior thesis explores the recently realized concept of the “plunge memoir” using Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s “The Yellow Wallpaper,” Sylvia Plath’s The Bell Jar, and Susana Kaysen’s Girl, Interrupted. The plunge memoir emerges out of a confluence between outside patriarchal influence and an internal pressure to write, creating a formula that yields conflict collapse, and — sometimes — recovery. Based in both feminist and psychoanalytic literary theory, this essay attempts to understand how the mental collapse of each work’s central female character and its causes are represented.

Biography: Elle Scott is an English major and a creative writing minor. She plans to pursue a master’s degree in library science and was recently inducted into Sigma Tau Delta.
Women at Mary Baldwin College. The project was Riley’s senior thesis undertaking. The role of the 91-year-old autocrat was a tremendous challenge physically and emotionally, but ultimately deeply gratifying experience. The play’s journey is one of acceptance and forgiveness.

Biography: Steiner has been a professional actor for 30 years. She played Ophelia in a New York production of Hamlet directed by Sir Anthony Hopkins and has numerous other credits, including television and commercial appearances, voice roles in Disney films, and a season on “General Hospital.” Steiner is now pursuing her MFA in Shakespeare with plans to teach and direct theatre.

KELSEY STILL
Project Advisor: Eileen Hinks
Academic Advisor: Steven Mosher
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: Nursing Home Discharge Rates in Augusta and Rockingham Counties
Abstract: The threat of transfer or discharge from a nursing home can be both frightening and stressful for residents and their families. Too often, a facility may respond to residents’ difficulties, increasing need for care, repeated questions, or complaints from family members by transferring or discharging the resident. The Federal Nursing Home Reform Law of 1987 was enacted to protect residents from unnecessary discharges. However, how have discharge trends changed since 1987? What are the rates of for-profit and nonprofit nursing home discharges in Augusta and Rockingham Counties? The objective of the study was to identify the rates of discharges in nonprofit and for-profit nursing homes in Augusta and Rockingham Counties. The research was conducted by interviewing six social workers in six nursing homes in Augusta and Rockingham Counties. The data reveal that nursing home residents are primarily discharged because the homes are unable to provide adequate care for the resident, and because a resident’s health has improved to the point that he or she no longer needs nursing home care.

Biography: Kelsey Still is a health care administration major from Alderson, West Virginia. She served as the lead advocate on the Executive Committee of the Student Government Association and as the chairwoman of the President’s Society. Next year she plans to enroll in a master’s program for health care management at Virginia Commonwealth University.

SOPHIA STONE
Project and Academic Advisor: Louise Freeman
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Poster
Title: An Investigation of Sexual Differentiation in the Asian Musk Shrew Medial Preoptic Area
Abstract: Sexual behaviors in most mammals are regulated in sexually dimorphic brain centers such as the medial preoptic area (mPOA) in the anterior hypothalamus. The mPOA regulates social behaviors, maternal care and gonadal steroidization to estradiol during the perinatal period masculinizes both adult mounting behavior and the density of dendritic spines in the mPOA via COX-2 upregulation and activation of prostaglandin E2 (PGE2). Aromatization of androgens, however, is less important for brain masculinization in primates or in the Asian musk shrew (Suncus murinus). Instead, androgen receptor activation by testosterone or dihydrotestosterone appears necessary for masculinized sexual behavior. It is currently unknown whether the primate or shrew brain is masculinized via the COX-2-PGE2 axis or by a different mechanism. We investigated mPOA dendritic spine density via western blot analysis of spinophilin, a marker of dendritic spines, and direct quantification of dendritic spines by Golgi-Cox impregnation. A measured sex difference in mPOA dendritic spines will provide an anatomical marker of sexual differentiation in the musk shrew brain for evaluation of COX-2-PGE2 pathway involvement in brain masculinization.

Biography: Sophia Stone is a double major in psychology and biology with a biomedical emphasis from Pacific Palisades, California. Stone will participate in a research program at Oklahoma State University this summer and plans to continue her studies in a graduate program in biological sciences after graduating in 2014.

JANET WEAKLEY
Project Advisor: Louise Freeman
Academic Advisor: Marion Ward
Type of Project: Senior Project
Presentation Category: Delivered paper
Title: A Mock Grant Proposal for Grace House
Abstract: Grace House is a Sober Living House in Shenandoah, Virginia for women in early recovery from alcohol and substance abuse. Research indicates that there is a positive relationship between success in early recovery and residence in sober living houses that encourage 12-Step programs, such as Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous. A critical review of scholarly literature on the effects of sober living houses shows that practices at Grace House are consistent with the most effective methods for maintaining abstinence and personal growth. Grace House is the only sober living house in the area and is currently at capacity with seven residents. With increased funding, Grace House could offer services to more women who need a safe environment to begin their recovery.

Biography: Janet Weakley is a psychology major from Harrisonburg. She works for the Harrisonburg Rockingham Community Services Board as a residential advisor. She is on the board of directors at Grace House, Inc. and is a member of the recovery community.
MAY TERM ABROAD CAPSTONE NOMINEES

The following students were nominated for the Capstone Festival but are unable to participate because they are on study abroad programs during May Term. We include their information here in recognition of their achievement and commitment to international awareness.

LINNEA BARKLUND
Project Advisor: Janna Segal
Academic Advisor: Terry Southernorton
Type of Project: Senior Project
Title: The Maids: A Senior Directing Project
Abstract: Jean Genet’s 1947 play The Maids shows the ritual of two sisters, Claire and Solange, who work as maids in Madame’s home. Their ceremony entails taking on the role of Madame and fantasizing about killing her while fulfilling their own sexual desires. Barklund translated the script into English from the original French and directed the production. This project resulted in a deeper understanding of directing and design methods, specifically for Theatre of the Absurd, the history and theories of French theatre, translation for performance, and écriture féminine.
Biography: Linnea Barklund hails from Idaho Falls, Idaho. She is a theatre major with a minor in women’s studies. Although still working on the chronology of events, Barklund plans to join the Peace Corps, go to graduate school, and pursue a career in acting, directing, and playwriting.

KATRINA BROUGHMAN
Project and Academic Advisor: Daniel Stuhlsatz
Type of Project: Senior Project
Title: Naturally Religious: Exploring Environmentalism as a New Religious Movement
Abstract: Environmentalism in our world today is diverse, international, and a major institution that is shaping social reality in the United States and elsewhere. It is so important in the lives of some individuals and groups that it can have features of a religion. For instance, it is not uncommon for the wilderness, the oceans, a species (e.g., redwood), or a local stand of forest or stretch of desert to be considered “sacred” by a group of people. There are those who would consider the earth itself to be a sacred organism from which all life develops, as in the GAIA hypothesis (see Ruether 1995). The diversity of beliefs about the sacredness of the environment can be embodied in everyday actions, such as sacred rituals, and can form the normative basis of moral communities. To what extent, then, is current American environmentalism a new religious movement? This thesis takes up this question from a sociological perspective.
Biography: Katrina Broughman is a double major in English and sociology with a double minor in education and peacemaking and conflict resolution. She is from Rockbridge County, Virginia (Glasgow and Lexington). After graduation, she plans to student teach and to work as a secondary English teacher for approximately four years and then enter graduate school to study sociology, environmental issues, education, and/or communication, ideally in the western U.S. She would also like to join the Peace Corps and go to law school, as well as to get a Ph.D.

Congratulations to all students participating in the 2013 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 multi-media 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.