

STUDIES OF SELECTIVE CYTOTOXICITY TO EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENTS WITH RAPAMYCIN AND PARTHENOLIDE IN A TRANSFORMED MURINE CELL LINE GC-2SPD CONTAINING A TEMPERATURE-SENSITIVE MUTATION IN THE p53 GENE

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The primary focus of this research study was to evaluate and interpret the cytotoxic effects of the experimental drugs parthenolide and rapamycin on monoalylers and solid tumors in vitro derived from a transformed murine cell line called GC-2Spd that contains a genetically engineered temperature-sensitive mutation in the p53 gene product. About 75% of all human cancers contain a loss or malfunction of the p53 gene product and these cancers tend to be more aggressive, often fatal malignancies, thus evoking a necessary interest in p53. The experimental tool for these research studies was a transformed murine cell line immortalized by transfection with SV40 large T antigen gene and a copy of the p53 gene containing a valine missense mutation rendering it sensitive to inactivation at slightly elevated physiological temperatures. This genetically engineered cell line was used to evaluate responses to the experimental chemotherapeutic drugs rapamycin and parthenolide at temperatures permissive or non-permissive for p53 activity. Parthenolide is anti-inflammatory NF-kB inhibitor derived from the summer daisy feverfew and rapamycin is an antibiotic isolated from a soil microbe.

The research studies presented in this thesis showed that each of these drugs was more active in vitro under conditions in which the p53 gene product is inactive, suggesting that they may exert a selective effect against tumor cells containing dysfunctional p53.

THE SYNTHESIS AND CHARACTERIZATION OF BIS(BENZYL)MALEONITRILE-DITHIOLATE-BASED POLY(CYCLODIBORAZANE) DERIVATIVES

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Boron containing polymers are of significant synthetic interest due to their ease of preparation by the well-known hydroboration polymerization reaction, and

their potential as precursors to electrically conductive polymeric materials. This investigation looks at the hydroboration polymerization of the dicyano compounds bis(benzyl)maleonitriledithiolate ((CN)₂C=C(SCH₂Ph)₂), m-dicyanobenzene, and p-dicyanobenzene with hexylborane (C₆H₁₃BH₂), and the polymers generated therein. This study is motivated by gaps in the current knowledge of the hydroboration of dicyano compounds. Areas of this knowledge gap that were investigated include the physical effects of a sterically hindered hydroboration substrate, the effects of feed ratio variation on molecular weight, and the effects of reaction run-time on molecular weight.

The poly(cyclodiborazane) derivatives generated in this investigation were characterized by ¹H-nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy, infrared (IR) spectroscopy, and gel-permeation chromatography (GPC). All analyses supported the formation of poly(cyclodiborazane) derivatives with reference to known published data. All products exhibited a relatively high degree of oxidative stability and were found to be of considerably higher molecular weight than known published results.

This investigation is part of an ongoing overall research project on the subject of poly(cyclodiborazane) derivatives, and has been treated as such. Future investigation of the products synthesized includes thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), and surface studies by spin-coating and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) that is hoped to greatly elucidate the utility of these materials within conductive applications.

INITIAL STUDIES ON MAGNETITE SYNTHESIS IN MAGNETOSPIRILLUM MAGNETOTACTICUM, STRAIN MS-1

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Many organisms including bacteria, salmon, trout, pigeons, bees, and humans have the ability to precipitate and synthesize the ferromagnetic mineral magnetite (Fe₃O₄). The intracellular chains of magnetite crystals (known as magnetosomes) function as a bar magnet, and are believed to act as a biocompass; aiding in the migratory patterns of the higher organisms. The process of magnetite synthesis is believed to be conserved between species, therefore the bacteria MS-1 are used as a working model. The focus of this research is to study the growth characteristics of MS-1 and test if any homologous sequences exist between the Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar*, and the MS-1 bacteria. This research examines the 1) growth curve of the MS-1 bacteria, 2) causes of deviations between the MS-1 bacterial growth curve and the standard growth curve, and 3) homology between MS-1 genomic DNA and the *Oscp* gene of Atlantic salmon.

Spectroscopic analysis of the MS-1 bacteria indicated that the bacteria grow according to the standard growth curve. In the fall of 2003 research was done on the growth curve using media that contained EDTA. The EDTA proved toxic to the cells and caused an incorrect growth curve. Soap residue on the tubes and the possibility that the bacteria died may have also contributed to the discrepancies between the standard and experimental growth curves.

The genomic DNA isolation of MS-1 bacteria was successful. When PCR was performed, only the plasmid had any result indicating that there were no homologous sequences between the MS-1 bacteria and the Oscp gene for the primers used.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES LONGSTREET: A PRIMARY SOURCE
AND HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THE CONFEDERATE DEFEAT AT GETTYSBURG

By Michael J. Benevento, Jr.

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History has generally held that Confederate General James Longstreet was responsible for losing the battle of Gettysburg. This accusation was first expressed by former Confederate Generals, notably Jubal Early, William Pendleton, and J. William Jones. They accused Longstreet of being insubordinate to Commanding General Robert E. Lee. Subsequently, an overwhelming amount of the historiography declared that Longstreet was completely to blame for the loss, and that he performed poorly during the battle. This widely-held view of Longstreet, however, is not based on the facts of the battle. Examination of the primary sources finds no concrete evidence to suggest that Longstreet did anything but try to accomplish the aims of General Lee. Furthermore, the originators of the accusations against Longstreet had their own, personal, reasons for maligning General Longstreet. A more just, and justifiable, evaluation of the facts absolves James Longstreet. Command decisions of the commanding officer, Lee, led to the loss of Gettysburg, and to the downfall of the Confederacy that followed.

BAMBOO ROCKS: A WINDOW INTO JAMAICAN CULTURE

By Donnette B. Brown

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Bamboo Rocks is an original work showing Jamaican culture through playwriting. The plot revolves around the lives of characters representing Jamaicans who differ in class, economics, and language use. The Jamaican dialect “patois” is included and a glossary is provided for the reader’s understanding of words and phrases.

At the beginning of the play, an original song introduces the community of Bamboo Rocks, the characters, and a brief overview of how characters interact. Three (3) more original songs are included to express emotional states of particular characters within their personal struggles.

I wanted to write Bamboo Rocks as a creative project because I am very proud of my Jamaican culture. Living in the United States, I rarely have the opportunity to use my dialect. For me, Bamboo Rocks provides an opportunity to exhibit and examine my Jamaican culture. For my readers, Bamboo Rocks will provide an introduction to the multi-layered experiences of a rich heritage.

AMERICA’S TRUTH UNTOLD

A Film by Christine Buchbinder

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America’s Truth Untold is a documentary on investigate reporting that answers two questions: What is the reality of investigative journalism and what impact does it have on our news coverage today.

The reality investigative reporters are faced with today is that in-depth and undercover reporting is diminishing. While it is every journalist’s job to serve the public with fair and newsworthy information in agreement with ethical standards, journalists also have the responsibility to report on stories of high public interest even if it demands of them to use unconventional techniques, such as concealing one’s identity in order to get the story. Many prospective in-depth stories however do not make it to the airwaves or press.

Publishers, editors and producers often refrain from airing controversial stories fearing repercussions. Predominantly responsible for this trend are stricter

privacy laws, news media budget cuts and a combination of conflicts of interest through media ownership aiming at regulating the content of news, the threat of lawsuits and potential financial ruin. They add up to a redefinition of news coverage today.

This documentary was shot over a period of 10 months, which produced 16 hours of raw footage. The raw footage was edited on a Sony PCV-RX 560 with the program Vegas 3.0 over 4 months to produce a half-hour documentary.

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES AND OTHER STORIES

By Meghan Chvirko

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Department of English

This body of creative writing centered on loss entwined with humor. The techniques of showing instead of telling, foreshadowing, and character development all contributed to illustrating the varying degrees loss and humor are related. In “The Best Years of Our Lives,” the focus of the narrator, Dixie, is to get revenge on an ex-boyfriend. Although she begins the story sarcastic, it becomes apparent that she is using her humor to mask deeper feelings of loss and remorse. Once she begins to engage with these emotions, her sarcastic tone melts away and she confronts the past face to face, finding the strength to move on. In the second story, “Snap Shot Before Prom,” a teenage girl, Amy, finds herself in a questionable situation with a young teacher. Things do not go as Amy had planned and as she loses her fantasy, she uses humor to separate herself from her teacher. By being caustic and witty she is able to keep him at a distance instead of allowing him the closeness he desires. The final story, “Bone Diggers,” deals with a great deal of loss. Richard is an elderly man struggling through life without his wife. An old friend of his wife’s named Ruth runs into him at the supermarket and calls into question how well he knew his wife. Unlike the other two stories with women hiding behind humor, in “Bone Diggers,” Ruth’s ability to joke allows her a certain amount of emotional freedom and truth that Richard’s cold, closed off demeanor denies him. In the end, no matter what the outcome, each character in each story was forced to face their losses, thereby achieving the main objective of the work.

THE ROLE OF POETRY IN ADOLESCENTS' IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT

By Katie E. Deegan

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Poetry is presently undergoing a renaissance in American society. University fine arts programs, workshops offered by arts councils, local and national poetry slams, readings sponsored by arts festivals and abundant poetry lessons and units accessible to educators, demonstrate poetry's increased popularity. The amount of poetry resources is likely to cause educators to question which to use in the classroom. Adolescents, specifically seventh and eighth graders overwhelmingly lack a positive self-identity. Poetry reading and writing lessons have the ability to foster identity-achievement by encouraging self-exploration – a phase known as moratorium. Ten units are reviewed according to five criteria to determine which are most beneficial to the development of positive identity development in seventh and eighth grade students. The purpose of this study is to provide classroom teachers with a resource to nurture the psychological, intellectual, and developmental needs of adolescents.

CULTURAL VALUES AND BRAND RESONANCE: A STUDY OF HIP-HOP CULTURE

By Meaghan Dorman

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This study investigated the Hip-Hop subculture in America, specifically concentrating on the values of the culture and the influence of the values on consumer behavior within the culture. The concept of brand resonance was examined, with the goal of determining how recognition of and maintaining the values of Hip-Hop culture by a brand effected its achievement of brand resonance. Study findings established that when a brand held the same values as the Hip-Hop culture, it achieved brand resonance, the most significant relationship a consumer can develop with a brand. A case study of the urban apparel company Rocawear was completed through first hand experience during an internship held by the author. This case study is used as an illustration and evidence of the study findings. Ethnographic research using key informants that identified themselves as part of Hip-Hop culture and

worked at Rocawear was done; as well as archival research to investigate the history of the Hip-Hop culture and the concept of brand resonance. The study contains original theories regarding the resonant relationship Hip-Hop culture has formed with Rocawear, as well as the future of this American subculture. The study was limited by the use of a single company as a case study and the lack of breadth of research and literature pertaining to the Hip-Hop subculture.

A HANDFUL OF MUD

By Joshua M. Gister

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Department of English

This collection of short fiction and poetry was compiled over the course of two years. Each piece has been through multiple revisions, usually following an in-class workshop. The short stories describe a central character attempting to come to grips with a particular set of life's difficulties, exploring and discovering as they move along. Using a similar speaker in each poem, the poetry (with the exception of "Repression," an extended metaphor piece) describes emotional upheaval and revelation. The theme that ties each of the poems and stories together is one of self-discovery and exploration of what it means to live in a world like the one today.

A brief description of the short stories follows:

"Fish Without a Bicycle" – The narrator discovers an unconscious girl in the bathroom of his friend's house during a party. The events that follow test his principles and definition of responsibility.

"Beginning" – An insomniac writer and college student searches for inspiration at a diner beneath his apartment. A waitress breaches the gap between him, his work and maybe more.

"Grow" – A young American boy living in England finds himself ostracized and bullied by his xenophobic classmates. This day it has become too much and he must do something.

"Play Place" – Fear of being vulnerable has created a shell around the narrator, yet he longs for some kind of connection after he loses his job and must move in with his brother, hundreds of miles away. A snow storm and an attractive girl on the Greyhound to his brother's puts him in a position he has tried to avoid.

Rather than the wide focus of the short stories, the poetry in the collection focuses on specific events in the emotional growth of the speaker or describing the difficult and complex feelings aroused by relationships. Each piece has been revised multiple times and evolved significantly since earlier drafts.

THE PERPETUAL MASQUERADE: MARRIAGE, SEXUALITY, AND
SUICIDE IN *MADAME BOVARY*

By Melissa A. Grosso

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In *The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir claims that for the bourgeoisie, marriage offers the female not the hope of love, but the promise of contentment, or more specifically, “the ideal of quiet equilibrium in a life of immanence and repetition” (470), when feelings become disguised under the descriptor of “happiness.” Given the reality of Emma Bovary’s discontent and her unwillingness to conform to the pressures of bourgeois society and marriage, Emma, in an attempt to find her own definition of happiness, becomes judged as a negative example of the willful woman. In fact, readers may be encouraged to view her sexual needs in particular as perverse and her subsequent suicide as just punishment for the misdeeds she commits against the idea of the family and her duties as a wife. Of particular interest for this research paper is the interconnectedness of the limits of a romance vocabulary and the rigid social standards as they affect Emma’s search for her sexual identity and how they affect the readers and the townspeople’s judgment of her suicide. This project will reexamine the ways in which female sexuality is socially determined and will show that even her suicide fails to awaken Emma’s society to the source of her troubles.

FUN AND FRENCH: CREATING A STANDARD-BASED INTRODUCTORY
CURRICULUM FOR THIRD GRADE, INSPIRED BY THE UNIQUE
APPROACH OF CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES

By Katherine Hannes

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This project presents a curriculum for one year of introductory French education at an elementary (third grade) level. The number of lesson plans included should suffice for a French class meeting ninety minutes a week, specifically broken down into two forty-five minute classes (this calculation is based on the 2003-2004 New Haven Public Schools calendar). The program is aimed at meeting national and state standards, using techniques inspired by the unique approach of the Concordia Language Villages program to reach this goal. The emphasis is on oral/aural learning

of language, and also on incorporating cultural themes and themes derived from topics typically studied in other elementary subjects. As an introductory curriculum, it is designed to expose children to the French language through immersion, and to move from a focus on language instruction to cultural exploration as the year progresses. The use of immersion is intended to increase the children's comfort with the language, as well as their comprehension. It is designed to be a building block for subsequent French classes, with the goal that their experience in this class will equip them for more complicated study and output.

*PURPLE MONKEY DISWASHER: BROADSWORD POETRY AND
BATTLEAXE FICTION*

By Michael R. Hemenway

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Department of English

This thesis consists of a compilation of poetry, music, and short fiction fashioned over the past three years. The written material was written for creative writing classes, and critiqued in multiple in-class workshops. The musical portions of the thesis are projects recorded and put together at home, with additional musicians. Each story and poem marks a solitary moment or moments in time. The stories draw pictures of characters in primarily uncomfortable situations, some certainly more awkward than others, but at the same time strangely calm. They are all connected by an evolving first person narrator with a voice that becomes clearer, as well as smarter during the time period during which the stories are set.

“The Baker Story” is a tale of two friends on a frustrating search for psychotropic substances which later goes horribly awry when they realize they have stumbled into the clutches of a small town family's Thanksgiving celebration.

“The Peg” is an inebriated adventure on the highway. The narrator in this piece struggles with his own emotions and morals while trying to understand his friend's apathetic reaction to a grisly car accident involving a neighborhood woman.

“A Cone with Two Scoops” is a story of utter embarrassment in the presence of a member of the opposite sex.

“The Amazing Box Wine Trick” is a dream piece where sexual relations develop between college friends during a pizza and movie. This first person narrator has just separated from a female friend and is trying to move on. The sexual situations in this story are purely accidental.

The poetry compiled for this thesis does many of the same things accomplished in the pieces of fiction. However, the poetry uses different voices and points of view. It is more focused on narrating specific segments of life. A number

of the poems have gone through multiple drafts. Over time, the poems have evolved, both from revision and the strengthening of narrative craft through writing fiction.

Barstow and bludrum are both musical projects that are done at home, with friends.

HOMELESSNESS IN NEW HAVEN: A REFLECTION OF THE NATIONAL PROBLEM AND ITS COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS

By Robin Hodges

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Homelessness is a widespread problem that continues to grow across the United States. The incidence of homelessness in New Haven, Connecticut reflects the extent of the problem on the national level. The major cause of homelessness has shifted from mental illness and substance abuse to family poverty coupled with the decline in public assistance and the lack of affordable housing. In order to end homelessness for people who experience it now, because of a mental illness or substance abuse, more supportive housing programs should be funded by the federal government. These programs should provide a comprehensive treatment for people while they transition back to permanent housing. In order to prevent homelessness for the many families who are living on the brink of becoming homeless, more affordable housing units should be built in order to ensure that these low-wage workers can afford a place to live. These solutions have been proven to work and are more cost effective than the current ways the problem is being addressed.

REPRESSION UNDER THE BOLSHEVIK REGIME DURING THE CIVIL WAR: AN ANALYSIS OF LENINIST IDEOLOGY AND PRACTICE

By Naveen Jaganathan

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Russian civil war historiography has been driven by two methodological approaches. One school of historians has concluded that Bolshevik actions during the civil war were a direct result of Leninist ideology—rejection of liberal democracy,

and support for revolutionary change. Most historians, however, have argued that social circumstances dictated Bolshevik action, albeit the latter was also influenced by ideology. In this thesis I have reviewed the debate on the Russian civil war by analyzing three specific acts of repression under the Bolshevik regime.

First, I analyze the Bolshevik dissolution of the Constituent Assembly. I argue that the Bolshevik had a democratic mandate from the soviets to disperse the Assembly and wanted to destroy an institution that posed a challenge to soviet power. Although this action was partly driven by Bolshevik aversion to parliamentary democracy the Bolshevik action was driven by the resolve to defend the soviet state, which, I argue, was more democratic in nature than the Assembly.

Second, I analyze the Red Terror, with paying special attention to the Cheka, or secret-police, and grain requisitioning. I argue that the Cheka was formed as an emergency response to the counter-revolution and was disbanded when its usefulness had come to an end. I argue that grain requisitioning was a policy that the Bolsheviks adopted in order to provide food to the population under conditions of famine and economic devastation. I argue that grain requisitioning fractured the relationship between the peasantry and the working class, a process that went contrary to the Bolshevik ideological position, which stressed the importance of the alliance between the classes. I also frame the issue of the Red Terror in the context of White Terror, to which the Bolsheviks were responding.

Finally, I analyze the Bolshevik repression of the Green uprising, the Makhno movement, and the Kronstadt sailors' rebellion. I argue that these revolts did not represent a "Left" or "libertarian" alternative to Bolshevism, but were born out of the fractured relationship between the peasantry and the working class. I also argue that the Bolsheviks repressed these revolts out of fear of a White victory.

In conclusion, the Bolshevik actions during the civil war were driven in part by their ideological persuasion for soviet democracy and the rule of working class. However, the Bolsheviks were pushed to repressive acts by the conditions of the civil war: White Terror, economic devastation, the demoralization of the peasantry, and the failure of international revolutions. Acting under desperate conditions the Bolsheviks attempted to preserve the new founded socialist state.

FREEDOM IS FREEDOM: LANGUAGE, RESISTANCE, AND THE CONTINUING RELEVANCE OF GEORGE ORWELL'S *1984*

By Meredith Kalman

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Orwell's *1984*, published in 1949 at the start of the Cold War, is a parable of a failed revolution, a tragic tale that betrays Orwell's pessimism regarding the

possibility for resistance. While 1984 has never gone out of print or dropped entirely from critical sight, during the half century following the novel's original publication, there have been three key periods in which Orwell and his writings have become subjects of intense and protracted political reflection. Although in the last half century academics and politicians alike have repeatedly reminded us of the concept of Big Brother, it was during Joseph McCarthy's 1950s, Ronald Reagan's and Margaret Thatcher's 1980s, and the post-September 11th era of George W. Bush that Orwell's name, ideas, and texts have proved most useful to parties of opposing political viewpoints. A close examination of the thematic relationship between state power and language will demonstrate why 1984 has been an effective metonymic rallying cry for so many different political persuasions over the years. But by tracing the novel's exploration of emotions like sorrow and love and their expression in a world of Newspeak and Doublethink, 1984 continues to hold power for the left. Linking Newspeak and doublethink to contemporary manipulation of language and media allows us to see why these concepts are useful once again.

THE EFFECTS OF RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION AND STRENGTH OF RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION ON HAPPINESS AND PERSONAL WELLNESS

By Justin Kendrick

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This study investigated the differences between those who report no religious affiliation and those who report a religious affiliation on their level of overall wellness. It also examined the differences in the respondents overall wellness by strength of religious affiliation. The study is a secondary analysis of data gathered by the General Social Survey (GSS) in 1998. There were 2,832 respondents. Three variables were extracted from the GSS to act as dependant variables. The variables dealt with the respondents overall happiness, marital happiness (if married), and forgiving those who have hurt them. Two questions were then used as independent variables. The first asked the respondents religious affiliation and the second asked for the respondents strength of religious affiliation. These variables were extracted from the GSS and moved into SPSS 10.0 for Windows. The results from this study demonstrated significant differences in wellness between those who reported a religious affiliation and those who reported no affiliation. Those who reported religious affiliation reported higher levels of wellness than those with no affiliation. The study also found that those with a strong religious affiliation were more likely to report higher levels of wellness than those who had a somewhat/not very strong affiliation or no affiliation. The results bring further understanding of the relationship between religiosity and wellness. The study was limited by the questions asked in the

GSS. It was also limited as a secondary analysis of a self-reporting survey to the honesty and perspective of the respondent. Further studies should continue to investigate the very broad issue of wellness and how it relates to religiosity.

SINGULAR AND COMBINED EFFECTS OF THE ANTI-ESTROGEN
TAMOXIFEN, THE ISOFLAVONE GENISTEIN, AND THE NUCLEAR
FACTOR KAPPA B (NF- κ B) INHIBITOR PARTHENOLIDE IN THE
TREATMENT OF THE ESTROGEN RECEPTOR POSITIVE PRIMARY
BREAST CARCINOMA CELL LINE MCF-7

By Martha Maylen Kraak

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Alarming statistics and poor prospects have made breast cancer one of the priorities of ongoing international research. During this investigation, the responses of MCF-7 breast cancer cells grown in vitro as multicellular tumor spheroids to several agents were analyzed as part of the experimental pre-clinical studies currently going on in the SCSU cancer research laboratory.

The effects of the anti-estrogen tamoxifen, used for more than 20 years as adjuvant therapy in breast cancer treatment, were analyzed individually and in combination with the phytoestrogen genistein and the novel NF- κ B inhibitor Parthenolide. The latter anti-inflammatory herbal product was also evaluated individually and in combination with the isoflavone genistein and the conventional chemotherapeutic drug Taxol (paclitaxel). These singular and combined treatment approaches were performed under conditions of high versus low levels of B-estradiol in order to explore the role of the hormone on the cell responses to the drugs.

LEARNING DISABILITIES IN CONNECTICUT: AN INVESTIGATION OF
IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA USED TO DIAGNOSE LEARNING
DISABILITIES IN NEW HAVEN COUNTY

By Stefanie L. Lockwood

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This study examined the types of tests that school psychologists in school districts across lower New Haven County use to identify learning disabilities and whether the types of tests are related to the number of students identified in each school district as learning disabled. The basis for this study stems from arguments by research experts that misdiagnosis of learning disabilities in part may be due to the use of inadequate tests. The participants were 13 of 165 school psychologists in lower New Haven County who responded to a mail survey which asked about the types of testing they use as part of the learning disability identification criteria, the types of training they have completed, and how many students met the eligibility requirements for learning disabilities in their school district. Examination of the data showed that most, if not all, school psychologists are using IQ and achievement tests that have sound psychometric properties. In addition, no differences were found between the SES level of the district in terms of test choice or in years of experience of the school psychologists. These results suggest that misdiagnosis due to inadequate tests may not be the case at the present time. The small sample size precludes any generalization to all practices within the State of Connecticut or even New Haven County. Thus, further research is recommended with a larger sample in order to determine whether the choice of tests continues to be a problem in the diagnosis of learning disabilities.

PROGRAM ASSESSABILITY: THE SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING AND
LEARNING

By Brenna M. Long

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This study analyzed thirty-eight course syllabi representative of the 2002-2003 undergraduate sociology program at Southern Connecticut State University. The purpose of the study was to identify the assessability of the sociology program. Program assessability was defined as the identification of cognitive behaviors in the

description of course goals, objectives, and/or student learning outcomes listed on course syllabi. All specified behaviors were classified into one of Benjamin Bloom's six cognitive learning categories. The findings suggest that the 2002-2003 sociology program was partially assessable based on the finding that 60% of the syllabi had a specification of a goal(s), an objective(s), or a student learning outcome(s). The behaviors that were specified in a goal(s), an objective(s), or a student learning outcome(s) statement(s) were not evenly distributed among the six cognitive learning levels, nor among the four course levels, nor among full-time and adjunct faculty. In addition, the findings revealed an uneven distribution of courses among the four undergraduate course levels, and among full-time and adjunct faculty. The data from this study are based on the 2002-2003 sociology program. Since this study, revisions were made in the sociology program. The revisions limit the generalizations that can be made about the program. Future research analyzing the current sociology program may produce significantly different results.

HEAVY VELVET COLLECTED STORIES AND POEMS

By Katie Matican

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Department of English

This collection is a grouping of short stories and poetry written over the past three years. Each piece has been workshopped and put through at least two revisions. The collection links a set of characters over a period of more than six years. The growth of the two main characters and their four friends is revealed through the six stories and five poems which are arranged out of chronological sequence. Because of the six year span of time, each piece uses the opportunity to show how the characters cope with various issues at different ages. The pieces deal with subjects such as drug use, tests of friendship, family troubles, and the end of college life. Different technical and stylistic choices have been made in order to make each story its own piece and to develop the characters in different ways. Two of the stories are told from the third person point of view. The other four stories are written in first person as are all five poems. One story makes use of and concentrates on dialogue to reveal character while two others have almost no dialogue and rely on the narrator's thoughts and physical sensations. As a whole, this collection tracks the lives of these individuals and explores the changes and hardships throughout these years of their lives.

THE SUMMER READING PHENOMENON: AN EXAMINATION OF SUMMER LIBRARY READING PROGRAMS AND THEIR LINK TO READING IN SCHOOLS

By Elizabeth McKenna

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Reading programs at public libraries are among the most popular summer activities for school-aged children. These programs keep children motivated to continue their learning during the summer months. Public libraries play a major role in children's education during summer vacation. An article in the Sept. 14, 2003, edition of the *New Haven Register* focused on the question of why so many children turn to the public libraries to extend their learning when they are on break from school. The purpose of the current study was to extend the research done in the newspaper article by examining its accuracy and to also discover if there is a relationship between the libraries and the public schools to encourage summer reading. The significance of this investigation was to explore the role of summer reading in its encouragement of continued growth in students' reading abilities and their overall desire for literature.

The data used in this study was obtained through two questionnaires. The first questionnaire was a series of questions designed for discussion with the children's librarians. The questions in this list focused on the apparent increase in summer reading participation. The second questionnaire was a set of questions intended for the school representatives. These questions were centered on what the teachers and the schools have done to promote the apparent increase in readership.

The researcher visited eight New Haven area libraries to explore the questions raised by the *Register* article. The major similarity among all eight librarians was the presence of a strong, exciting, organized focus for each summer program. The second similarity was the strength of the relationship between the public library and the school system in that town. The strength of the summer library reading programs and their continued success is due to the organized focus of each summer program, the collaboration between the libraries and school systems, the types of rewards included in the programs, and the ways the libraries advertise to and motivate their participants. Future research may also examine how even larger numbers of children can be involved in library programs so that one day, reading might be considered as exciting as sports or even summer camp. Until then, the implications of this study are that a steady number of children feel that children's libraries are an exciting place to be during the summer and not just some short-lived trend: Summer library reading programs are here to stay.

*BEMERKUNGEN ZU KUNST-PLASTIK-RAUM: AN ORIGINAL
TRANSLATION AND CRITICAL ESSAY*

By Jedidiah J. Mohring

Thesis Advisor: Dr. David Pettigrew

Department of Philosophy

My Honors Thesis consists of an original translation into English of an essay by Martin Heidegger entitled *Remarks on Art-Sculpture-Space (Bemerkungen zu Kunst-Plastik-Raum)*, and my own critical essay that accompanies the translation. The essay that I translated is the text of an address given by Heidegger at the opening of the Bernhard Heiliger sculpture exhibit on October 3, 1964, at the Erker-Gallerie in St. Gallen, Switzerland. In his essay, Heidegger reiterates his thinking with respect to art as truth (or unconcealment), and he further develops this thinking as it relates to sculpture and space. To the best of my knowledge, this essay was never previously translated. In my critical essay I engage in a philosophical meditation on the crucial relation between art, space, and truth in Heidegger's essay. In my translation and in my critical essay, I identify and discuss a number of the key terms to be translated in Heidegger's work, and I explore the meaning of these terms within the context of that specific work, and without.

USING THE IMPLICIT ASSOCIATION TEST TO MEASURE BIASES FOR
ACCENTED SPEECH

By Megan Mohring

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Lawrence Brancazio

Honors College and Department of Psychology

The present study investigated the use of the computerized Implicit Association Test (IAT) to study implicit bias towards foreign accented speech. Undergraduates provided implicit (IAT) and explicit (bipolar scale and feeling thermometers) measures of attitudes towards Jamaican accented speech and Jamaicans. In the IAT, participants were first presented with words printed on the computer monitor, and decided if the word had a pleasant or unpleasant meaning. Participants were then presented with Jamaican or American accented spoken words and decided if the word was foreign or local accented. Foreign and local accented speech was then categorized in combination with unpleasant and pleasant attributes, respectively, and then with pleasant and unpleasant attributes, respectively. Participants' mean response times were significantly longer when categorizing

foreign accented words with pleasant attributes than when they categorized local accented words with pleasant attributes. Participants also completed two explicit measures: 7-point bipolar trait scales assessing several characteristics of a foreign accented speaker and a local accented speaker and feeling thermometers assessing warm (positive) or cold (negative) feelings towards five ethnic groups including Jamaicans and Americans. The explicit measures also yielded more negative ratings of foreign accented speech and Jamaicans. However, these measures were not correlated with the implicit measure, the IAT. Therefore, the IAT provided insight into bias towards foreign accented speech that the explicit measures did not; these biases may be unconscious or purposefully disavowed on explicit measures. Thus, the results support the value of the IAT in language research.

EVE'S CREATION OF DISSONANCE IN *PARADISE LOST*

By George Moore

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Steven Larocco

Honors College and Department of English

The Garden of Eden described by John Milton in *Paradise Lost* is far from paradise when gender-based inequities between Adam and Eve are considered. As in most versions of the Adam and Eve story, Milton's Eve is created by God as subordinate to Adam. Yet *Paradise Lost* is an interesting work because Eve, though created to be subordinate, exhibits a tremendous degree of autonomy and creativity. This essay explores the ways in which Milton's Eve exhibits a dissonant autonomy in relation to the oppressive, hegemonic elements of the male-dominated world around her. While Adam is commonly deemed Eve's leader by the poem, Eve's creative energies often surpass his comprehension and control because they are not done in the name of piety. It is due to Eve's ability to create spaces and behaviors for herself outside the realm of worship to God that she becomes an independent and often troublesome character to the dominant forces of Milton's paradise.

PAINTERS OF MODERN LIFE: BAUDELAIRE, CARICATURE AND MODERN ART

By Elise Marie Nacca

Thesis Sponsor: Dr. Joseph Inguanti

Honors College and Department of Art History

This study explores the similarities between Charles Baudelaire's seminal 1863 essay, *Le peintre de la vie moderne* and his earlier essays on caricature. Traditionally, art historians regard Baudelaire's essay as being anticipatory of Impressionism and other burgeoning artistic trends of the late nineteenth century. A thoughtful analysis of the essay reveals, however, that Baudelaire was most preoccupied with the role played by the graphic arts, specifically caricature, in the formation of modern artistic movements. The graphic works discussed in these essays include those of Constantin Guys, Honore Daumier, William Hogarth, and Francisco Goya. To incorporate Baudelaire's ideas into contemporary art theory, the works of important twentieth century art historians such as E.H. Gombrich and Arthur C. Danto are discussed. The study concludes with a brief investigation into caricature's significance to the narrative of art history and contemporary art in general.

IMPERATOR: THE STUDY OF A PARALLEL PROGRESSION TO DICTATORSHIP IN ANCIENT ROME AND THE UNITED STATES

By James M. O'Brien

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Alan Friedlander

Department of History

The rise and fall of the ancient Roman Republic and the rise and evolution, to this moment, of the United States' republic present a striking historical parallel. As Rome's territorial empire expanded its Republic foundered. As America's territorial empire and global hegemony have risen its republican institutions have strained and weakened. A dictatorship replaced Rome's Republic. The preconditions for such an event are already present in the United States. Is republican government compatible with empire? The parallel between Rome and the United States suggests that it is not. The social forces and political imperatives that undermined the greatest imperial republic of antiquity appear equally to threaten the surviving superpower-republic of the modern world.

WAGING NONMILITARY PREEMPTIVE WAR: TERRORISM
RECRUITMENT POOLS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND PLACING
WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE
WAR ON TERRORISM

By James M. O'Brien

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Patricia Olney

Department of Political Science

The purpose of this thesis was twofold. First, it studied the relationship between the demographic crisis in Africa and the spread of Wahhabism, on the one hand, and the propensity for impoverished young men to join groups using terrorist tactics, on the other. Second, it explored the possibility of promoting humanitarian goals in Africa, specifically the establishment of women's reproductive health clinics in Sub-Saharan Africa to combat the spread of AIDS, as part of a U.S. national security strategy aimed at combating terrorism. This study examined the following: Can the humanitarian goal of combating the spread of HIV-AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa through the promotion of women's reproductive rights serve the realist national security goal of combating terrorism? It was the purpose of this paper to examine non-military solutions as a way to stem the motivation of disaffected persons to join terrorist groups.

What this thesis concluded was that a relationship does exist between poverty, collective violence and HIV-AIDS. This study also found that Wahhabi clerics are rapidly exploiting current demographic and socioeconomic conditions by opening madrasas in the areas most affected by HIV-AIDS. These madrasas are spreading anti-Western ideology that contributes to terrorism into areas with populations already prone to engage in collective violence. In examining ways to curtail this trend, this thesis established that HIV-AIDS as a causal agent of poverty can be reduced by women's reproductive health clinics, thus reducing poverty. This study concluded that, based on the comparative example of other areas prone to terrorist recruitment (the presence of Wahhabi madrasas, extreme poverty, and the prevalence of socially accepted collective violence) Sub-Saharan Africa fits the profile of a terrorist recruitment pool and should not be ignored. However, due to the fact that the policy prescription of establishing women's reproductive health clinics has not been implemented as a national security policy, it is impossible to determine whether or not such a policy can work. Therefore, this thesis ended inconclusive as a result of a lack of verifiable, comparative data.

The significance of this thesis was that it is the first study in the International Relations literature to link the humanitarian notion of implementing gender, specifically women's reproductive rights, to the security objectives of the United States that are currently defined in realist terms that preclude moral considerations.

2:26 AM: STORIES & POEMS

By Dan Paradis

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jeff Mock

Department of English

The stories and poems in this collection represent work accomplished over the past few years. Most pieces were completed in creative writing workshops at Southern Connecticut State University. When I set out to complete a thesis, my idea was merely to collect the best of my work into one volume, a culmination of three years of work. However, as I began to put the pieces together, I realized a reoccurring theme throughout. The four stories, “2:26am,” “Chess,” “Fake Light,” and “A Light Rain,” all feature the characters, Cameron and Kelly. Throughout the stories, Cameron’s relationship with Kelly is subtly played out. While the relationship is never the main plot, it is always behind the scenes, giving the reader more and more insight into who these characters are as the stories play out. While the first three stories were all written for workshop classes, “A Light Rain” is a new story created for this thesis. The first three stories have Kelly as a bit part, only mentioned and never seen. For the purposes of this collection, I found it necessary to finally include Kelly as a person rather than just have her mentioned by the narrator or characters. Even so, Kelly does not show up until the end of the story, which features a moment with Cameron and Kelly together, unsure of what will happen but happy for the moment.

The poems are more personal, based more on reality, but still focus strongly on relationships. While the stories appear in the order in which they were written, the poems’ order reflect more on the ups and downs of the relationship, playing off the stories they appear near. The poems focus more on emotion than moments. While most poems, especially the newer ones, are set in a specific place and time, the setting works to display emotion rather than resolve some conflict. The final piece in the collection, “For Kiersten,” inspired by Raymond Carver’s poem, “For Tess,” tells the story of a broken relationship coming together again. Like the final story, “For Kiersten” ends uncertainly, but in a scene that finds the characters happy for at least that moment.

Together, the stories and poems in this collection combine emotion and conflict, character and plot, to portray the story of two shared lives.

IS SENSATION SEEKING NEGATIVELY CORRELATED WITH ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE?

By Justine M. Pronto-Hicks

Thesis Advisor: Dr. William J. Hauselt

Department of Psychology

Sensation seeking is the need for novel, varied, intense sensations and experiences and a willingness to take risks to achieve those sensations and experiences. This concept is measured by the Sensation Seeking Scale (Form V), a survey inquiring about interests and preferences regarding sensation-seeking behavior. The Sensation Seeking Scale (Form V) contains four subscales: the Thrill and Adventure Seeking Scale, The Experience Seeking Scale, the Disinhibition Scale, and the Boredom Susceptibility Scale. Research suggests that sensation-seeking behavior is positively correlated with a number of behaviors including drug use, reckless driving, and unprotected sex. Sensation-seeking behavior has also been correlated with achievement motivation and those that engage in sensation-seeking behavior have been found to share characteristics with those who have high achievement motivation. The literature is inconsistent, however, regarding the relationship between sensation-seeking behavior and academic characteristics such as achievement. The purpose of this study is to further examine the relationship between sensation seeking behavior and academic characteristics. The Sensation Seeking Scale (Form V) was correlated with academic performance (measured by self-reported GPA), academic anxiety (measured by the Academic Anxiety Test), and academic locus of control (measured by the Academic Locus of Control Scale). Seventy-One Psychology 100 Subject Pool volunteers completed each of the four surveys, given in counterbalanced order. Participants were identified by a numeric code; no names were given. All surveys were analyzed using SPSS to calculate Pearson's and Spearman's correlation coefficients. There was an inverse correlation between the Disinhibition subscale and GPA indicating that participants who are outgoing in social and sexual situations have poor academic performance. Additionally, the Experience Seeking subscale was negatively correlated with Facilitating Anxiety meaning that participants who tend to seek mental and physical experiences find academic anxiety to be helpful in test and examination situations. Finally, the Boredom Susceptibility subscale was positively correlated with academic locus of control signifying that participants who are more prone to boredom also have external loci of control academically. These findings are limited, however, by the small sample size of mostly freshman who gave self-reported GPAs. In the future, more upperclass students should be considered and perhaps their GPAs should be taken from the college database.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE LITERATURE CIRCLE APPROACH WITH
RESPECT TO CLASSROOM ATMOSPHERE, TEACHING STYLE,
LITERACY SKILL DEVELOPMENT, AND STUDENTS' ATTITUDES
TOWARDS READING

By Alicia Rascati

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Cheryl Dickinson

Honors College and Department of Education

This study analyzes the effectiveness of the literature circle reading approach in relation to: (1) literacy skill development, (2) students' attitudes and perceptions about reading, (3) teaching style, and (4) classroom atmosphere. The subjects include a fifth grade teacher who used the literature circle approach to teach reading to the class of 26 students. In relation to each of the above topics, the results of this study are as follows:

Students demonstrate positive attitudes and perceptions toward reading.

The teacher's teaching style indicates careful scaffolding and modeling to clarify all aspects of the literature circle process and literacy skills.

The classroom atmosphere in a literature circle approach provides a predictable framework with a theory basis that promotes higher-level thinking.

The literature circle approach appears to result in a wide range of sophisticated literacy skills. However, results are inconclusive since standardized test results, namely the Connecticut Mastery Test are not yet available.

A GRANT PROPOSAL FOR ENHANCING LEARNING OF THE
INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED THROUGH THE MEDIA BROADCASTING
AND JOURNALISM CURRICULUM

By Monica Sardana

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Deborah T. Kraemer

Department of Psychology

This grant proposal is an attempt to obtain funding to introduce a Broadcasting and Journalism course for intellectually disabled adults at a special education facility, Chapel Haven. The proposal will be submitted to the office of Special Education and Rehabilitation for the State of Connecticut. This office specializes in providing funding to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

Research shows that intellectually disabled individuals have difficulty in functional academics as well as in social and interpersonal skills. This Broadcasting and Journalism curriculum offers an innovative interactive method that will motivate these individuals in strengthening their academic and interpersonal skills.

This course will be of one-year duration and sixteen participants will be chosen for the program. The course will consist of 14 lesson plans that utilize classroom study and on-the-job training. Students will learn to plan, create, write, and shoot their own television broadcasts. They will be given the opportunity to air three broadcasts on a local public access television station (Citizen Television). The students will be evaluated after each lesson plan and at the end of the course. The final evaluation will be based upon three criteria—1) scores post test vs. pre test 2) blind study and 3) Classroom observation by third party.

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to have more self-confidence and a variety of marketable job skills. This will allow them to make a positive contribution to society.

TESTING PREDICTIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS IN DISORDERED SLEEP IN A COLLEGE SAMPLE

By Joseph R. Sastre

Thesis Advisor: Dr. John Jacobs

Department of Psychology

The study tested a number of demographic and psychological factors as predictors of disordered sleep. The factors the current study examined were gender, ethnicity, anxiety, depression, alcohol use, drug use, and locus of control; all have previously been found to have correlative interactions with disordered sleep. 116 students enrolled in introductory psychology courses at Southern Connecticut State University participated voluntarily in the study by completing a battery of self-report questionnaires. 29 males and 81 females participated in the study. The battery of questionnaires was an 11 page packet compiled by the researcher but consisting of questionnaires previously designed and tested on similar populations to that of the current study. Each of the questionnaires in the battery has shown to have high validity and is referenced in major professional publications. The highest correlation was between disordered sleep and anxiety, but no factor tested was found to be significantly related to disordered sleep in the sample population. An implication of the current study is that the etiology of disordered sleep in a college population may be unique from that of disordered sleep in the general population.

A PROGRAM TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF MEDICARE BENEFITS AND BILLING PROCEDURES AMONG WALLINGFORD, CONNECTICUT, SENIORS

By Katie L. Simon

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Sandra Bulmer

Honors College and Department of Public Health

There are a large number of seniors living in Wallingford, Connecticut, many of whom rely on Medicare services. Many seniors are experiencing difficulties in understanding their Medicare benefits and billing procedures. The researcher used the PRECEDE-PROCEED model (Green & Krueger, 2002) to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of healthcare-specific needs. Social diagnosis revealed that Wallingford seniors found Medicare information to be long and complicated. Epidemiological diagnosis showed that a significant percentage of senior residents enrolled in and using Medicare earn less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), thus having limited financial resources to access other types of health insurance. Behavioral and environmental diagnoses indicated that tailoring services specifically to the needs of Wallingford seniors and increasing advertisement of these services are areas that can be improved. Key behavioral factors were identified. Finally, administrative and policy diagnosis determined that Medicare support programs are currently offered at the Wallingford Senior Center, and these programs are projected to continue on an annual basis. Based on needs expressed by the senior members, a revised program was designed to update current services and increase utilization of Medicare experts and simplified materials. The revised program includes Medicare counseling services, seminars, distribution of simplified materials including instructions on how to utilize the materials, and an innovative advertisement plan to promote utilization of the services. Evaluation of the revised program is designed to assess the process, impact, and outcome objectives identified by the plan. Ultimately, the goal of the revised program is to alleviate the confusion and misunderstanding among Wallingford Senior Center members regarding their Medicare benefit packages and billing. It is hoped that evaluation of the revised program will reveal successful attainment of the primary goals set forth at the outset of the special project and continued success for many years to come.

CREDIT DERIVATIVES: AN ADDITIONAL WAY TO MANAGE RISK -- A
LITERATURE SURVEY WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS ON
CONNECTICUT COMMERCIAL BANKS

By Vadim Tantsyura

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Robert M. Eldridge

Department of Economics and Finance

Credit risk (also called default risk) is one of two primary types of risks faced by financial institutions. It is the risk that counterparties to transactions will fail to make obligated payments. A credit derivative is a new innovation in credit risk management (developed in early 1990s). This instrument is designed to segregate credit risk from other financial risks and to allow the separate trading of it. In the last ten years credit derivatives have become an important and controversial product for the commercial banks. Their growth has been driven by the ability of credit derivatives to provide valuable new methods for managing credit risk.

This thesis attempts to give an extensive review of the literature related to credit derivatives. Besides the theoretical background, rational for use, economic effects and market for credit derivatives, it discusses the issues and concerns associated with credit derivatives. Major attention is given to two most widely used types of credit derivatives, such as credit default swaps and total rate of return swaps. Significant portion of discussion is devoted to recent developments and attempts to standardize credit risk management techniques internationally, which are lead by Bank for International Settlements.

The final part of thesis is an attempt to discern the effects credit derivatives have had on the commercial banks in Connecticut. The methodology used in this study is a survey of all seventy-nine state and national/federal banks that belong to the Connecticut Bankers Association (CBA). This study has shown that the credit derivatives potential is not accepted and fully appreciated in the Connecticut bankers' community. None of the thirty responding Connecticut banks is currently using credit derivatives, and few of the banks are interested to utilize them in the foreseeable future.

Thus the conclusion is that the Connecticut Bankers Association should make an effort to educate the member banks to take advantage of credit derivatives benefits. The effects of managing credit risk on Commercial banks can have significant impact on public policy issues, such as availability of funds and overall banks' stability. Use of credit derivatives will reduce the cost of the capital for the banks and, therefore, will increase the availability and affordability of loans leading to increased economic activity in the state.