Graduate Student
Research & Creative Activity
Conference

Monday | May 7, 2018
Southern Connecticut State University

It is our honor as members of the organizing committee to welcome you to the 2nd Annual Graduate Student Research and Creative Activity Conference, hosted by Southern Connecticut State University. This event is a celebration of scholarship and creativity in all forms, as well as a showcase for the leading minds of today's graduate community. As an educational institution, Southern seeks to promote interdisciplinary academic careers and both logic and creativity are key components in individual, economic, and societal success. The presentations highlighted in this conference demonstrate the diverse scope of subjects engaged by students from many disciplines as well as illustrating the parallels between them. This conference aims to not only encourage continued work as a community, but also to awaken individual curiosity and purpose. So it is with great pleasure that we present the scholarship and creative activity featured this year, and invite you to join in what promises to be an unparalleled demonstration of graduate accomplishment.

The Graduate Student Research and Creative Activity Conference

is proudly sponsored by:

School of Graduate Studies, Research, and Innovation

Center for Research on Interface Structures and Phenomena, CRISP

The Office of STEM Innovation and Leadership

The SCSU Foundation

Graduate Student Affairs Committee

2nd Annual Graduate Student Research & Creative Activity Conference

Monday, May 7, 2018 | 5:00 – 8:30 p.m. | Southern Connecticut State University

4:00 – 5:00	Check-in, Presentation Set-up	3rd Floor Entrance
5:00 – 5:10	Welcome Remarks	3rd Floor Ballroom

Christine Broadbridge, Ph.D. | *Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Research, and Innovation*

5:00 – 6:00	**Session I	Poster Presentations**	3rd Floor Ballroom & Walkway
6:00 – 7:00	**Session II	Oral Presentations**	
	School of Health & Human Services	Rooms 301, 306
	School of Education	Room 308
	School of Business	
	School of Arts & Sciences	Room 309, 311
7:00 – 8:00	**Session III	Oral Presentations**	
	School of Health & Human Services	Rooms 301, 306
	School of Arts & Sciences	Room 308, 309, 311
7:00 – 7:25	**Session IIIA	Round Table Discussions**	Rooms 303 & 305
7:30 – 7:55	**Session IIIB	Round Table Discussions**	Room 303
8:00 – 8:30	**Awards Ceremony & *Just Desserts***	3rd Floor Ballroom

<u>P.1</u> *Not All Are Created Equal: Exposing the Truth Behind Teaching How to Assess Students of Minority Groups in School Psychology Training Programs*
Author(s): Megan Viento
Mentor: Natalie R. Starling, Ph.D., NCSP, BCBA
Department: Counseling and School Psychology
Abstract: This study will examine the extent to which US school psychology training programs offer (or their webpage communicates offering) coursework that distinctly includes curriculum regarding the educational assessment of children who identify with one or more minority groups. Course sequences of 47 randomly-selected NASP- (National Association of School Psychology) approved US school psychology training programs will be analyzed. Findings will estimate the extent to which sampled school psychology training programs clearly communicate an education plan that includes assessment training in diversity. Findings will also estimate the extent to which programs potentially offer future school psychologists a baseline of knowledge on assessing children of minority groups. Because students who identify with minority groups are disproportionately overrepresented among children with disabilities, it is imperative that those training to become school psychology practitioners understand the implications of using and reporting on educational assessments with diverse groups. Suggestions regarding how programs can include such training, or, if already offered, how programs can better communicate this training will be discussed.

<u>P.2</u> *Supporting LGBTQQIA+ Students of Color: Family-Focused Interventions*
Author(s): Shannon Thomas, Sonia Levine, Janae Mosby, Samantha Araujo, Avery Washington
Mentor: Laurie Bonjo, Ph.D, NCC, PSC
Department: Counseling and School Psychology
Abstract: This presentation provides school counselors with practical information about helping LGBTQQIA+ students of color and their families. Research shows that LGBTQQIA+ students of color encounter multiple barriers to their success, including a reduced sense of belonging in their families and racial/ethnic communities. School counselors are in a unique position to provide support for families who struggle with embracing LGBTQQIA+ youth.

<u>P.3</u> *Resources in Higher Education*
Author(s): Shannon Thomas
Mentor: Laurie Bonjo, Ph.D, NCC, PSC
Department: Counseling and School Psychology
Abstract: High school students face numerous choices as they leave their K-12 districts and enter college programs. Comprehensive data collected from an in-depth analysis of all 2- and 4-year universities and community colleges in Connecticut show what resources schools provide specifically to diverse students, including: counseling, advising, LGBTQQIA+ students, disabled students, and veteran students.

<u>P.4</u> *Analyzing the Learning Disability Identification Process in the State of Connecticut*
Author(s): Meghan Pogonelski
Mentor: Sousan Arafeh, Ph.D.
Department: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Abstract: Connecticut has seen a consistent rise in students identified as Learning Disabled since the release of the updated Guidelines for Identifying Children with Learning Disabilities (2010). While there has been a steady increase in Connecticut, national averages have decreased. The purpose of this proposal is to introduce the parameters of future research in the area of Learning Disabilities identification in state of Connecticut. It will outline the consistent controversy surrounding Learning Disabilities and past and present practices both in the state of Connecticut and nationally. The future research will seek to investigate if inconsistences exist in the identification of Learning Disabled students with the hopes of building state wide consistency by informing current policy makers and practitioners of the current application of the guidelines throughout the state.

<u>P.5</u> *Class Size in Connecticut: Does it Really Matter in the Elementary Grades?*
Author(s): Karissa O'Keefe
Mentor: Sousan Arafeh, Ph.D.
Department: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Abstract: In the United States each state has the authority to regulate or not regulate class sizes. Due to the lack of federal regulations, class sizes differ from state to state. There are fifteen states in the country that have no class size limits. Connecticut is one of these states. Connecticut has introduced a yearly Accountability report in which each school is graded based on its students' state test scores and then compared to the district and state averages. These comparisons are made when students are not all being taught in the same conditions. This system lacks equity and the students and teachers are suffering. Class size is ignored during teacher contract renewals and nothing is being done. This year there have been tremendous budget cuts throughout the state and one budget saving act is to combine schools and ultimately increase class size. This policy brief looks at the research that empirically supports smaller class size where, especially in the elementary grades, it does make a difference. Reducing class size is a simple and imperative initiative that, if enacted, would benefit students, teachers and schools tremendously. Perhaps our public schools would even thrive instead of failing. Our students should be given every opportunity to succeed. Instead, the lack of regulations of class size only sets up students, teachers and schools to fail.

<u>P.6</u> *Guns and Discipline Are Not the Answer: Meeting Social-Emotional Needs Is*
Author(s): Danielle La Pan
Mentor: Sousan Arafeh, Ph.D.
Department: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Abstract: School violence and school shootings have been all over the news lately. This policy brief outlines ways to prevent violence and shootings in schools that don't involve discipline or arming teachers. Instead, schools should focus on identifying and meeting the social-emotional needs of students. Schools should have smaller class sizes, more mental health professionals, improved and more frequent professional development for teachers, and a more humanistic approach to discipline.

Author(s): Caitlin Rickaby
Mentor: Sousan Arafeh, Ph.D.
Department: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Abstract: Effective school discipline is vital to create schools that are physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe places, but current zero tolerance policies that suspend and expel students for infractions like dress code or offensive language infractions do not work. Research has shown that outdated, zero-tolerance policies are applied to the same students' time and again and typically create racial, gender, and class disparities that sustain social patterns of inequity. This policy brief proposes a restorative and proactive approach to discipline that will create environments to foster each student to achieve his or her highest potential. A new discipline system to equitably manage disciplinary issues, address the root of the difficult behaviors, and then promote positive behaviors will have a positive effect on students in the present and for their future. This policy brief poster shares a research-based argument for change in CT discipline policies with a greater focus on teacher professional development so they understand new approaches to discipline. In order to implement this new disciplinary system and help students deal with the underlying issues that are behind their actions, policy makers', teachers', and administrators' approach to discipline must change.

Author(s): Adam Reynolds
Mentor: Sousan Arafeh, Ph.D.
Department: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Abstract: Zero tolerance policies are used in school districts across the country. They were created in response to increased violence among juveniles with the intent of removing the threat of weapons and violence from schools. Zero tolerance policies are also applied to student disobedience and defiance. As a result, students have been removed from the learning environment at an alarming rate for these less serious offences through suspension and expulsion. In addition, black, Hispanic, and special education students are suspended more frequently than white students due to bias and lack of understanding. This has led to disengagement in their learning, higher retention rates, and an increase in students dropping-out. Restorative justice is an alternative to disengagement and is an option that enables students to remain in the learning environment. Implementation of restorative practices strengthen students' connections to both staff and other students. As a result, students both grow from the experience and prevent reoccurrences; therefore, focusing on positive connections and support contributes to a positive school climate. Restorative justice should replace zero tolerance policies, which currently exist in schools across the country. School administrators must deal with misbehaviors on an individual basis and consider the circumstances of the event, the individual students, and the impact for the overall safety of the school environment. For these reasons, school communities need to embrace restorative justice as an option to zero tolerance policies.

Author(s): Jonathan Berryman
Mentor: Sousan Arafeh, Ph.D.
Department: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Abstract: This study investigates the demographic dilemma created by variance in dress code polices between Connecticut's DRG I schools and their contiguous towns. DRG I's stricter uniform policies impact low-income Black and Hispanic students in contrast to less restrictive policies of wealthier surrounding DRGs where the percentage of Black and Hispanic students is far less. Local and regional school boards and state officials are urged to correct this disparity in dress code policy that places the most restrictive wardrobe requirements on low-income Black and Hispanic students.

Author(s): Mick Powell
Mentor: Vivian Shipley, Ph.D., Connecticut State University Distinguished Professor
Department: English
Funding: Graduate Research Fellowship

Abstract: My project is an archival dig into, and a contemporary reimagining of, the histories and legacies of queer black feminist poetics. I do an in-depth literary analysis of the works of Audre Lorde, June Jordan, Pat Parker, and Ntozake Shange in order to name the ways in which historic queer black feminist poetry influences contemporary queer, black, and feminist poetics. The questions that guide my research include: what were queer black feminist poetics and what are they today? What does a queer black feminist poem look like? Sound like? How does this poetic legacy influence contemporary queer poetry, black poetry, and feminist poetry? How does attention to queer black feminist poetics enable an articulation of radical solidarities, deepen our understandings of "the personal is political," and make space for marginalized narratives in poetry?

Author(s): Margaret Spinner
Mentor: Dr. Gayle R. Bessenoff
Department: Psychology

Abstract: The current study will examine strength of adherence to feminist beliefs as a moderator in negative effects of exposure to sexism. The previous literature found a link between Feminism and self-evaluation and the negative effects of sexism are fairly well documented. There is a small body of research that has examined the link between Feminist beliefs and self-esteem in a sexist situation. The current study intends to expand on that small body of literature. Participants were undergraduate women enrolled in psychology courses at Southern Connecticut State University. They were exposed to either a hostile sexist comment or a benevolent sexist comment. They were then asked to fill out a Feminist belief scale, a mood scale, and a self-esteem scale. The current study has three hypotheses. There will be a main effect of exposure to sexism, such that participants in the hostile sexism condition will have lower levels mood and self-esteem compared to those in the benevolent sexism condition. There will be a main effect of identification with feminist beliefs. Non-feminist women are expected to have the lowest self-esteem scores overall. An interaction between type of sexism and feminist identity is predicted. In the hostile sexism condition, all women should experience negative mood however only non-feminists should experience lowered self-esteem. In the benevolent sexism condition, feminists should experience negative mood but their self-esteem will not be negatively affected. Benevolent sexism can present itself as a 'nice gesture' and hence non-feminists may experience a boost in mood and self-esteem in this condition.

P.12 *Are Cells Grown in The Hippocampus Post-Neurogenesis More Likely to Survive in Response to Increased Learning Demands?*
Author(s): Neil Mascola
Mentor: Kelly Bordner, Ph.D.
Department: Psychology
Abstract: For years there was a prevailing belief within the scientific community that the mammalian brain is born with a fixed number of neurons, having only those present at birth to form synaptic connections with for the remainder of life. We now know, however, that new progenitor cells are generated in the dentate gyrus of the hippocampus every day through a process known as adult neurogenesis. Here, we explore a link between hippocampal activation and survival of newborn brain cells. We hypothesized that cognitively demanding learning tasks will lead to enhanced survival of newborn cells, increasing the likelihood that they will differentiate into neurons. Sprauge-Dawely rats will be tested using the Morris water maze (MWM) after being assigned to one of four groups: Standard MWM procedure (e.g fixed platform location), a spatial working memory procedure of the MWM (e.g platform location varies), or serve as time-yoked controls. Rats will be injected with a neural marker for neurogenesis – BrdU – six days prior to experimental manipulations. The biomarker NeuN will be used to label rescued cells that have differentiated into mature neurons. Prior research suggests that increases in task demand will yield greater cell survival. Therefore, it is predicted that animals in the spatial working memory paradigm will have more surviving newborn cells compared to those animals in the standard MWM and that both learning groups will demonstrate greater cell survival than the yoked controls. This research attempts to provide a distinct connection between amount of hippocampal activation and neuronal survival.

P.13 *Understanding Wisdom Through Wise Quotes: What Makes Quotes Wise?*
Author(s): Melanie DeFrank, Brianna Chiaraluce, Marissa Bivona, Dr. Patricia Kahlbaugh
Mentor: Dr. Patricia Kahlbaugh
Department: Psychology
Abstract: Webster (2003) argued that wisdom is multidimensional characterized by rough and tumble of life experience, reflectiveness and life review, openness to experience, humor and emotional understanding. As part of a class exercise from 2013 to 2017, 300 students submitted quotes that they felt represented one or more of these dimensions of wisdom, resulting in 162 separate wise quotes. Independent raters analyzed these quotes along a dimension of strong or weak representations of wisdom. A linguistic analysis of the strong vs. weak wise quotes was conducted to determine any differences between weak and strong representations of wisdom.

P.14 *Evaluation and Efficacy of EMPOWERED Acronym in Dialogic Reading Intervention*
Author(s): Brianna Chiaraluce
Mentor: Cheryl C. Durwin, Ph.D.
Department: Psychology
Abstract: The SCSU R.E.A.D.S. lab provides research based intervention to improve the reading and vocabulary skills of at-risk elementary school children in two schools from low socioeconomic backgrounds. We adapted the technique from the research literature called Dialogic Reading, which is a shared reading technique that prompts students frequently throughout the story and asks open-ended questions. We modified the original Dialogic Reading technique to include other strategies for a deeper understanding in which we created the acronym, EMPOWERED. This acronym ensures that the RAs reading to the children utilize all the strategies in our Dialogic Reading intervention. These mechanisms include Encouraging vocabulary, Making it fun, Prompting frequently, Open-ended questions, Wh-questions, Expanding the child's responses, encouraging Repetition, Evaluating the child's responses, and Distancing prompts. Previous research has shown that 2- 4 hours of intervention through 6-8 weeks improves reading comprehension of struggling readers. It is important to note that there are no differences in implementation among RAs and to establish that RAs are consistently using the DR techniques. This study was conducted to evaluate the treatment fidelity in use of the EMPOWERED strategies in the 2016-2017 project and to evaluate consistency in the application of the technique among researchers.

P.15 *Writing Wisdom Reviewing Identity: Positive Outcomes of Participating in a Memoir Course for Elderly Individuals*
Author(s): Marissa Bivona
Mentor: Dr. Patricia Kahlbaugh
Department: Psychology
Abstract: Constructing one's personal narrative and consolidating a sense of identity is an ongoing process that becomes vital towards the end of life as stories are reevaluated and the search for meaning becomes more urgent. The current study examined the process of life review in an elderly sample, looking specifically at the effects of participating in a memoir course versus a film discussion group, on identity, wisdom and well-being. We hypothesized that identity fidelity, identity coherence, wisdom, and subjective well-being would increase, and that depression, stress, and anxiety would decrease for those in the memoir group but not the film group. Eighteen elderly individuals from senior living communities participated, meeting for a weekly class, for four weeks. After engaging in the process of reorganizing the life story and writing about important memories, the nine individuals in the memoir group scored significantly higher on self-report measures of identity fidelity and wise reminiscence than those in the film group. Wise reminiscence, significantly higher in the memoir group, mediated relationships between memoir writing and identity fidelity, identity coherence and subjective well-being. This points to the potential benefits of memoir writing as a therapeutic intervention.

P.16 *Antigen Retrieval and Immunohistochemistry Using Rat Tissue*
Author(s): Naoual Jaouhari
Mentor: Dr. Meghan Barboza
Department: Biology
Abstract: Solitary chemosensory cells (SCCs) are important cells that express bitter and sweet receptors which are important to innate immune defense responses. Our project sought to identify these type of cells in mammalian tissue such as rat or manatee tissue using Antigen Retrieval (AR) and Immunohistochemistry (IHC). AR is a process to expose antigens that are difficult or impossible to stain in formalin-fixed sections of tissue to become ready to use for IHC. IHC is a process performed using antibodies to test for certain antigens in biological tissues. This project performed antigen retrieval on rat epithelium of nasal and tracheal tissue, to allow staining by IHC methods. The goal was to expose antigens of the bitter and sweet receptors, TRPM5, to identify SCCs in the epithelial tissue. The actual experiment was prepared by first using a chemical (Tris-EDTA buffer) paired with heat (60-degree oven) to expose the antigens then adding TRPM5 antibody to identify solitary chemosensory cells of the nasal and tracheal epithelium. As a negative control, no antibody was added to the tissue. The results indicated the ability to successfully stain the TRPM5 antigens present in rat solitary chemosensory cells. AR technique showed great results on rat tissue and may be a successful technique used in manatee tissue too.

P.17 *Genome Sequencing And Microsatellite Identification Of Fusarium Paltustre; An Endophytic Pathogen Infecting Spartina Alterniflora At Vegetation Dieback Sites Along US Coastal Salt Marshes*

Author(s): Alysha Auslender, Dr. Robert E. Marra, Dr. Wade H. Elmer
Mentor: Rebecca Silady, Ph.D.
Department: Biology

Abstract: *Fusarium palustre* is an endophytic fungal pathogen that has been found infecting *Spartina alterniflora*, the predominant plant in salt marsh systems along the eastern coast of the United States. Areas of vegetative dieback are occurring throughout these systems and while this pathogen is not believed to be the sole causal agent of this decline, there is evidence that it, in occurrence with other environmental agents, may play a contributing role. By sequencing *F. palustre's* genome and locating microsatellite markers, future studies can compare population polymorphisms to investigate the means by which this disease is able to spread and how individual populations may differ.

P.18 *Language And Audiovisual Speech Perception In Children With Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)*

Author(s): Jacqueline Brown
Mentor: Jennifer McCullagh, Au.D., Ph.D., CCC-A
Department: Communication Disorders

Abstract: Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) have deficits in social communication. Current social communication measures include joint attention as part of diagnostic criteria for ASD. Since joint attention can involve spoken language, both auditory and visual inputs must be considered in its evaluation. Objective measures, such as event related potentials (ERP) allow for the measurement of brain responses to different sensory information like auditory (voices) and visual (faces) stimuli. In this paper, ERP (N1 and P2) responses to a speaking face with a visible mouth (Audio Visual, AV) and one with a covered (pixelated) mouth (pixilated, PX) were analyzed for a group of typically developing (TD) participants (N= 10) and participants with ASD (N=10). In addition, the relationships between language and vocabulary scores and N1 and P2 responses were explored. Results indicated no significant group differences for listening condition (AV and PX) for the N1 or P2 response, suggesting that children with ASD and those with TD do not differ in processing these signals at the level of the auditory cortex. Moreover, children with ASD did not show differences in ERP response between the AV and PX conditions suggesting no influence of visual speech input on speech sound processing. Finally, the language measures used in this study did not significantly correlate to N1 or P2 amplitudes, suggesting no relationship between the language skills and ERP response to AV speech.

P.19 *Effects of Varying Postexercise Nutrient Timing on Substrate Oxidation and Energy Expenditure in Resistance Trained Men*

Author(s): Laura Mangone, Scott W. Talpey, Ph.D, CSCS Talpey
Mentor: William R. Lunn, Ph.D., FACSM
Department: Exercise Science

Abstract: Current research suggests that fat usage increases after a resistance exercise bout. It is well known that protein and/or carbohydrate consumption augments postexercise recovery. However, it is unclear whether the immediate consumption of protein and carbohydrate interferes with postexercise fat usage and muscle protein metabolism. PURPOSE: To examine the effects of immediate versus delayed postexercise nutrition intake on postexercise recovery. METHODS: Resistance trained (≥ 1 y) men (n=10) will perform a resistance exercise bout (3 sets of 6 exercises that stimulate major muscle groups, 2-5 minutes of rest). Participants will then consume one of the three following postexercise nutrition interventions: immediate consumption of a protein (.35 g/kg BW) and carbohydrate (1.0 g/kg BW) beverage, delayed consumption (2 h) of a protein (.35 g/kg BW) and carbohydrate (1.0 g/kg BW) beverage, or placebo (noncaloric flavoring with water). Participants will recover for three hours while their expired gases (carbon dioxide and oxygen) are collected. Substrate utilization (carbohydrate and fat) and energy expenditure will be determined, in addition to muscle protein breakdown (via the analyses of the hormone cortisol and urinary nitrogen excretion).

P.20 *Biomechanical and Anatomical Asymmetries of the Lower Extremities Associated with Curved Sprinting in Track and Field Athletes*

Author(s): Christine Volz, Dr. Marc Robertson
Mentor: Robert W. Gregory, Ph.D.
Department: Exercise Science

Abstract: INTRODUCTION: Lower extremity movement asymmetries have been demonstrated when running on a curved path compared to a straight path. Track and field athletes continuously race and train in a counter-clockwise direction around indoor and outdoor tracks, potentially leading to structural adaptations and corresponding asymmetries of the body. The long-term effects of this training on a runner's anatomy, particularly lower extremity joint range of motion and muscle strength, have not been extensively researched. PURPOSE: To identify the biomechanical and anatomical asymmetries associated with curved running in indoor track and field sprinters. METHODS: Members of the SCSU track and field team between the ages of 18-25 years will participate in this study. The participants will perform an active and passive range of motion assessment for 12 different motions in both lower extremities. Range of motion assessments will be followed by two maximal effort 150 meter sprint trials in lane one (radius=16.33m) of SCSU's indoor track. One week later, muscle strength of both lower extremities will be assessed using a handheld dynamometer for the 12 corresponding range of motion actions. Muscle strength testing will be followed by two maximal effort 150 meter sprint trials in lane six (radius=21.67m) of SCSU's indoor track. Center of pressure, ground reaction force, and tibial shock asymmetries will be measured via pressure-sensing shoe inserts and inertial measurement units on the lower extremities during the sprint trials. EXPECTED OUTCOMES: The identification of lower extremity asymmetries in range of motion, muscle strength, and movement patterns in track and field sprinters.

P.21 *Student Nurse Encounters with Male Behavioral Health Emergencies in the Clinical Environment: A Constructed Case Study for Nurse Educators*

Author(s): Regina Kulacz BSN RN CEN
Mentor: Dr. Kimberly Petrovic, Ph.D. MSN MA RN & Dr. Barbara Aronson
Department: Nursing

Abstract: For novice nursing students, addressing behavioral health emergencies presents a challenge. This difficulty exists in part because an unacknowledged health disparity exists for males in the diagnosis of depression. Research has found that conformity to masculine role norms may serve as a blockade to care and identify vital differences in expression of symptoms, explaining why standard depression scales miss depression in males. Nurse educators possess the ability to create needed change. Professional nursing standards for depression screening require universal consensus, and tools must be updated to reflect current research. Nursing students require additional guidance and support when caring for this at risk population. When professional tools are inadequate or unavailable, formation of a strong nurse-patient relationship is of utmost importance. Peplau's Theory of Interpersonal Relations serves as a model for the nurse educator to address behavioral health emergencies with students and to guide formation for a therapeutic relationship.
Keywords: Nurse Educator, Male Behavioral Health Emergencies, Depression, Peplau's Theory of Interpersonal Relations

P.22 *A Review of Chronic Daily Headache in Adults*
Author(s): Dahlia Williams-Jarrett
Mentor: Dr. Kimberly Petrovic, Ph.D. MSN MA RN & Dr. Mary Ann Glendon
Department: Nursing
Abstract: Headaches are among the most prevalent neurologic disorders. Headaches are common, debilitating and costly. Chronic daily headache (CDH) is a syndrome occurring 15 or more days per month and for more than three months. CHD includes chronic migraine, chronic tension-type headache, hemicrania continua, and new daily persistent headache. These are primary headache disorders. Secondary headaches begin or worsen in relation to pathologic conditions and include headaches attributed to trauma, infection, vascular disease, brain tumor or homeostatic disorders. Research shows the risk of secondary causes of headaches increases with age and may result in brain tumors. Early, accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment reduce pain, suffering and economic burden. Evaluation of this case study occurs through analysis and diagnosis of the problem, its impact on society, transitional theoretical concepts, and guideline recommendations for treatment of CDH. Nurse Educators assist, educate and support staff while enabling patients to reclaim their lives.

P.23 *Depression in Adolescents*
Author(s): Filma Alquisola
Mentor: Dr. Kimberly Petrovic, Ph.D. MSN MA RN & Dr. Mary Ann Glendon
Department: Nursing
Abstract: Major depression (MD) is common in adolescents worldwide but often is unrecognized. An estimated 3.1 million adolescents aged 12-17 in the U.S, experience at least one episode of MD. Depression is a public health problem and, in adolescence, predicts a range of both physical and mental health issues in adult life and include anxiety disorders, substance abuse, bipolar disorder, suicidal behavior and cardiovascular disease. Barriers and disparities exist in adolescent mental healthcare. In the year 2015, only 39.3 percent of adolescents with depression received treatment. The need to address adolescent depression cannot be overemphasized; and, despite its global significance, the current fragmented community mental healthcare for children has been ineffective in addressing this issue. This case study emphasizes the need for a collaborative approach among healthcare providers in the management of adolescent depression while also identifying essential areas for the improvement of care to this vulnerable population of adolescents.

P.24 *Transgender education in nursing: A qualitative study investigating faculty beliefs*
Author(s): Vanessa Pomarico-Denino, EdD (c), MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, FAANP
Mentor: Mary Ellen Doherty Ph.D., RN, CNM
Department: Nursing
Abstract: Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) is an acronym that groups together four populations under one umbrella term. Each of these populations has their own distinct and unique health care needs. Transgender persons may present their gender differently than what is considered the societal norm. As a result, they are more prone to discrimination, harassment and acts of violence than other marginalized populations. As more persons identify as transgender, the need to educate health care providers on the appropriate and sensitive care of this population takes on greater importance. In an effort to address the disparities of sexual and gender minorities, learning to care for this population should begin early on in nursing education. However, if nurse educators are not familiar with or have bias towards this population, it is unlikely that appropriate content to address the specific needs of this population will be included in course content. Nurses must recognize the variances that exist among diverse populations in order to effectively treat and affect positive health care outcomes.

Nurse educators are in a strategic position to teach student nurses on the specific needs of the transgender patient during their didactic and clinical rotations. Educating faculty on the unique needs of this population and thereby increasing their own familiarity will enable them to impart valuable knowledge to their students who, after graduation, will be better prepared to care for transgender persons. Transgender patients will benefit from more comprehensive and affirming nursing care provided to them.

P.25 *Constructed Case Experience: Bereaving.*
Author(s): Theresa Petrone
Mentor: Dr. Kimberly Petrovic, Ph.D. MSN MA RN & Dr. Kristin Borgognone
Department: Nursing
Abstract: An insufficient number of research studies explore grief and bereavement of the caregiver role in the oncology setting. Bereavement care is the least developed aspect of palliative care and remains a low priority given strained resources allocated to advancements and research. In addition, the lack of formal training and deficient academic curricula available to healthcare providers regarding the bereaving process magnify the problem, resulting in caregivers' grief being neglected in the delivery of healthcare services. As a result, healthcare providers lack the assessment skills to differentiate between normal grief, complicated grief, and depression thereby further compounding the unmet needs of the caregiver. Due to the complexity of the bereavement process, the providers' lack of formal education and the lack of formal grief scales, the ability of healthcare providers to implement therapeutic communication with grieving caregivers is an invaluable intervention given the absence of clinical guidelines to guide best practices.
Keywords: bereavement, caregiver, grief, therapeutic communication

P.26 *Key Elements Identified for Successful School-Based Obesity Prevention Programs: An Integrative Review*
Author(s): Kathleen McMahon-Brown
Mentor: Dr. Antoinette Towle, APRN
Department: Nursing
Abstract: The purpose of this integrative review was to identify key elements that are important for a successful school-based obesity prevention program. Relevant articles were identified with the search terms: pediatric obesity, school-based, and interventions. Inclusion criteria included: peer-reviewed, empirical quantitative studies (randomized, quasi-experimental, descriptive, or correlational studies), publication in the past five years, English speaking only participants, and age range between six and nineteen years old. Articles excluded were qualitative, described formation of a prevention program that did not include an empirical study of its efficacy, and behavioral health-focused articles. The Whittemore and Knafl Methodology was used to analyze and synthesize data. The results of this review suggests that cultural awareness, time, community commitment, parent involvement, and appropriate space are the key elements identified needed for effective obesity prevention programs for which nurse practitioners are well positioned.

P.27 *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*

Author(s): Jacqueline Platt
Mentor: Dr. Lee J. deLisle
Funding: DEEP
Department: Recreation, Tourism, and Sports Management
Abstract: The study entailed developing a five year plan for the Energy and Environmental Protection, Outdoor Recreation Division, including goals and objectives to be implemented over the life of the document. The plan received final approval from the National Park Service in January 2018

P.28 *Medical Marijuana and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder*

Author(s): Rebecca Connelly
Mentor: Sebastian Perumbilly, Ph.D., LMFT
Department: Marriage and Family Therapy
Abstract: Medical Marijuana is legal in 29 states of the United States and in the District of Columbia. Approximately 5.2 million people are diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) each year, majority are working, Caucasian, males ages 25 to 44. PTSD is a mental health problem that can develop after experiencing or witnessing something shocking, dangerous, or life threatening such as a natural disaster, war, accident, fire and abuse. Although a physician can recommend the use of medical marijuana to treat certain diagnoses, such as PTSD, there is little to no research on which strain works best for symptoms, what dosage or amounts. According to research the most common reported benefit of use is the ability to promote sleep. This research poster based on a comprehensive literature review will look at the benefits and negative effects of medical marijuana. It is hypothesized that the negative effects outweigh the benefit overtime and addiction is likely to occur or already be co-occurring.

P.29 *Creating Systemically-Focused Psychosocial Support Systems for Cancer Patients: A Clinical Framework*

Author(s): Michelle Mann
Mentor: Sebastian Perumbilly, Ph.D., LMFT
Department: Marriage and Family Therapy
Abstract: One in three people in the United States receives a cancer diagnosis at some point in their lifetime, and one in five dies from the disease (American Cancer Society, 2018). With cancer patients surviving longer and living better, the diagnosis of cancer has now been reframed and considered more of a "chronic" disease (Duffy & Gillig, 2003). Recent expansion in the understanding of cancer, and subsequent development in the innovative treatment options present opportunities to educate cancer patients and their families on new ways of thinking, and thus enabling them to take back some control, which is usually thought of as lost to them. Some emerging research studies have reported that integrated psychosocial support for cancer patients and their families (Robinson, et al, 2005) leads to improved outcomes (i.e., longer survival, decreased pain and suffering). Though there is an abundance of literature which supports the concept that there are indeed many clinical benefits of integrating various forms of behavioral health services in cancer care settings (Hodgson, McCammon, Marlowe & Anderson, 2011), literature is lacking in the area of how systemically-focused (especially family-focused) psychosocial support can be garnered to improve treatment outcomes. This presentation/poster will provide a clinical framework, rooted in the theoretical traditions of the field of marriage and family therapy (MFT), with a view to create psychosocial support systems involving patients and their families as part of cancer treatment.

P.30 *Is Social Connection a Protective Factor for Wellness?*

Author(s): Jessica Lennington
Mentor: Sebastian A. Perumbilly, Ph.D., LMFT
Department: Marriage and Family Therapy
Funding: Graduate Research Fellowship
Abstract: How significant is social connection as a protective factor for mental wellness? Modern economic, professional, and other factors can reduce social connection. The ways in which this "loneliness epidemic" contributes to major physical illness is the new public health focus of our past Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, and social connection is repeatedly cited as a factor in nations that score low in global measures of happiness (Murthy, 2017; Buettner, 2017).Clinical studies evaluating the role of social connection in relation to mental health have been conducted; however, the overall frequency that social connection is reported as a protective factor for mental health across diagnoses and mental health disciplines is unknown. This work will present a comprehensive, trans-diagnosis, and trans-discipline evaluation the existing literature and summarize the ranked findings in order to better understand the quantitative extent to which social connection is a protective factor for mental wellness.

P.31 *Addressing Barriers to Mental Health Treatment in the Prison System*

Author(s): Christine Batts
Mentor: Sebastian Perumbilly, Ph.D., LMFT
Department: Marriage and Family Therapy
Abstract: Research studies report a positive correlation between the stress of prison environment, length of sentences, and deterioration of mental well-being among prisoners (Breiman & Bonner, 2001; Human Rights Watch, 2003; Lamb & Weinberger, 1998). A significant number of inmates suffers from diagnosed mental illness prior to entering the justice system, and requests therapy only to obtain access to medication management. The remaining diagnosed inmates refuse to acknowledge the mental illness and suffer without treatment. Studies report that the interplay between toxic-masculinity and institutional dynamics can be a major barrier in their treatment-seeking (Jennings & Murphy, 2000; Kupers, 2005). In addition, inadequate educational programs; shortage of licensed mental health professionals; scant peer support groups; and lack of special housing for individuals with serious mental illness can also contribute significantly to the list of barriers to mental health treatment within prison systems (Kupers, 2005). This presentation/poster will focus on various systemically-focused strategies from the field of Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) that can be used to change the landscape of mental health services within prison systems, especially with a focus on developing integrated psychoeducational programs as facilitators of treatment-seeking; clinical assessment criteria during intake screening; and policy changes to extend resources for support within the prison-system.

P.32 *Gender Differences in Knowledge of STD Testing on Campus in 2016*
Author(s): Shama Banik, Allie Mirek
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health
Abstract: Purpose. The purpose of the present study was to determine if there were gender differences between rates of STD testing on a college campus and if condom use was associated with either. Method. The present study used data from the SCSU 2016 Custom Survey to perform a secondary data analysis. Variables were selected based off of the pre-existing survey items and statistical analysis was performed to test for associations and significance. Results. The sample size for the present study was 677 undergraduate college students from SCSU, of which 209 were male and 468 were female. For the data analyzed, anyone who did not identify as sexually active were excluded. Chi-square analysis will be performed. Implications. The study will provide insight on a potential need for increased awareness of testing available on SCSU's campus and additional sexual health resources for students.

P.33 *Exploring Marijuana Use and Mental Health Among College Students*
Author(s): Olivia Chamberland, Charlene Swink
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health
Abstract: In the United States, the amount of college students affected by mental health is increasing each year. Mental health is a serious public health issue that can negatively impact a person's overall health if not managed correctly. With marijuana use becoming legalized in more and more states across the U.S, college students may be looking to marijuana to cope with mental health issues. Our motivation for this investigation is to see if there is an association between marijuana use and mental health among college students. The purpose of this study was to examine the association between marijuana use and mental health among college undergraduate students in the years 2012, 2014, and 2016. A cross-sectional survey, Core Drug and Alcohol Survey, was administered to 3,568 full time undergraduate students who attended Southern Connecticut State University in the Spring semester of 2012, 2014, and 2016. For this study the subpopulation of interest will focus on males and females ages 18-22, part time and full time, freshmen and sophomores, on campus or off campus residents, and have been diagnosed with depression and/or anxiety. Gender, age, enrollment status, year, and residence will also be examined to determine if there is an impact on mental health and marijuana use.

P.34 *Early Bird Gets the Worm! Sleep and Its Association with Academic Performance*
Author(s): Chelsea Ortiz, Kevina Mitchell
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health
Abstract: Sleep quality and behaviors may impact academic achievement among undergraduate students. A cross-sectional study was completed through a 2016 Custom Survey administered to undergraduate students at a Northeastern Public University. Response data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics and cross-tabulation to identify associations between sleep and academic performance. The total sample population consisted of 831 undergraduate students identifying as: freshman (n=187, 22.5-), sophomore (n=169; 20.3-), junior (n=235, 28.2-), or senior (n=240, 28.9-); part-time (4.8-) or full-time (92.3-); male (30-) or female (68.6-); and with a mean age of 21. Data obtained included information on self-reported: GPA, academic status, academic satisfaction, and sleep quality. Statistics obtained through data analysis will be used to provide information on the cause-and-effect sleep patterns associated with academic performance and academic achievement.

P.35 *Trends in Marijuana Use and Academic Achievement Among Undergraduate Students at a Middle-Sized Public University in New England*
Author(s): April Pinto
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health
Abstract: Background: Previous studies have shown marijuana use adversely affects academic success in adolescents, but less research exists pertaining to college students. Grade point average (GPA) has shown to give an accurate measurement of academic success. The purpose of this study is to identify any associations between marijuana use and grade point average among undergraduate students at a middle-sized Public University in New England. Methods: This study uses a cross-sectional research design. Classes picked at random campus-wide with students asked to complete surveys in class time with no reward nor penalization for the decision to partake. The surveys were administered to collect data in years 2012, 2014, and 2016 with a broad range of health-related questions. Results: Inclusion criteria for the study population consists of male/female undergraduate students who have or have not used marijuana within the past 30 days and included their GPA within the survey. Survey data was collected in years 2012 (n=, 920), 2014 (n=1,272), and 2016 (n=813) from students for demographics variables (age, gender, year in college, credit status), past 30-day marijuana use, and GPA. Data analysis of the three surveys will examine relationships between marijuana and non-marijuana users with their correlating GPA's and demographic variables using analysis of variance and an independent t-tests. The information gathered after data analysis will help to identify if marijuana use poses as a risk factor to academic success among college students. The results of this study can then lead to further researcher or prevention methods among marijuana using college students.

P.36 *Who's Seeking Help?: An Analysis of Undergraduate Students' Mental Health*
Author(s): Aubrey Roscoe
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health
Abstract: Depression is the leading cause of disability in the United States among people 15 - 44 years of age, and there is an increasing incidence of college students who suffer from depression. The severity of depression among college students has intensified; and based on existing data, the percentage of students who seek treatment is low. This study will explore the number of SCSU college undergraduate students who are diagnosed with depression and/or seeking treatment for depression. The data in this research was collected during the 2014 and 2016 SCSU Student Health Data surveys. Chi Squared Test of Association will be used to determine the association between the exposure and outcome. 1316 students from the 2014 survey, and 912 undergraduate students from the 2016 survey will be assess in this study. This research includes all undergraduate students who identify as male or female in this study's sub-population. Excluded from this study are the following: "year in school" categories: graduate students, "other", and "not seeking a degree". Additionally, fields that are missing data and persons who identify as transgender on the data set were excluded. The information generated from this study will provide useful data to various SCSU mental health services to make them aware of the practices that are necessary in order for the services to be effectively used by the student body.

P.37 *Trends in Condom Use Among Undergraduate Students at a Northeastern Public University*

Author(s): Jazmynn Jakubczyk, Tess Goldson
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health

Abstract: According to the CDC, rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea are highest among adolescents (15 - 19 years old) and young adult males and females (20 - 24 years old). It is well known that condoms prevent transmission of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) yet the CDC reported that between 2011- 2015, only 14.8% of women and 19.0% of men ages 15-44 used a condom "every time" they had intercourse in the past 12 months (CDC, 2017). These low rates of condom usage coupled with the high rates of STDs among adolescents and young adults illustrates how important it is to conduct research on condom use in a university setting where a majority of the student body falls within the 15-24 year age bracket. The purpose of this study was to discover the trends over time for condom use between 2014-2016 in undergraduates at a Northeastern public university. A campus-wide survey measured the prevalence of condom use in college students. Students who were both sexually active and not sexually active completed this survey to gather sexual health data for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. A chi-square test will be used to analyze the data found. Our sample size for this study is 2704, which will include male and female students who are either freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors. The information gathered on condom use trends on a college campus will be used to frame messaging to promote condom use and will help to identify other solutions to increase condom use in students.

P.38 *Does Physical Activity Affect Student GPA? An Exploration of Physical Activity and its Effects on GPA in an Urban Public University*

Author(s): Krystal Medley, Radhika Patel
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public health

Abstract: Studies have shown physical activity to have a protective role against chronic disease as well as aid in increasing cognitive functions in students. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between student GPA and physical activity status among undergraduates enrolled in medium sized urban public university in New Haven, CT. Methods: Stratified random sampling was done to obtain data from students using a custom survey questionnaire from 2012 to 2016. Demographics (enrollment status, gender, working status, class classification), general health status, GPA and exercise status were analysed. For all years of study, GPA was standardized into grades (A-D) while physical activity was categorized into exercisers and non-exercisers. Data was entered into SPSS and contingency tables were plotted by means of analysis. For statistical significance, we will run chi square test to examine if there is a difference in GPA between exercisers and non-exercisers. Pearson's r will be used to examine the correlation between GPA and other variables in the study. Results: The sample size for 2012 was 848 students, 1,270 students in 2014, and 787 students for 2016. Inclusion criteria were those who identified themselves as male or female and those whose data on GPA was available for analysis. Conclusion: The information gathered on the relationship between physical activity and GPA will help universities to implement scheduled exercise sessions to encourage physical activity on college campuses. Students can benefit from the implementation of exercise sessions with hopes of increasing their GPA as they journey through college.

P.39 *It's On Us!*

Author(s): Peter Zapata, Jean Breny, John Mucha, Marcelin Joseph
Mentor: Jean M. Breny, Ph.D., MPH
Department: Public Health

Abstract: Despite public health efforts to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs), college students are at higher risk for diseases such as chlamydia and gonorrhea making them more at risk for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). These rates are due to inconsistent safe sex behaviors, namely condom use. Historically, research done to promote condoms have mainly focused on women, but the need to include men in these interventions is critical. This research utilizes community-based participatory research (CBPR) to examine undergraduate male students' attitudes and behaviors about their safer sex responsibility, with the goal of ultimately creating effective health promotion messages. The research team consists of 5 Southern heterosexual male students and is supervised by Dr. Jean Breny in Public Health. A mixed methods approach is being used, consisting of surveys, focus groups, and health promotion messaging. The survey consists of multiple choice and open-ended question about condom use. The surveys were distributed to a convenience sample of random male SCSU undergraduate students. 135 surveys were collected and analyzed for frequencies by the research team, the research team is currently planning to perform focus groups with SCSU male undergraduates to get a better qualitative understanding of the data collected. Preliminary results show the most common reason why participants didn't chose to wear condoms is because an alternate birth-control method was used.

P.40 *Using Cannabis to Improve Sleep Might Backfire in the Long Run: An Exploration of the Relationship between Cannabis Use and Sleep Quantity and Quality at a Mid-size, Public University in New England*

Author(s): Adrian Paulsen, Peter Zapata
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health

Abstract: Background: Recent studies exploring the relationship between cannabis use and sleep quality indicate that while short-term cannabis use may improve sleep quality, depression, and anxiety symptoms, chronic or regular cannabis use are associated with disrupted or decreased sleep quality and increased depression and anxiety symptoms. Purpose: The purpose of this study is to explore the data in the 2016 SCSU Custom Survey for cross-sectional correlations between marijuana use, sleep quality and quantity, depression, anxiety, and other covariates. Analysis of these variables could be of use to the Wellness Office at SCSU in determining whether to target public health interventions for students with sleep quality, quantity or depression and anxiety issues related to cannabis use. Methods: Our data was collected via a survey administered to a randomized sample of undergraduate students. T Tests, Chi-square tests of association, and linear regression will be run to examine the relationship between sleep quality and quantity and cannabis use while controlling for anxiety, depression, level of activity, and other covariate variables. Results: The 2016 SCSU Custom Survey was distributed by the Wellness Center to a convenience sample of 912 undergraduate students (N=912) in classroom settings on the SCSU campus in 2016; our sample size, after applying the exclusion criteria of ages between 17 and 70 to eliminate statistical outliers, is 836. Implications: The information from our study will be used by the Wellness Office at SCSU to determine whether to target public health interventions for students with sleep quality, quantity or depression and anxiety issues related to cannabis use.

P.41 *STD Testing- An Excuse for Less Condom Use? An Analysis of Condom and STD Testing Practices of SCSU Undergraduates*

Author(s): Chante-Colleen Lewis
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health

Abstract: Although prevention practices of condom use and STD testing is well advertised, a percentage of college students still do not adhere to these critical, sexual health preventative practices. Through this study, there is an observation as to whether or not STD testing is a proper mediator for safer sexual practices. Through the data from 2016 alcohol and research study derived from the wellness center, an in depth look will be further obtained regarding the condom practices and STI testing measures amongst undergraduates at Southern Connecticut State University. The hypothesis of this investigation is the following: Students who rarely utilize condoms during intercourse are less likely to test for HIV and other STI' than their tested counterparts. This study utilized quantitative analysis. A total of 413 answers were collected, as the survey indicates that 30% of people who never utilize condoms during sex have tested for STI (vs. 15% non testers). Also, Data will be presented from the Drug and Alcohol 2016 survey.

P.42 *College Students Struggling with Anxiety: Can Exercise be a Positive Coping Mechanism?*

Author(s): Kimberly Stewart, Ashleigh Brencher
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health

Abstract: BACKGROUND/PURPOSE: The latest Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors survey found that anxiety is one of the top problems college students face. About 41% suffer from anxiety, followed by depression and relationship problems, 36% (APA, 2013). Anxiety is a huge problem for this population group and this project's aim is to look at whether college students with diagnosed anxiety and/or treatment are more likely to be physically active or not and to help determine if exercise is being used as a positive coping mechanism for anxiety. METHODS: Data from the 2016 SCSU College Health Data Survey was collected by Student Health Services in the fall and spring semesters. Participants were randomly selected from two classes held at SCSU. The data was collected using a survey consisting of a number of health questions including those pertaining to anxiety and physical activity. These questions were the focus of this study. RESULTS: Full time students who participated in the 2016 SCSU College Health Data Survey and identified themselves as either male or female were included in our results leading to a sample size of 827. Participants also needed to answer questions pertaining to physical activity and anxiety. IMPLICATIONS: The information gathered from this study will help determine whether exercise is a positive coping mechanism for college student's anxiety, and could help lead to the development a campus-wide anxiety education and prevention program. REFERENCE: College students' mental health is a growing concern, survey finds. (2013, June).Retrieved April 02, 2018, from http://www.apa.org/monitor/2013/06/college-students.aspx

P.43 *Working Hours and Academic Success of Freshman and Sophomore College Students.*

Author(s): Britt Conroy
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health

Abstract: The relationship between education, socioeconomic status, and health is undeniable. Therefore, it is important to the future success of students that they be given adequate guidance while they attempt to navigate their way through the rigor of higher education. Todays students face an ever-increasing financial burden and therefore many work while attending school. Our research will evaluate the academic success rates of Freshmen and Sophomore students by GPA to see if the amount of working hours effects academic success. A one-way ANOVA will be used to analyze and compare the average GPA's of students who work full time, part time, or not at all to see what number of hours corresponds with the highest level of academic success. This data utilized was previously collected from 530 participants of the 2014 core drug and alcohol survey. These individuals were all of Freshmen and Sophomore status between the ages of 18-23. This information will help to inform students and advisers how to properly balance working hours and academic success.

P.44 *Trends in Illegal Drug Use and Fitness Levels Among Full-Time, Undergraduate Students at a Public, Northeastern University*

Author(s): Holly Stewart, Nina Brandi
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health

Abstract: INTRODUCTION: Illegal drug use is an issue among undergraduate, college students, and students' healthy habits often times become replaced by more harmful activities when entering the college environment. PURPOSE: The purpose of this research will be to determine if full-time, undergraduate students in four-year colleges and universities who use illegal drugs more often have lower fitness levels than those students who use illegal drugs less often or not at all. METHODS: Our data will be collected from the 2012 and 2014 CORE Alcohol and Drug Survey and the 2012, 2014, and 2016 SCSU Custom Survey, which was administered during the CORE Drug and Alcohol Survey. RESULTS: A total of 2906 surveys from three sets of data will be included, and the inclusion criteria will require participants to be full-time, undergraduate, male or female students in four-year colleges and universities. Results have not been found yet, but statistical tests that will be run include independent sample t tests, one-way between-S ANOVA, factorial analysis of variance, and multiple regression with more than two predictors. DISCUSSION: Findings could be used to create better methods of engaging students in positive health-related behaviors and deterring them from negative health-related behaviors, decreasing drug use on campus and increasing overall health.

P.45 *Recreational Drug Use Among 18-25 Year Old Undergraduates Diagnosed with Depression and/or Anxiety*

Author(s): Erin Duff, Rose Richi
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health

Abstract: Background: Anxiety and depression are serious mental health issues that afflict many college students. Mental illness can lead to drug use, which can in turn exacerbate in mental health problems. There may be strong associations between certain drug use habits and diagnosed mental illnesses. Purpose: To examine the relationship between diagnosed depression and anxiety and recreational drug use habits among 18-25 year old undergraduate students. Methods: A cross-sectional study design was used to disseminate a custom survey to undergraduate students at SCSU in 2016. Self-reported health status among a randomly selected sample of 1,213 undergraduate college students. From this dataset, we selected only 18-25 year old male and female undergraduate students. The Mean age = 20.4 with a STD=1.74. Our resulting sample size was: 787 students. Considerations were made for academic status (part time/full time), gender, working status, prescribed antidepressants/antianxiety medications, and overall perceived general health status. In order to analyze these data, chi square tests of association will be computed in SPSS software. Implications: Students, mental health providers, and drug prevention strategists can benefit from the results of this study because it will inform them about the relationship between mental health and drug use habits in this age group.

P.46 *Marijuana Use and Risky Behavior Amongst Undergrads at a Public New England University*
Author(s): Nicholas Aysseh, Sherry Van Lange
Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont
Department: Public Health
Abstract: INTRODUCTION: Research shows that marijuana is right behind alcohol as the drug most commonly linked to drugged driving. As we know, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is a risky behavior as it puts the driver, passengers and other drivers on the road at risk of having a motor vehicle accident. The number of self-reported marijuana users has been increasing. PURPOSE: In this investigation we aim to determine if there is a correlation between marijuana use and risky behavior (driving under the influence) amongst undergraduates at a public university in New England. METHODS: This study uses secondary data collected during 2012, 2014 and 2016. A validated instrument, the Core Drug and Alcohol short form survey, was administered in 2012 and 2014 while in 2016 a modified version of the Core Drug and Alcohol Short Form was implemented. The independent sample t-test will be used to explore a possible correlation between marijuana use and risky behavior. RESULTS: At this time analysis has not yet been completed. Sample size for 2012 was N=883, 2014 was N=1303 and 2016 N=831 based on the following inclusion criteria; all respondents who identified as undergraduates in 2012, 2014 and 2016 as well as all respondents who identified as either male or female only. IMPLICATIONS: Information gathered from this study will function as a literary contribution to the existing knowledge base. It can also be used to build awareness and develop resources and programs to combat risky behavior.

P.47 *A Systematic Review of Adolescents Who Self-Harm*
Author(s): Alyson Humphrey, Jill Cretella
Mentor: Christie Hunnicutt, LCSW
Department: Social Work
Abstract: Adolescence can be a time of both defeat and triumph. This transitional period can bring up many questions and feelings in regard to the individual and the people around them. Due to the changing chemicals in the body, we see a change in the person. It is during this time of adolescence that, across the United States (U.S.), self-harm is reported by substantial proportions. Considerable research has examined self-harm in terms of the characteristics, intentions and outcomes of the individuals and families involved. This research seeks to gather a better understanding of the individual and the families who are impacted by self-harm. Self-harm represents a growing health concern among adolescents.

P.48 *The Importance of Friendship: The Role that Teachers and Parents Play in Early Childhood Friendship Development*
Author(s): Alyssa Apelquist
Mentor: Dr. William Rowe
Department: Social Work
Abstract: This special project is devised to be a resource for elementary school systems, school social workers, parents, teachers, any individuals that positively contribute to a child's development, and Southern Connecticut State University. This project is created to increase awareness on the importance of early childhood friendship, as well as the critical roles that parents and teachers play in children's friendship development. Keeping in mind the stressors children face today, friendships could be a protective factor for children presented with a variety of hardships. This project supports the dimensions in which friendships could be an instrument to influence a child's overall well-being, general adjustment for later in life, developing personal competence, emotional and social development, establishing and maintaining relationships. Implementing strategies early on in the home and classroom could only benefit new generations of children and friendship development by establishing interaction skills and emotional responsiveness towards others that will be seen to be beneficial later in life.This project is supported by research and studies focusing on the importance of early childhood friendships; the impact on overall wellbeing now and later in life and the roles that parents and teachers have on friendship development. This special project is delivered in the form of a brochure from the literature. This brochure is accessible to parents, teachers, school social workers, elementary schools, students and faculty to utilize for informative and research purpose.

P.49 *The Importance of Addressing Hoarding With Community Collaboration*
Author(s): Devon Bakoledis
Mentor: Carmela Fusciello Smith, Ed.D.
Department: Social Work
Abstract: Hoarding is a serious issue that our country has faced for hundreds of years that is only just now becoming a more openly talked about and researched subject. This paper seeks to explore and understand the complex nature of hoarding, and identify the best practices in how to address hoarding issues through the findings of literature review and qualitative research. The conclusions of this paper identify the appropriate town departments that should be involved in hoarding cases, and show that the most effective measures in addressing hoarding cases include these town departments addressing hoarding cases as a cohesive group. The findings additionally show that helping a person with severe hoarding behaviors requires a community coming together to surround the person with resources and assist them in changing their behaviors in order for them to have a safe place to live.

P.50 *Project Teach: An Evaluation of Primary Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention Programming*
Author(s): Victoria Carnera
Mentor: Christie Hunnicutt, LCSW
Department: Social Work
Abstract: In the United States, one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before they are 18. States are taking steps to create programming aimed at preventing or reducing the incidents of child sexual abuse and assault, both perpetrated by peers and by adults. In Connecticut, the passage of PA14-196 is the leading effort to create and implement statewide sexual abuse and assault prevention programming. The Rape Crisis Center of Milford has created programming that fits the standards of this mandate for every grade level, Pre-K through 12th grade. Now there is a need to evaluate the programming to determine if it is effective. In a pre-test post-test format, this study seeks to determine if exposure to primary prevention sexual abuse and assault programming through Project TEACH decrease students' acceptance of sexual harassment myths? Expected findings from this research are that seventh graders, who have never received abuse prevention education before, will have a greater reduction of acceptance of sexual harassment myths as a result of participating in the Rape Crisis Center prevention programming. Eighth grade students, who have received prevention programming last year as seventh graders, will have a reduction in acceptance of sexual harassment myths, but it will be less of a change as compared to the seventh graders. The reduction in acceptance will be less significant because they will already have been exposed to programming aimed at reducing their acceptance of these myths.

P.51 *The Ineffectiveness of Zero Tolerance Policies: A Profound Study of the Zero Tolerance Policy*
Author(s): Sakima Hasan
Mentor: William Rowe, DSW
Department: Social Work
Abstract: This special project is designed to be a resource to educational systems that currently implement zero-tolerance policies. For this project, literature is synthesized and created into guidelines set inside a brochure. The literature suggests zero-tolerance policies have a history of injustices that include a "one-size-fits-all" rule. Zero-tolerance policies are a leading cause of the disparity in African American students receiving suspension and expulsion disciplinary action. In hopes to correct zero-tolerance, restorative justice was created. The research information found in the literature of this special project, as well as its deliverable, is available in a brochure to utilize for informative purposes on ways to better respond to inappropriate behavior.

P.52 *"Then we became illegal…" Trust, Fear, and Stress in the Lives of Latino Adults who Grew up with Undocumented Parents*
Author(s): Sandy Gonzalez
Mentor: Lorrie G. Gardella, JD, LMSW, ACSW
Department: Social Work
Abstract: The proposed study will conduct semi-structured qualitative interviews with adult U.S. citizens who have one or more undocumented parent in order to better understand the long-term impact of growing up in a mixed status family. Existing research describes the psycho-social impact of having undocumented parents on minor children. Little is known about the long-term effects of this stress and how adult lives are shaped by these childhood experiences. Interviews with 5-7 adults will focus on their experiences growing up in mixed status families and the impact of these experiences on their current lives. The interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed. Thematic analysis will be used to organize and understand the data. Findings will be disseminated to collaborating agencies, at SCSU and local conferences, and in a peer-reviewed journal.

P.53 *Social Work Burnout: What Social Workers Need to Know*
Author(s): Alyssa Zargos
Mentor: Dr. Joanne Jennings
Department: Social Work
Abstract: This translational project seeks the signs and symptoms of social work burnout that exists in social workers. This special project examines literature to explain what social work burnout is, what the signs are, and how workers can avoid or prevent burnout from occurring. This translational research project concluded with the creation of an educational leaflet. The leaflet will serve to raise the awareness of social workers regarding social work burnout and what to do to prevent it. This translational research project has been designed to educate MSW student social workers in identifying burnout, compassion fatigue, and vicarious trauma. It is intended for potential workers to identify signs and symptoms and learn how to apply self-care. An educational leaflet has been distributed via e-mail to all MSW students at Southern Connecticut State University. This project will contribute to the field of social work through raising the worker's consciousness of burnout while helping intervene symptoms that can result in large employee turnovers. This project is congruent with social work values and ethics, especially with clinicians and mental health counselors who provide therapy for individuals in crisis

P.54 *Assessing Quaker Values and Character Among Young Children*
Author(s): Maria-Teresa Anez-Moronta
Mentor: Dana A. Schneider, Ph.D., L.C.S.W.
Department: Social Work
Abstract: This study qualitative seeks to explore how Quaker values relate to young children (age 1 to 5) VIA character strength through the perspective of teachers at the Friends Center for Children in New Haven, CT. Eleven teachers (n=11) completed an online survey. Twelve themes emerged "equality among individuals," "childrens behavior towards those who need extra teacher support," "true to be themselves," "satisfaction on simple activities," "simplicity in the classroom," "the significance of nature and type of environment," "sensory," "state of well-being," "accountability for the earth and each other," "the relationship between stewardship and responsibility," "sense of others," and "sense of safety." Results showed that developmental appropriated VIA character strengths for young children such as fairness, kindness, self-regulation, creativity, love of learning, appreciation of beauty and excellence, gratitude, citizenship, and social intelligence were present among the different participants quotes in relationship to all the Quaker values. This study has some important implications for social workers, policymakers, and educators. Social workers and other professionals can use Quaker values as a baseline to implement character strengths in a value-based curriculum, as well as using these values to help develop positive character strength on young children.

P.55 *Efficacy of Supportive Housing*
Author(s): Richard McGarigle
Mentor: Carmela Fusciello Smith, EdD.
Department: Social Work
Abstract: This analytical thesis is meant to explore the effectiveness of long term supportive housing for individuals recovering from chronic mental illness. The content of this thesis reviews the services and housing provided to this population in the past, how housing and residential treatment is implemented now, and what can be done moving forward to better transition these individuals into their communities. The content of the thesis is guided by the perspectives of conflict theory, systems theory, and citizenship theory. A discussion on the theories and the history of housing options for this vulnerable population will begin the thesis before further discussing and reviewing research and literature on the efficacy current housing options in the United States of America. While the focus of this thesis is focused on supportive housing for the mentally ill, particularly in the United States of America, these topics lead discussion to healthcare, substance use, the criminal justice system, and how supportive housing is implemented in other nations (Particularly nations within Europe such as Belgium, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom).

P.56 *Foster Care Services*
Author(s): Kaitlin Magalnick
Mentor: Carmela Fusciello Smith, EdD.
Department: Social Work
Abstract: The research discussed in this analysis examines the services that are offered to foster parents in Connecticut. The findings conclude that some of the adults who were in the foster care system as children were appreciative of all that was available to them, while others felt as though there are still many services that should still be put in place for children in foster care.

P.57 *LGBTQ Identity and Resilience*

Author(s): Kateryna Sabanska Melillo, Rebecca Harvey, Kimberly Dugan
Mentor: Kimberly B. Dugan, Ph.D.
Department: Social Work

Abstract: This research explores various circumstances in which identifying as LGBTQ becomes beneficial. Although incidents of oppression, discrimination, and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queers have been well documented in counseling and therapeutic literature (D'Emilio, 1983; Chauncey, 1994; Rupp, 1999; Adam, 1989; Comstock, 1991; Herek & Berrill, 1992), little is known about potential "benefits" or gifts that emerge from being considered "oppressed and disadvantaged" minority group. Thus, identifying benefits and gifts that LGBTQ individuals have, despite being maltreated and ignored, is critical to both individuals and therapists. It provides LGBTQ individuals with an opportunity to recognize and use potential resilience strategies regarding their experience, and helps therapists provide LGBTQ-affirmative counseling and psychotherapy. The ongoing research is an exploratory, qualitative study. We interviewed adult participants 18 years of age and older about their experiences as LGBTQ identified people. The interviews were audiotaped and transcribed. Currently they are in the process of coding and analysis using grounded theory methodology and phenomenological research methods. We chose these methods to understand subjects' experiences, their meaning-making process, and to "elucidate an area of research that has been largely unexamined (Knoble & Linville, 2012). This research is in progress.

P.58 *Analyzing Pediatric Primary Care Physicians Approach to Maternal Mental Health*

Author(s): Madison Sparago
Mentor: Dr. Joanne Jennings
Department: Social Work

Abstract: The objective of this research was to identify and interpret how pediatric primary care physicians at Yale New Haven Hospital's (YNHH) Pediatric Primary Care Center (PCC) approach maternal mental health issues (specifically postpartum depression) during well-child visits. This review was designed to highlight the importance of having an ongoing dialogue between pediatric primary care physicians and social workers, so that physicians are optimally prepared when assessing and referring for maternal mental health issues. Twelve participants who are pediatric residents at the PCC were selected using convenience sampling. Six open-ended questions were administered during individual sessions with the pediatric physicians. This data was analyzed using the thematic framework analysis and subsequently transcribed.
The study culminated with the creation of a new guidance tool. This new guidance tool was distributed within YNHH's Pediatric PCC. The objective is for this new guidance tool, developed from a social work perspective, to begin the process of changing the way pediatric primary care physicians approach maternal mental health issues in their practice. The tool is intended to help enhance the level of comfort pediatricians have in discussing maternal mental health, particularly postpartum depression, with mothers of young children. This new guidance tool will contribute to the field of social work by leading to more discussions about and subsequently increasingly accurate diagnoses of maternal mental health issues. Thus, more referrals will ideally come from PCC settings to social services, ultimately resulting in better patient care.

P.59 *Underutilization of Mental Health Services Within the Latinx Community What barriers prevent Latinx individuals from seeking mental health treatment? How can the New Haven community help individuals in need access mental health services?*

Author(s): Cynthia Martinez
Mentor: Jill Cretella, MSW
Department: Social Work

Abstract: There are currently 562,347 Latinx residents living in Connecticut (World Population Review, 2018). While this is a significant amount, this sub population of people are one of the least likely populations to utilize mental health services. The research study below examined this phenomenon by asking, "What barriers prevent Latinx individuals from seeking mental health treatment? How can the New Haven community help individuals in need access mental health services?" This research study attempted to answer this question by using a qualitative approach. The target population for this study were Latinx students of Southern Connecticut State University. There were no age or gender restrictions for this study. 4 students participated. Data was collected by using qualitative, guided, open- ended interviews. The interview questions were created by this investigator and approved by the Institutional Review Board prior to the data collection portion of this study. The interview asked questions regarding the participants personal and family experience with mental illness and mental health services. The interviews allowed participants to provide suggestions for better practice for current and future social work professionals. After the completion of this study, this investigator identified several common themes expressed by all participants. Participants reported pride, spirituality, denial/avoidance and lack of education as barriers that Latinx individuals and families face when considering mental health services. 100% percent suggested that social work professionals, and all people in the field of human services embrace Latinx culture and language in order to better connect with their clients.

P.60 *The Portable PlayRoom*

Author(s): Charles Peck
Mentor: Dr. Joanne Jennings
Department: Social Work

Abstract: The goal of this special project was to design and develop a portable play therapy kit for use in outpatient treatment with school-age children. The act of play is a fundamental piece in the development and growth in children (Bratton, Ray, Edwards, & Landreth, 2009). Play Therapy offers benefits for clients of younger ages whom do not yet employ the full range of spoken language. Play Therapy allows children to explore their thoughts and feelings in a safe environment. Child-Centered Play Therapy has a goal of making a safe space for the child to experience integration and self-direction (Bratton, Ray, Edwards, & Landreth, 2009). Without space or funding for a full playroom to conduct therapy in, a portable system can be used. This project led to the design/creation of The Portable PlayRoom for The Child and Family Guidance Center located in Stratford, CT.

301

1.01 *The Use of Vending Machines Among SCSU Freshman and Sophomores*

Author(s): Ermonda Gjoni

Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont

Department: Public Health

Abstract: Background: The transition of students from home life to a college lifestyle is a challenging journey involving environmental, physical, and social adjustments which significantly impact dietary choices. This is a critical time in college freshman's lives considering many of them now gain total control of their eating behaviors. Vending machines are a contributing factor to unhealthy food environments, often offer limited healthy snack choices, and make snacks high in energy and low in nutrients easily available for consumers. Purpose: This cross-sectional research study examined the use of vending machines among college students in a public university. The research determined how often students used vending machines on campus, factors that influence their purchasing behavior and their interest in the availability of healthy choice indication at the point of purchase. Setting: The research study took place in classrooms on the Southern Connecticut State University campus in New Haven, CT (SCSU) Participants: Randomly selected undergraduate students were invited to participate in the research study (N=102). The students were at least 18 years or older and were enrolled in Tier 1 and Tier 2 classes Methods: A cross-sectional online survey was completed by participants. Analysis: Frequencies, percentages and chi-squared tests were used in the analysis process. Results: Results will be presented at the conference.

301

1.02 *The Influence of Nutrition Information on College Students' Sweetened Coffee Consumption Intentions*

Author(s): Abigail Putzer

Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont

Department: Public Health

Abstract: Sweetened coffee consumption is a behavior that is becoming increasingly more common among college students and young adults (National Coffee Association USA, 2017; West et al., 2006). Unfortunately, frequent intake of sugar-sweetened beverages, including sugary coffee drinks, can lead to increased risk for many health problems including obesity, type II diabetes, and cardiovascular disease (American Diabetes Association [ADA], 2017; American Heart Association [AHA], 2017a; AHA, 2017b). The purpose of this study was to determine the frequency of sweetened coffee beverage consumption among students at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) and to explore the impact of nutrition information on consumption intentions. A one group, pre-test post-test design was used to collect information from a sample of 230 undergraduate students from 42 randomly selected courses at SCSU during the 2018 spring semester. An online survey was used to measure participants' consumption intentions and nutritional knowledge regarding one of eight sweetened coffee beverage options before and after being provided with the beverage nutrition label. Survey data was analyzed to determine whether nutrition labels were effective in decreasing the intentions of SCSU students to consume sugary coffee drinks and whether this effect varied based on ability to estimate nutrition information, demographic characteristics, BMI, physical activity levels, and body weight intentions. Results from this study may be useful in the development of strategies aimed at the decreased consumption of sweetened coffee beverages and reduced risk of weight gain and weight-related illness among college students.

301

1.03 *Behavioral, Environmental, and Physiological Factors That Are Associated with Type 2 Diabetes Among Residents in Low-Income New Haven Neighborhoods*

Author(s): Meadeshia Mitchell

Mentor: Dr. Victoria Zigmont

Department: Public Health

Abstract: Purpose: To investigate the association between risk and protective factors and type 2 diabetes among low-income New Haven residents. Method: This study analyzed secondary data from the 2015 CARE Neighborhood Survey. A random sample of households in six low-income New Haven neighborhoods (N=1,189) was selected based upon a neighborhood-stratified, population-based research design. Logistic regression was used to construct a model to answer the research question. Results: The results showed that 11.8% (n = 184) of the participants who completed the survey reported having type 2 diabetes. Of those participants, 29% were between ages 50 to 65 years, 27.4% were widowed, 18.7% had less than a high school education, and 17% earned less than $15,000 for total household income. The study results revealed that individuals who were between ages 50-65 years had 10.72 times the odds of having type 2 diabetes compared to those who were between ages 18-34 years (95% CI: 3.56-32.31, p < .001). High blood pressure was significantly associated with 4.22 times the odds of having type 2 diabetes (95% CI: 2.17-8.21) as compared to those without high blood pressure. Finally, individuals in the obese category were 2.78 times the odds of having type 2 diabetes in comparison to those who were in the normal weight category (95% CI: 1.16-6.65). Conclusion: The public health implications are to use the findings from this study to inform clinical and public health interventions aimed at preventing and improving diabetes health outcomes, particularly in low-income urban neighborhoods of color.

301

1.04 *"You Are Who You Surround Yourself With": A Qualitative Examination of Friendship Networks Impacting College Students' Social and Academic Success*

Author(s): Sterling White

Mentor: Dr. Jessica Kenty-Drane

Department: Sociology

Abstract: The work of sociologist Janice McCabe illustrates a perspective of the college experience that impacts students' social and academic success – their friendship networks. With tuition increasing and reduced subsidies for institutions, showing students how friends can benefit them academically is an economical strategy that can help students graduate in four years opposed to six or more. While different for each student, having a satisfying college experience can involve being a student-athlete, being a member of clubs and/or organizations, participating in intermural sports, engaging local and global communities, work responsibilities, internships, and much more. While attempting to balance it all, students still try to remain social, but who they socialize with can help or hurt their chances at graduating on time, and in some cases, graduating at all. Through years of research McCabe identified three friendship network structures and characteristics of each, including prominent demographics of each network and the collective education outcomes of students in who had each type of friendship network. Compartmentalizers, tight-knitters, and samplers are the three network types and students who had tight-knit friendship networks when compared to compartmentalizers and samplers, had the lowest grade point averages (GPA), lowest graduation rates, and most students who had tight-knit friendship networks were black and Latino students. During this presentation I will share the results from 10 student interviews where they discussed their friendships, friendship groups, campus engagement, which all give insight into how friendship networks impact students' social and academic success.

306

1.01

Not Too Taboo: The Sexuality Knowledge of Connecticut Students, Its Sources, and Timing

Author(s): Gabrielle DeFord, Mark Costa

Mentor: Chyrell D Bellamy, Ph.D., MSW & Mark Costa, MD, MPH

Department: Social Work

Abstract: Background: Sexuality matters – we cannot form our identities or create intimacy without it, and it plays a key role in our overall health. Yet sexuality education is not mandated in the United States. Every state develops its own approach. This study explores if and how students in Connecticut learn what they need to make informed decisions about their sexual identities, relationships, and wellness. Method: A survey was developed that used the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States' framework of six key areas and 39 topics to assess how well students know sexuality. Students also defined sexuality, ranked their actual and preferred sources of information on it, and indicated whether they felt adequately prepared in the six key areas. The survey was administered online to students between 18-25 at two urban Connecticut colleges. Students were eligible if they attended Connecticut schools prior to secondary education. Results: Descriptive data will be reported (N=231). Analyses will be provided related to the hypotheses: students will report receiving less than adequate education on sexuality; students will report that neither schools nor parents are their main sources of information on sexuality; and students will report receiving education on sex and sexuality after when they first needed it. Implications: This is the first known study to measure Connecticut students' self-reports of how well they feel they know various aspects of sexuality, and their actual and preferred sources of information on it. Results can guide multifaceted efforts to effectively reach students with sexuality information.

306

1.02

The Impact of Heteronormitivity: Barriers in Seeking Domestic Violence Services for LGBTQ+ Survivors

Author(s): Catherine Gingras

Mentor: Chyrell D. Bellamy, Ph.D.

Department: Social Work

Abstract: Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior that is used to gain power and control over an individual. While high rates of domestic violence, specifically intimate partner violence, occurs within the LGBTQ+ community, domestic violence agencies report minimal service to LGBTQ+ survivors. This study investigated the barriers for LGBTQ+ individuals seeking domestic violence services. Participants (n=7) completed a demographic questionnaire and discussed the lack of services provided for LGBTQ+ individuals, the barriers involved in seeking services, the benefits of including services specifically oriented for LGBTQ+ survivors of abuse, and the ways that domestic violence agencies can implement better practice methods towards LGBTQ+ survivors. Analysis of the transcriptions from these focus groups indicated four (4) themes of importance: The Impact of Heteronormativity; Visible Queerness; Distribution of Language; and Outreach & Programming. Results from the questionnaire indicated that although a majority of the participants have experienced some form of domestic and/or sexual violence, most participants would not feel comfortable seeking services at a domestic violence agency. Further research is needed to gain a more comprehensive understanding as to how to minimize barriers for LGBTQ+ individuals in seeking domestic violence services.

306

1.03

Emancipatory Nursing Alongside the Undocumented Asylum Seeker

Author(s): Joseph Foran

Mentor: Dr. Kimberly Petrovic, Ph.D. MSN MA RN

Department: Nursing

Abstract: On the frontlines of community care, advanced practice nurses (APNs) are called to be social actors: clinically astute, culturally immersed, interdisciplinary agents of social change. This guided case study is a clinical encounter with a fictional, yet veritable patient in New Haven, Connecticut: an undocumented, Guatemalan, asylum-seeking woman with an immigration court-mandated GPS ankle bracelet and a child in tow. We consider the woman's story through the lens of emancipatory nursing, which seeks to ask critical questions and collaboratively develop emancipatory nursing actions alongside people seeking liberation. We use professional competencies to explore how the APN might restructure practice and act as a health care broker among community groups and disciplines. We employ anthropological concepts of embodiment, structural violence, social suffering, and explanatory models to inform the case.

Keywords: Emancipatory nursing, praxis, embodiment, explanatory models, structural violence, undocumented, asylum-seeker, Guatemala, nurse educator, advanced practice nurse.

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Session II | Oral Presentations

Adanti Student Center Rooms 309 & 311

School of Arts & Sciences | School of Business

309

1.01

Swipe, Zoom in and Zoom out Touch Patterns for Smartphone User Authentication and Identification

Author(s): Leran Wang, Lisa Lancor

Mentor: Md Shafaeat Hossain

Department: Computer Science

Abstract: The rapid development of smartphone has provided people an efficient life style in past a few years, according to the latest forecast, almost 2.4 billion people will use a smartphone in this year. On the other hand, the strong dependency of using smartphone also lead to severe information security problems. All kinds of data have been saved in smartphones and some of them are related to private personal information. Although the commonly used ways of smartphone user authentication system such as password authentication has been playing a role in information security field, the effect is limited, since once the security system is broken down once, the hacker will be able to navigate or even steal the data saved in the smartphone without being found. Therefore, an efficient authentication system which is able to constantly observe and monitor users' behaviors becomes more urgent and necessary. In order to achieve better authentication accuracy, proper touch gestures selection are important. In this paper, we will be concentrating on the zoom-in and zoom-out gestures and extracting as many as possible new features in this gesture and aim to evaluate the effectiveness for user identification and authentication. Several classifiers such as SVM and Neural Network will be used in this experiment, The result will be displayed in confusion matrix and the accuracy will be calculated and compared.

309
1.02 *A Web-Based Translation System for Multilingual Code-switching*
Author(s): Darren Yip
Mentor: Dr. Mohammad Tariqul Islam
Department: Computer Science

Abstract: In this project, a web-based translator is designed and built using open-sourced resources capable of translating code-switched sentences – sentences that alternate between two or more languages. While today's technology is more than capable of translating common monolingual sentences, there is still much work to be done when it comes to translating code-switched sentences. This project aims to contribute the study of translating code-switched sentences using publicly available resources and could potentially contribute towards developing translation systems capable of translating entire conversations that code-switch across multiple languages.

309
1.03 *Workplace Evolution*
Author(s): Griffin Doninger
Mentor: Dr. Nodoushani
Department: Management

Abstract: Internal and external factors of the workplace environment have a direct impact on productivity, morale, and motivation. Many of these factors can be influenced by the employer to cultivate a healthy, diverse, and collaborative environment that encourages a positive and productive workplace. Conversely, factors of influence on the workplace environment including globalization and technological advances can also have a negative impact on the workforce. The evolving workplace environment must be systematically evaluated to institute best-practices, stimulate productivity, and shape company culture. The modern workplace looks very different from the way it did even a decade ago. As social, economic, and technological advances are made, businesses must adapt to either overcome, or embrace those changes for the benefit of the organization. It is not a choice of whether successful companies should adopt the innovative methods of performing work, it now has become a question of how to adopt and adapt. Constant access to the internet, mobile devices, and globalization has made the working environment extraordinarily dynamic. Businesses must understand these changes and develop an educated plan for effectively managing the process. The purpose of this thesis is to investigate research evidence to analyze the factors of information technology and the advances that influence the workplace environment. The consequences of these advances on productivity, profits, and employee retention will be considered.

309
1.04 *SmartWand: Small Business in a Box*
Author(s): Stephanie Wandell
Mentor: Anthony S. Richardson, PMP
Department: School of Business

Abstract: The way we work is changing. Whether we are working more, working less, all signs point to a boom in freelancer jobs by the year 2020, with estimates of about 40% of the American workforce being considered freelancers. Across the U.S. almost half of the private workforce is run by small businesses. In 2014, across the United States, small businesses employed 57.9 million people or 47.8% of the private workforce. During the course of my project, I will be exploring the needs that freelancers need to be successful. I'll also be sharing my personal experiences about my experience with a "side hustle" (A Side Hustle is a gig that allows you to make money in addition to your primary job), and what I learned from that experience and the survey portion of my project to understand what freelancers and people who are part of the gig economy will need to be successful.

311
1.01 *Women in the African Diaspora I*
Author(s): Allegra Itsoga, Loretta Lincoln, Taegun Moon, Patricia Duff
Mentor: Siobhan Carter-David, Ph.D.
Department: History/WMS

Abstract: Made up of the students in the spring 2018 section of the Women's Studies graduate course "Global Women's Issues," this panel will focus in the history, culture, identity, and economics of women in the African diaspora. They will be presenting their course research topics with an emphasis on the fight against slavery and colonialism in the diaspora; the rejection and hostilities experienced by African immigrants in France; and the comparative inter-ethnic and inter-racial experiences with historical mixed-race status in the African and Asian diasporas and contemporary funding for groups in West and Central Africa with funding for groups working with primarily black and African diasporic communities in the United States.

311
1.02 *Women in the African Diaspora II*
Author(s): Afia Opoku, Hannah Schack, Justine Jarvie, Vanessa Parker
Mentor: Siobhan Carter-David, Ph.D.
Department: History/WMS

Abstract: Made up of the students in the spring 2018 section of the Women's Studies graduate course "Global Women's Issues," this panel will focus in the history, culture, identity, and economics of women in the African diaspora. They will be presenting their course research topics with an emphasis on sexualization and body politics/positivity; racial trauma; and reclaiming space and creating autonomy in the diaspora.

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. | Session II | Oral Presentations
Adanti Student Center Rooms 308
School of Education | School of Arts & Sciences

308
1.01 *Building A Foundation in Early Childhood Education: An Analysis of the Common Core State Standards and its Influence on Kindergarten*
Author(s): Tisha Fox
Mentor: Dr. Jess L. Gregory
Department: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Abstract: The purpose of this congruent mixed methods study is to analyze the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and its influence on kindergarten. Increasing concern has been raised by educators and parents. There is a variation of how kindergarten is provided to young learners. With the increasing pressure in kindergarten and the instructional shifts due to the CCSS, the study emphasized instructional decision making based on developmentally-appropriate practice and play-based pedagogy. Four teachers from two demographically-matched elementary schools participated in interviews. Each teacher's personal experiences, educational background, and knowledge of developmentally-appropriate practice were analyzed. The qualitative interview data along with quantitative DIBELS assessment data were analyzed to uncover the impact on teaching and learning in kindergarten. Additionally, two leaders were interviewed to determine their expectations for kindergarten learning as well as their background knowledge regarding best practices for early learners. The study indicates the impact of teacher planning, scheduling, and instructional design on student achievement.

308
1.02 *An Examination of the Relationship Between Teacher Cultural Competence and Student Achievement*
Author(s): Dr. Thomas L. Mitchell
Mentor: Sousan Arafeh, Ph.D.
Department: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Abstract: This study examines the relationship between teacher cultural competence and math achievement of students of color. It analyzes culturally responsive teacher preparedness, culturally responsive teacher practices, cultural intelligence, and teacher multicultural awareness (IVs) on student math achievement (DV) through hierarchical linear modeling (HLM) and bivariate correlations via SPSS software. The hypothesis of the multiple linear relationship will determine whether to reject or fail to reject the proposed relationship between student achievement in math and teacher cultural preparedness, teacher cultural responsive practices, teacher cultural intelligence, and teacher cultural awareness. Bivariate correlations will determine the strength of relationships between each independent variable and the dependent variable (student attainment), and establish if it is statistically significant. This study is crucial because it addresses concerns about the achievement gap and implications for teaching and learning as it relates to students of color in the present and the future.

308
1.03 *Cultural Discontinuity and Social Processes: The Impact on Black Students' Academic Success*
Author(s): Ashley Guest
Mentor: Dr. Gladys Labas
Department: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Abstract: Numerous research studies have been conducted, and educational policies have been enacted, to address the racial achievement gap. Consequently, social processes and cultural discontinuity can negatively impact Black students' achievement. However, though the racial achievement gap still persists, there have been studies that conclude Black educators increase Black students' achievement scores (Dee, 2004; Egalite, Kisida, & Winters, 2015; Hanushek, Kain, O'Brien & Rivkin, 2005). The purpose of this study is to investigate the processes that impact Black students' achievement, and to identify veteran Black educators' perspectives on these processes and the next steps in increasing Black students' achievement. A phenomenological qualitative research design will be utilized to interview, and to gather data, from veteran Black educators. As a result of this research study, it is anticipated that the veteran Black educators will provide concrete next steps in how families, educators, school leadership, and policy makers can create an environment for Black students, which leads to their academic achievement.

308
1.04 *A Survey on Environmental Knowledge & Beliefs and Environmentalism Among Community Leaders in New Haven, CT*
Author(s): Maria-Threese Serana
Mentor: Dr. Susan H. Cusato
Department: Environment, Geography, and Marine Sciences

Abstract: A descriptive survey among 18 community leaders in New Haven, CT reveals that more respondents did not consider themselves environmentalists despite substantial knowledge of the worsening state of the environment, acceptance of human-induced extreme climate change, participation in carbon-footprint reducing efforts at home, and desire to take further carbon-reducing actions in the future. Respondents cite health, economic, and personal satisfaction (such as happiness) reasons for taking steps to reduce their carbon footprints. My explanation for the incongruence between sufficient environmental knowledge and belief and refusal to identify as environmentalists is the prevailing notion that environmentalism requires participation in established environmental movements such as the Green Peace; major personal sacrifices or heroic lifestyle changes; and substantial amount of money, resources, time, and technology. Everyone believed that personal connection to nature is necessary for various reasons. While more respondents engaged in activities that connect them to nature, a majority did not consider humans as part of nature. Respondents' age, which ranged from 11 to 67 years old; gender; educational attainment; and religious affiliation did not show any significant association with the type of response. In conclusion, recognition of individual "perfunctory" environmentalism as vital, designing environmental activities conveniently embedded in daily life and provide direct economic and health benefits, and most importantly, government support to democratize access to alternative energy sources and incentivize individual and collective projects to mitigate the threats to our Earth and society can greatly empower and encourage citizens in making environmentalism an accessible and preferred way of life.

301 *Chronic Endocrine Adaptations After Elastic Variable Resistance Training: Examining Testosterone and Cortisol*

2.01 **Author(s):** Christopher Marang

Mentor: Scott W. Talpey, Ph.D, CSCS

Department: Exercise Science

Abstract: Muscle strength is a fundamental quality of health related physical fitness. The use of elastic bands as a form of variable resistance has become a popular training method for individuals attempting to enhance muscle strength. Endocrine adaptations utilizing a resistance training program with elastic variable resistance is an unresearched area presently. Monitoring an individual's endocrine response to exercise provides researchers and practitioners with information that can be used to monitor the stress associated with training. Whilst the endocrine response to traditional resistance training has been extensively studied, there is a dearth of research that has investigated the hormonal response to variable resistance training. Therefore, the purpose of this investigation is to determine if training with elastic band resistance at near maximal loads will create a sustained adaptation by changing the bioavailable concentrations of testosterone and cortisol. The hypotheses are elastic variable resistance training will increase testosterone secretion for restorative effects and decrease cortisol secretion to sustain restructuring. Saliva samples will be collected and analyzed utilizing ZRT Laboratory female/male profile II kits for saliva immunoassay. The resistance training intervention will include a one repetition maximum test on a modified deadlift and a six-week training program based on results of the previous maximal test, in the same movement. Statistical analysis will involve a 2x3 (group x time) repeated measures analysis of variance for hormone profiling and calculations of effect size to determine magnitude of difference with Hopkins descriptive terms to classify effect size.

301 *Politicking the Soldiers: Defining the Relationship between the Military Institutions and the State*

2.02 **Author(s):** Leonore Tripler

Mentor: Jonathan O'Hara, Ph.D.

Department: Political Science

Abstract: The United States Military requires comprehensive training that is geared toward the management of violence. The military profession requires both compliance and expertise to carry out the mission that fulfills its duties to the United States of America. The command and responsibility of deciding the mission is up to political officials, civilians. Unlike the Military, where rank and time in service propel one's upward mobility within the career field, politicians are elected into these positions of power. The purpose of this paper is to peel back the layers that intertwine the military and the state, and glance at the socio-historical lens that carefully ties these institutions together. A majority of this paper will be reviewing the history of these two institutions and what they have done in tandem with military policy. How does history define civil-military relationship in the United States? Does the military respectfully disregard the decisions of its principle and act independently as an agency when expertise trumps a political expediency approach? In a combination of literature review, participant observation (as a current member of the CT Air National Guard). I will try to provide an opportunity to answer these questions offering a closer look at navigating civil-military relations.

301 *Treatment Preferences of Current Opioid Users*

2.03 **Author(s):** Josephine Ankrah, Dr. Aukje Lamonica

Mentor: Dr. Aukje Lamonica

Department: Public Health

Funding: National Institutes of Health 1R15DA041657-01A1

Abstract: Epidemiological data indicate that there has been a large increase in the opioid epidemic in the past decade. Increasingly, the majority of new opioid users are white, middle-class and live in nonurban areas. We conducted an ethnographic study to examine opioid use patterns in three suburban areas (Boston, Atlanta and New Haven). Here, we focus on users' treatment experiences. Current treatment approaches have high dropout rates and high rates of recidivism. This presentation focuses on users' understanding of what an ideal treatment would encompass. Their experiences are captured in an effort to inform current treatment practices and policies.

301 *Intergenerational Drug Use and the Effect on Family Dynamics and Relationships*

2.04 **Author(s):** Britt Conroy, Dr. Aukje Lamonica

Mentor: Dr. Aukje Lamonica

Department: Public Health

Abstract: The opioid epidemic has captured the attention of the nation due to its unrelenting and pervasive surge through every demographic, socioeconomic status, and geographic region. An NIH grant funded ethnographic study was conducted in three suburban areas in the United States. Here we will focus on data from 45 qualitative interviews with opioid users in the suburbs of Atlanta, Boston and New Haven. Specifically, we will examine the inter-generational aspect of opioid use by two or more individuals within the same family and the effect of drug use on family dynamics and relationships.

306 *Breast Cancer Clinical Trial Accrual of Patients From Traditionally Underserved Populations: A Qualitative Investigation*

2.01 **Author(s):** Whitney Allen, Dr. Andrea Silber

Mentor: Stanley N. Bernard, DrPH.

Department: Public Health

Abstract: The purpose of the project is to investigate why traditionally underserved populations are not participating in cancer clinical trials at the Yale Cancer Center. Clinical trials have provided significant progress in medical treatments, but traditionally underserved populations like African American women and Hispanic/ Latinas continue not to be represented in cancer clinical trials. Even with policy changes that made participation among minorities and women more inclusive, many cancer centers have difficulty when engaging traditionally underserved populations into clinical trials. Previous studies have investigated factors and barriers that influence clinical trial participation among traditionally underserved populations, but limited studies used qualitative approaches. Semi-structured interviews were conducted among breast cancer patients at Yale Cancer Center. The responses from the patients will identify possible barriers to cancer clinical trial participation among the population. This investigation will provide recommendations for appropriate interventions to help increase the number of cancer clinical trials at Yale Cancer Center.

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2.02

Putting the "Social" Back in Social Work: Exploring the Relationship between Professional Values & Clinical Practice

Author(s): Rebecca Eisenberg

Mentor: Chyrell D. Bellamy, Ph.D., Thesis Advisor

Department: Social Work

Abstract: Clinical social workers have made significant strides in the mental health profession, taking the lead over the number of psychiatrists and psychologists, in the field. Contrary to the belief system of psychiatry, researchers have suggested that the use of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM) and it's diagnosing standards, contradicts many of Social Work's core beliefs. This qualitative exploratory study aims to build on previous research that examined the purpose, usage and opinion of the DSM and explored the potential mismatch with social work values/ethics. Qualitative interviews were conducted with Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) at varying levels of experience to gain a deeper understanding of their perception of the mismatch between professional values and everyday practice implications. Data collected in this thesis supports previous research and identifies specific themes derived from Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis. These themes include participant's external responses to the DSM/diagnosing, defined as a "means to an end," the cognitive dissonance experienced by participants when faced with the mismatch between social work professional values/ethics and clinical daily practice, and implicit responses interpreted through an ego defense mechanism lens. Furthermore, findings are analyzed using the concept of "use of self" and the differences between "false and true self". This thesis provides preliminary evidence suggesting that LCSWs in the mental health field experience a struggle with the mismatch between social work values/ethics and daily practice. Implications for this study include, further research around the newer concept of "use of self" in social work education and practice for clinical social workers.

306

2.03

Neurobiology of trauma and mindfulness: The impact of mindfulness based interventions for the treatment of trauma through the theoretical frameworks of Sigmund Freud and Bessel van der Kolk

Author(s): Jessica Pretak

Mentor: Heather C. Pizzanello, Ph.D., L.C.S.W.

Department: Social Work

Abstract: With current groundbreaking research on neurobiology, we are obtaining a better understanding of the impact of trauma on brain functioning and development. Historically, Jean-Martin Charcot, Janet Pierre, and Sigmund Freud studied hysteria, creating a foundation for discovering early trauma in relation to organic events in one's life. Freud expanded this research to develop theories around trauma and the unconscious, specifically around the use of repression as a defense mechanism. The use of repressive memories is still paramount for understanding the effects of traumatic memory in clients. The importance of neuroscience allows us to discover impactful ways to teach our clients how to recover from psychological trauma by working within the body. This theoretical thesis will analyze Bessel van der Kolk's work, specifically understanding brain functioning with the use of neuroimaging. This thesis will also explore and integrate new research around the use of different mindfulness based interventions to work within the body for recovery from trauma. Mindfulness based interventions look not only to the Western traditions, but to Eastern traditions as well.

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2.04

Identifying Cancerous Thyroid Nodules By Means of Quantitative Ultrasound

Author(s): Jason Smith, Dr. Daniel Rohrbach, Ernest Feleppa, Ph.D., Stephanie Lee

Mentor: Dr. Binlin Wu

Department: Physics

Funding: NIH

Abstract: Thyroid cancer is the most-common endocrine malignancy. Most thyroid cancer occurs in thyroid nodules, and the standard diagnostic method is a fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) of a nodule with cytological evaluation. Unfortunately, 20 to 30% of FNABs cannot differentiate benign from malignant thyroid nodules. Many patients require surgical excision of the nodule for definitive histological diagnosis; however, only about 25% of those patients will prove to have thyroid cancer. The objective of this study is to develop a non-invasive diagnostic approach using quantitative ultrasound (QUS) to detect thyroid cancer. Our initial results with ROC AUC values > 0.9 suggest that QUS has promising potential to improve non-surgical evaluation of thyroid nodules and to reduce the number of retrospectively unnecessary surgical procedures.

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Session III | Oral Presentations

Adanti Student Center Rooms 308, 309, & 311

School of Arts & Sciences

308

2.01

Thin Film Deposition/ CNT Synthesis

Author(s): Jerome Frey

Mentor: Todd Schwendemann, Ph.D.

Department: Physics

Abstract: Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are a viable product for many different markets, one of which is energy development due to its electrical conductivity property. One specific area of promise is the use of CNTs in Supercapacitors. Supercapacitors greatly benefit from an extremely large surface area given by uniformly grown CNTs. The objective of this project is to create a forest of uniformly, Vertically Aligned Carbon Nanotubes (VACNTs). In this project CNTs are grown using a Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD) method. The first step of the experiment is creating thin films of catalytic material ranging in thickness from sub-monolayer to a few atoms thick. The thin film substrate is created by means of the Thermal Evaporation Physical Vapor Deposition (TPVD) process. The nanoparticle thin film substrate is synthesized using a transition metal which acts as the nucleation points for CNT growth. After the thin film substrate is deposited, the CNTs are grown by in a CVD growth chamber. Analysis of the thin film substrate and CNTs is performed primarily using Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM). Various substrate and thin film material sources will be used to determine the best catalytic surface for CNT synthesis. By growing a forest of uniform, Vertically Aligned Carbon Nanotubes (VACNTs), further analysis of the materials characteristics can be carried out. This thesis projects focus is to explore different materials for optimal CNT synthesis. The purpose is to successfully create a forest of Vertically Aligned Carbon Nanotubes suitable for energy applications such as use in supercapacitors.

308
2.02 *Elemental Analysis with Energy Dispersion X-Ray Spectroscopy*
Author(s): David Uhl, Dr. B. Ellen Scanley, Christine Broadbridge, Todd Schwendemann
Mentor: Dr. B. Ellen Scanley
Department: Physics
Abstract: Energy dispersion X-ray spectroscopy (EDX) is a method for elemental analysis, where the composition of the sample is determined from the energies of its emitted x-rays. This research project utilizes a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) in order to decipher the exact compositions of various metal alloys. The samples being studied were sputtered with 4 different metals on Silicon and Sapphire wafers in a grid pattern, with each point on the grid having a unique composition. Because each wafer contained 225 points, the entire EDX process was automated using the SEM, requiring precise alignment of the sample and calibration of the SEM. Once the compositions were obtained and analyzed, the bonding structure of the samples were investigated using X-ray diffraction (XRD). The elemental compositions and corresponding atomic structures gives a complete chemical analysis of the materials being studied, giving further information regarding the properties of different metal alloys.

308
2.03 *A Comparative Study of Three Different Extraction Methods and Anti-Cancer Effect in Christmas Fern: Polystichum Acrostichoides*
Author(s): Haiyan Yao
Mentor: Sarah Crawford, Ph.D.
Department: Biology
Abstract: Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) is one of the most common, fast-growing and lethal cancer of brain in humans. Currently, there is no clear way to prevent and cure GBM. Conventional treatments include surgery, chemotherapy and localized radiation. The effect of these treatments is not very good and these treatments usually couple with lots of short and long term side effects. It is a good way to find low toxicity and side effects of anti-tumor small molecules from the natural products. Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) is found to be a natural resource with anti-oxidant and anti-tumor activity. Solvent extractions are the most common method to prepare extracts from plant materials due to their ease of use, lower cost and high efficiency. In this study, we compared the efficiency of three methods with three different extraction solvents: 50% ethanol plus 0.2% citric acid (method A), 80% methanol (method B) and 60% acetone (method C). We further purified the crude extracts by solid phase extraction (SPE) since the extraction mixture may contain some non-phenolic substances such as organic acid or fat. A series of chemical assays demonstrated that different methods show different efficiency for variable secondary metabolites. Overall, 50% ethanol plus 0.2% citric acid (method A) is the best solvent to isolate the secondary metabolites studied in this thesis. While we also found SPE can greatly increase the efficiency of extraction. Finally, we investigated the potential anti-cancer effect of extracts on a human GBM cell line.

308
2.04 *Conserving Connecticut's Natural History: Surviving Bat Communities and Habitat Use Post-White-Nose Syndrome*
Author(s): Christopher Wisniewski, Miranda Dunbar
Mentor: Miranda Dunbar, Ph.D.
Department: Biology
Abstract: Population ecology investigates questions related to density, growth/decline and movements of species over time in given geographical regions. This study investigated similar questions regarding populations of endemic bat species in Connecticut. White-nose syndrome (WNS) has recently killed millions of bats in New England, yet no large-scale conservation efforts have occurred in Connecticut and few data have been published on the status of Connecticut bats post-WNS. This study aims to: 1) survey bats persisting in WNS regions to document whether changes have occurred in species biodiversity, distribution and habitat use; and 2) measure seasonality effects from summer through pre-hibernal and winter months. Bat presence and activity were recorded using bat detectors set in grassland and forested habitats, near bodies of water and near anthropomorphic and geologic structures across Connecticut. Bioacoustics data have been analyzed by using Sonobat software. Our data will show how bat species diversity and activity has changed across seasons in a post-WNS environment, and whether persisting bat species are utilizing given habitats and/or adapting to new ecological niches once maintained by now extirpated species. Combined, these data can help drive future wildlife conservation, outreach, education and management practices.

309
2.01 *Translation of l'agnese va a morire to English*
Author(s): Delanie Cook
Mentor: Prof. Pina Palma
Department: Foreign Language
Abstract: This second half of the semester I have been completing an eight-week intensive independent study with my graduate school advisor. We have been reading and analyzing literature that pertains to Italian life during the time period of World War Two. One of the novels that we have read is *L'Agnese va a Morire*. It is a story of a woman who joins the partisan movement in war torn Italy during WW2. The novel has never been translated to English and with the guidance of Dr Palma, I will be tackling this fete. Italian to English translation is never literal and will not only search to translate the words, but also to bring the author's original tone and meaning into the English translation. It is an important story, and one that deserves to be heard by the masses, not just those who are fluent in the Italian language. At the end of the complete translation of the novel, I will pass it off to fellow Italian students and professors to have them read the English version to measure whether I was able to get the authors point of view across as well as she does in the Italian version. World War Two in Italy is largely unknown and I hope by translating this novel to English I can bring this piece of very important history to the masses outside of Italy's borders.

309
2.02   *Romanticism and Love in the Time of War*
Author(s): Sayma Chakchouk
Mentor: Dr. Nichole T. Gleisner
Department: World Languages

Abstract: Romanticism is a European literary and artistic trend that emerged mainly in the nineteenth century as a reaction to the industrial revolution and the political changes that some European countries experienced. Romantic themes emphasized the individual as an independent thinking entity, love, nature and political changes. Although Romanticism mainly blossomed in the nineteenth century, there are some literary works in later centuries that revolved around the same themes. This presentation will focus on two novels, one written in the twentieth century and the other written in the twenty-first century. The first one is Gone with the Wind, written in 1936 by Margaret Mitchell, a historical romance, about love in the time of the American Civil War. The second book, Ce Que le Jour Doit à la Nuit (What the Day Owes the Night) was written in 2008 by Mohammed Moulessehoul, under the pen name Yasmina Khadra. It also pictures a love story in the time of the Algerian independence war. The two books are highly relevant to the themes of Romanticism such as the autobiography or love in the time of war. What is also interesting is that one is Anglophone and one is Francophone. My analysis will be based on the comparison of the two works, written in different languages, different countries and different centuries, with some Romantic themes in common. It will look closely at the influence of each culture on the themes and the writing.

309
2.03   *Dominican American Studies Course Unit*
Author(s): Yarel Marshall
Mentor: Sobeira Latorre, Ph.D.
Department: World Languages and Literature

Abstract: I propose to develop a unit for a level 5 Spanish language and culture course on Dominican American culture and its impact on U.S. society. This unit would be available to and appeal to educators interested in incorporating more Latino/a/x cultures in their courses by focusing on one specific community, the Dominican American community, through film, music, and literature as well as purposeful discussion. By narrowing focus on one Latino/a/x community and culture, students will get a sense of one group's experiences. Teachers and students will be able to draw comparisons between this group, their own community, as well as other Latino communities in the United States. The specific study of Dominican materials will be divided into brief sub-topics under the overarching theme of the diaspora, or the migration experience of Dominicans to the United States. In this unit, students will receive a concise yet solid foundation on the history of the Dominican migration to the United States, which will allow them to better understand and contextualize the topics explored throughout the unit. These topics will consist of gender and race; religion and cultural practices; family, class, and education; as well as demographics. Throughout the unit, students will self-reflect and make comparisons between Dominican American culture and other cultures familiar to them. Ultimately, students should obtain a broad understanding and appreciation of the complex diversity of the Dominican American culture, how it has emerged and evolved, and why it is unique.

309
2.04   *Culturally Responsive Classroom*
Author(s): Laura Barberia
Mentor: Elena Schmitt, Ph.D
Department: World Languages

Abstract: The study investigates how culturally responsive curriculum affects the amount of production and quality of participation by heritage speakers in the classroom. Motivated by the increase in heritage language learners in US public schools, their enrollment in bilingual and world language classes, and the existent "mismatch between their home culture and the school culture" (Mitchell, 2009, p. 3), the researcher made modifications to the existing literacy-based curriculum to incorporate the following elements: a) description of the heritage cultural practices; b) interviewing parents regarding their home cultural practices; and c) comparison of heritage and host cultural practices through in-class discussions. Researcher then carried out quantitative and qualitative comparison of learners' language production in a modified and traditional classroom. The findings indicate a significant increase in type-token ratios of heritage speakers when they participated in a culturally responsive classroom. The increased levels of motivation and emotional engagement of these learners were also observed.

311
2.01   *Knucklehead*
Author(s): Shelley Stoehr-McCarthy
Mentor: Charles Baraw, Ph.D.
Department: English

Abstract: "Knucklehead" is a piece of flash fiction, written from a prompt in Professor Tim Parrish's fiction workshop (ENG 503). The prompt was to take an expression used to describe people and then literalize it. In "Knucklehead," a young, moderately developmentally-disabled boy, Sam, struggles to understand his father's cruel comments and abusive behavior. Although Sam's mother insists that Sam's father is joking, Sam does not understand why his father's language and actions are supposed to be funny.

311
2.02   *Dialects of Luck - Poems of Addiction*
Author(s): Cole Depuy
Mentor: Vivian Shipley, Ph.D., Connecticut State University Distinguished Professor
Department: English

Abstract: In my second year of the MFA program, I have explored writing themes and one that I'd like to present is regarding addiction. I currently have about 6 poems that I'd like to read on the subject matter.

311
2.03   *Chases*
Author(s): Natalie Schriefer
Mentor: Jeffrey Mock
Department: English

Abstract: Grad student Bailey has not seen or heard from her older brother since high school. When he shows up to visit her one day, she must decide whether or not she wants him back in her life. Due to the length of the piece, I expect to read only an excerpt. (Short story, fiction)

311 *Downs Road: Cultural Source Hypothesis and Ostension in Local Folklore*

2.04 **Author(s):** Evan DeCarlo

Mentor: Paul R. Petrie

Department: English

Abstract: This presentation aims to (for the first time in local history) comprehensively and ethnographically organize the oral and evolving digital folk legends surrounding Downs Road in Hamden/Bethany, Connecticut, and to identify and categorize the folk groups involved in the telling of said stories. Through the lens of academic folkloristics, the presenter will categorize within the legends both the elements of dynamic variation and conservatism. With these elements in mind, the presenter shall analyze the legends, their modes of transmission, and the historical factors involved in the story's evolution in order to describe a process of generational expression through fluctuating folk group insularity/mobility. It is the particular aim of this work to identify the way in which a model of semiotic ostension operates through folkloristic cultural source hypothesis to produce mass mediated performances of popular local legends.

7:00 – 7:25 p.m. | Session IIIA | Roundtable Presentations
Adanti Student Center Rooms 303 & 305

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303 *A Family Approach to End of Life Decisions for Older Adults*

3.01 **Author(s):** Kathleen Collins

Mentor: Elizabeth Keenan, Ph.D., LCSW

Department: Social Work

Abstract: The population of the United States is aging and a greater number will need end of life care in the next several decades. Almost three-quarters of all deaths in the United States occur among persons 65 years of age and over, accounting for about 1.8 million deaths of the 2.4 million Americans who died in 2007 (National Center for Health Statistics, 2016, p. 41). Although much attention is presently focused around helping the individual to die the "good death," little attention is paid to meeting the needs of family members who may have to make the decision to end a family member's life. Currently, social workers have limited information on how to guide families when making this decision.

The purpose of this special project was to develop a guide to assist social workers as they help families of older adults face the challenges of end of life decision-making. An in-depth literature review was performed to examine present protocols for end of life care and address issues related to the roles and needs of family in end of life decisions. This capstone project identified the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare social workers to meet the increasing demands for family support at this critical stage of life. It is hoped this practice guide will assist social workers in helping families navigate through the increasingly complex issues associated with end of life decision-making and provide a greater understanding and acceptance of a family's role in end of life care for an elder.

303 *The Quiet Revolution: A Romantic Movement*

3.02 **Author(s):** Katie Chevalier

Mentor: Dr. Nichole T. Gleisner

Department: World Language and Literature

Abstract: The ideas that became known as the Romantic movement of the late 18th and 19th century France are in many ways similar to those which brought about the Quiet Revolution in Quebec, Canada during the 1960s. Despite the differences of time, geographical location, and history leading up to these movements, the driving forces behind their appearance are similar. As France distanced itself from the outdated and rigid classical period, it found new life in romanticism. Similarly, the fall of the Conservative party in Quebec made way for a new liberal and reformist governing body. Both Romanticism and the Quiet Revolution stirred social, political and economic forces that created a shared search for identity, a new outlook on the quality of life, and a need for change. Though both movements brought about obvious changes, how can the evolving ideas of the people themselves be examined?

As historians often look to the writers of a certain time period to gain an understanding of the past, the poems of two important literary figures, Quebecois poet Gaston Miron, and French poet Victor Hugo, will be examined in order to reflect upon this question. The comparison of Miron's and Hugo's poems will show how two temporally, spatially, and geographically distinct movements parallel each other and demonstrate how the Quiet Revolution was in fact a Romantic movement.

303 *Eluding Definition: How Antifa is Portrayed in the Mainstream Media*

3.03 **Author(s):** Zachary Fox

Mentor: Costel Calin, Ph.D.

Department: Political Science

Abstract: The question of how Antifa is portrayed in the media is important because for most people this is their only exposure to antifascism. Is it a group or organization? Is it a protest tactic? What is Antifa? The way the media define Antifa is important as this informs our working definitions of fascism and antifascism as well as puts them into the context of the here and now. If the media only reports on acts of violence, this is the perception that Americans will have of a political movement that is about more than just violent confrontation. This content analysis was conducted as a final project for a research methods class and as a dry run for a larger thesis project. This method was chosen for its flexibility, objectivity, transparency, and replicability. Using content analysis of newspaper and magazine articles may not help to define the group/movement/tactic on its own terms but it gives us a working definition in terms of how the media, the public, and the state view the antifascism. The preliminary findings show that the overwhelming majority of articles written about Antifa were written after the events in Charlottesville and were focused on generalizing Antifascists as violent. The problem with the mainstream media providing a definition of the movement comes from a lack of understanding and the need to sell a product: the news. There is little interest among the mainstream media to provide a platform for antifascists to define the movement in their own words.

303
<u>3.04</u>

Teachers' Perceptions of Relational Aggression in Elementary Schools

Author(s): Maura Satti

Mentor: Carmela Fusciello Smith, Ed.D.

Department: Social Work

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to gain an understanding of Milford, CT Public School District's elementary teachers' perceptions and knowledge of relational aggression (RA), comfort in identifying and intervening in RA, opinions surrounding the school's policies regarding RA, and insight in teachers' desire for future knowledge and resources surrounding this topic. The research question for this study is, "how do teachers perceive relational aggression in elementary schools?" This study will be using a mixed methods approach with a quantitative data emphasis in the form of a survey with close and open-ended questions. The survey will include 11 questions, 8 using a Likert Scale, and the last 2 questions being open-ended responses. The questions surround topics of teacher's definition of relational aggression, how relational aggression is presented in elementary aged students, comfort in intervening when witnessing these behaviors, and comfort and knowledge of school based policies to address relational aggression. The hope of this study is to provide more insight to educators surrounding the topic of relational aggression, their role in this epidemic, and their ability to intervene effectively.

305
<u>3.01</u>

Perceptions of Teachers and Administrators Regarding the Connecticut SEED Evaluation Process and Its Impact on Teacher Practice

Author(s): Philip Piazza

Mentor: Dr. Olcay Yavuz

Department: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Abstract: Teacher evaluation has been a topic of conversation at the federal, state and local level in recent years. While commonly studied as a way to inform personnel decisions, there is little research looking at how teacher evaluation is supporting teacher growth. In order for schools to improve teaching and learning, consistency of purpose, policy and practice is needed. Building leaders need to build shared meaning, capacity and commitment to action. Examining the perceptions of both administrators and teachers can help districts effectively address improvement of teacher practices. For these reasons, the researcher explored perceptions of widely utilized evaluations models: The Danielson Framework and the Marzano Causal Teacher Evaluation Model. This quantitative study focuses specifically on the ways in which these models have been perceived to have influenced professional practices. Further, this study will investigate the Connecticut SEED model of Evaluation, influenced by both Marzano and Danielson, and its perceived impact on teacher practice. This study will gather perceptions of administrators and teachers to gather a shared understanding of its impact and determine a plan of improvement. Data sources include survey responses from teachers and administrators. The Teacher Evaluation Profile was used to collect data. This study will examine the SEED model, as well as the perceptions of the administrators and teachers using SEED, to determine how well it is meeting its stated goal of helping move teachers to exemplary practice. This study will add new research to the field on perceptions, experiences and essence of implementing SEED with the goal of improving teacher practice.

305
<u>3.02</u>

Teacher Emotional Intelligence and the Impact on Social and Emotional Learning Instruction in the Elementary Classroom

Author(s): Sarah Taylor

Mentor: Dr. Olcay Yavuz

Department: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship between elementary school teacher perception of emotional intelligence and their beliefs towards Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) as it relates to comfort with implementation, commitment to professional growth, and perceived school culture regarding student SEL. Teachers will complete two self-report surveys as the dependent variables: the Assessing Emotion Scale to measure perceived emotional intelligence and the Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Scale for Teachers to measure beliefs related to comfort with, culture of, and school culture regarding SEL instruction. Demographic data about teacher gender, age, job title, grade level taught, years of teaching experience, and professional development in SEL will be collected as independent variables. Data analysis will investigate the predictive significance of teacher perceived emotional intelligence on beliefs regarding SEL instruction.

305
<u>3.03</u>

Perceptions of First-Year College Students: The Impact of Peer Mentors on Student Success

Author(s): Dyan Robinson

Mentor: Dr. Olcay Yavuz

Department: Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Abstract: Almost half of the students who start college are not retained at their starting institution. The purpose of this research is to evaluate the perceptions college freshmen have on the impact of peer mentors on student success during the first-year. This study will utilize the College Student Mentoring Scale (CSMS) to measure four domains that are factors in student success. These interrelated constructs are: Psychological and Emotional Support, Degree and Career Support, Academic Subject Knowledge Support and The Existence of a Role Model. It is the intention that this study will to add to the limited current research on peer mentoring in higher education and will assist in future practices and policies on the topic of student success and retention.

7:30 – 7:55 p.m. | Session IIIB | Roundtable Presentations
Adanti Student Center Room 303

303
<u>4.01</u>

Factors Impacting the Development of Posttraumatic Growth in Children and Adolescents

Author(s): Cheyenne Ferris

Mentor: Kyle O'Brien, Ph.D., DHSc, MSOT, LCSW, OTR/L

Department: Social Work

Abstract: Exposure to traumatic experiences is unfortunately an incredibly common occurrence. Surviving a traumatic experience can have implications across the lifespan, such as poor mental health and physical health outcomes, impacts on brain development, and significant economic implications. Despite these adverse effects, trauma exposure can also lead to more adaptive functioning. Posttraumatic growth (PTG) refers to a positive psychological change as a result of a seismic and highly challenging life circumstance. PTG results in an individual experiencing development which has surpassed their baseline level of functioning prior to the struggle where crises occurred. This growth perspective of trauma is incredibly important in order to encourage more positive traits and functioning within trauma survivors. This analytical thesis explores factors associated with the development of posttraumatic growth, and the specific populations which demonstrate the occurrence of psychological growth after trauma exposure. Findings can be utilized to better inform clinical interventions in order to encourage a growth perspective after trauma exposure.

Keywords: posttraumatic growth (PTG), growth after trauma

303
<u>4.02</u>

Increasing Youth Awareness of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Author(s): Portia Green
Mentor: Kyle O'Brien, Ph.D., DHSc, MSOT, LCSW, OTR/L
Department: Social Work

Abstract: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking continues to affect many children across the world. Minors who become victims are subject to extreme abuse and control by those who choose to sexually exploit them. DMST is not an issue that is widely discussed, nor is it a problem that has numerous services or programs to battle the adverse effects. Legislation is in place to combat the legal and criminal aspects of DMST. However, there is less attention to the prevention and programming that will decrease the likelihood that victimization will occur. Children are a vulnerable population and, without education, can become a target for abuse. It is imperative to their development and safety, that they become informed and educated on topics such as this. The purpose of this translational research project was to conduct a systematic search of literature, specifically looking at best methods for raising awareness and informing youth. Results of this search was then used to construct an awareness tool to disseminate amongst youth, in order to educate this population about Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking. Findings indicated that a campaign disseminated on social media with a multimedia approach, was the best method to raising awareness and informing youth about social issues. As such, a campaign was constructed with information about DMST.
Key Words: youth, education campaign, awareness raising, DMST

303
<u>4.03</u>

Whatever Happened to Building Rapport?

Author(s): Eric Vingo
Mentor: Kyle O'Brien, Ph.D., DHSc, MSOT, LCSW, OTR/L
Department: Social Work

Abstract: Rapport is an essential element of any therapeutic relationship and is sometimes disregarded due to workload and time constraints. Positive and negative rapport can affect treatment participation, engagement, completion, and outcomes. As the field of social work continues to expand into clinical settings, the ability to establish and maintain rapport may have an enduring effect on the therapeutic process. Knowledge of the most effective ways to establish rapport with adolescents as well as the potential consequences due to lack of rapport may be key for clinicians to form an understanding as to how imperative rapport is to the therapeutic process. The purpose of this translational research project was to conduct a systematic search of the literature to determine the most effective ways of establishing rapport with adolescent clients seeking mental health treatment. Results show that rapport was highly dependent upon clinicians attending behaviors and therapeutic approaches rather than specific interventions to utilize. Additionally, the literature demonstrated that an understanding of clients pretreatment characteristics such as their environment and interpersonal effectiveness is a key component to assess and understand in order to increase the rapport building process. These findings informed the development of a resource guide for clinicians and agencies that provides strategies to use to rapidly establish rapport as well as actions to avoid to that can create barriers to rapport building.
Keywords: adolescent, rapport, therapeutic alliance, adolescent engagement, effects.

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