

Southern Connecticut State University



Undergraduate Research & Creativity Conference

Saturday, April 30, 2022

A letter from the Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference Planning Committee:

*The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious.
It is the source of all true art and science.*
– Albert Einstein

While science and art are said to activate opposite sides of the human brain, they ultimately share a key purpose in the human condition: to enlighten. Scholars from all disciplines within the arts, education, humanities, sciences, social sciences, and business set out to quantify the intangible, shine a light of understanding upon the unknown, and harness the mystery seeping deep into the corners of our very existence. Though these disciplines have varying degrees of creativity and logic, they all rely on observation, interpretation, and documentation in one form or another to share this enlightenment. We appreciate them all, hoping to gain knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the world around us.

Scholarship and creativity act as the glue that binds humanity together, collecting us in the shared purpose of enlightenment. It is with respect to this purpose that we set out to gather and celebrate the scholarship and creativity of the students at Southern Connecticut State University. It is our honor as members of the organizing committee to welcome you to the 7th Annual Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference, hosted by Southern Connecticut State University. This conference is a celebration of scholarship and creativity in all forms, as well as a showcase for the leading minds of today's undergraduate 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 posters, oral presentations, art installments, and other various exhibitions highlighted in this conference demonstrate the diverse scope of subjects engaged by students from many disciplines as well as illustrating the parallels between them. The Research and Creativity Conference is a celebration of our journey to enlightenment. It aims to not only encourage continued work by the undergraduate 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 undergraduate accomplishment.

The 7th Annual Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference is proudly sponsored by:

The SCSU Foundation
The Office of the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs
Division of Research and Innovation
The Research and Scholarship Advisory Committee
The Office of STEM Innovation and Leadership
The Art Department
The Office of the President
SCSU First-Year Experience

Conference Committee
Listed in alphabetical order:

Charles Baraw	Siobhan Carter-David
Lisa Bier	Samantha Hepworth
Kelly Bordner	C. Michele Thompson
Christine Broadbridge	Bogdan Zamfir
Jeremy Chandler	

7th Annual Undergraduate Research and Creativity Conference

Saturday, April 30, 2022 | 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Southern Connecticut State University

8:45 – 9:30 a.m.	Check in Poster and oral presentation set-up	3 rd floor Ballroom Reception Area
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9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks:	3 rd floor Ballroom
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Michele Thompson, Ph.D. | *Prof. of Southeast Asian History & Chair of the Research and Scholarship Advisory Committee*
Robert Prezant, Ph.D. | *Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs, Southern Connecticut State University*

9:45 – 12:00 p.m.	Oral Presentation – Session 1A	ASC room 301
	Oral Presentation – Session 1B	ASC room 306
	Oral Presentation – Session 1C	ASC room 308

10:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Poster Presentation Art Installations	ASC Ballroom Buley Library Art Gallery
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12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Art Crawl & Lunch	Earl Hall
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Join us for lunch at Earl Hall and explore the creative works of undergraduate Fine Art Students in Graphic Design, Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, Ceramics, Photography, Printmaking, and Jewelry/Metals.

1:00	Coffee & Dessert	3 rd floor Ballroom Reception Area
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1:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Oral Presentation – Session 2A	ASC room 301
	Oral Presentation – Session 2B	ASC room 306
	Oral Presentation – Session 2C	ASC room 308

2:00 – 3:30	Art Installations	Buley Library Art Gallery
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O1A.1 *In the Name of Justice: A Literary Analysis of How the South Perpetuates Violence*

Author(s): Maeve Salamida

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Corinne Blackmer

Department: English

Abstract: Within the South persists the Lost Cause myth of the Civil War, which paints the Confederacy as honorable victims and suggests the South will rise once again. As a consequence, victimization as a justification for violence proliferates the South, forming an environment that breeds a cycle of violence. Within such culture exists a manipulation of justice for one's own selfish means, and violence as a means to execute this justice. Considering the Southern people have entangled justice and violence, their association of justice remains retributive, inhibiting the growth of a healthier restorative justice. "Barn Burning" by William Faulkner, "Going to Meet the Man" by James Baldwin, and "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" by Flannery O'Connor all depict unjust men who, feeling wronged by others or the justice system itself, use violence to act in the name of justice for their immoral ideological agendas. These three stories present how the South's culture of false victimization and retributive justice perpetuates a cycle of violence that fuels sadistic men to carry out violence as justice outside the law, with restorative justice as the only hope for positive change.

O1A.2 *The Changing Power of Kings' Language in 2 Henry IV*

Author(s): Mimi Wetherall

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Joel Dodson

Department: English

Abstract: Between Shakespeare's history plays of Richard II, 1 Henry IV, and 2 Henry IV, three different monarchs take the stage to represent the changing power of a king's ability to use words to shape the world around him. The opening reign of King Richard II displays his ignorance about any power imbued in the king's language, while his usurper, King Henry IV, is constrained to wield it for self-defense over his deposition of Richard II from the throne. My paper focuses on the character of Prince Hal, whose coronation into King Henry V in the final scene of 2 Henry IV is a display of the lessons Hal has learnt from studying the language of court and commoners alike. Diverging from his predecessors, whose use of language was often a defensive strategy, Hal's language as king takes a position of offence, as a tool which inspires action in others. Under his newly bestowed absolute authority, Hal's banishment of his old friend Falstaff in the closing scene of 2 Henry IV demonstrates the impact of language by those in positions of power.

O1A.3 *From Rivalry to Reconciliation: Sibling Relations in the Hebrew Bible*

Author(s): Erin Maloney

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Corinne Blackmer

Department: English

Abstract: Sibling rivalry and reconciliation are two prominent themes within the Hebrew Bible. The first does not always result in the latter, as in the case of Cain and Abel, but other times such as with Joseph and his brothers, it does. Reconciliation is not easily achieved in this foundational work; rather, it is earned. Envy and favoritism are the root causes for biblical sibling rivalries; Cain is jealous that Abel is God's favorite, Jacob is envious of Esau as their father's favorite, and Joseph's eleven brothers resent him for being Jacob's prized son. As God typically favors the underdog, Joseph is given numerous gifts such as receiving messages from God and being able to decipher dreams, fueling his brothers' hatred even more. Overwhelmed with anger and jealousy, Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery, but despite many hardships, Joseph flourishes in every environment he finds himself in and overcomes obstacles with ease because of his self-confident faith. Eventually, Joseph becomes Pharaoh's trusted advisor and the head minister of Egypt. During the famine, Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt and are unknowingly met with the brother they once despised; however, Joseph immediately recognizes them. Joseph toys with his brothers, feeling advantageous in a position of power in which he is unrecognizable. Seeing how much his brothers have grown during the years of separation, Joseph breaks down, forgiving them for their wrongdoings. By mirroring the other two sibling rivalries within Torah, Joseph's story illustrates, in contrast, the narrative means of earning redemption and reconciliation.

O1A.4 *Gothic Horror in “Goblin Market”: Women’s Mastery through the Macabre*

Author(s): Kayla Brown

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brandon Hutchinson

Department: English

Abstract: In the Victorian Era, Christina Rossetti rose to prominence as a prolific poet. Her poetry has begun to be examined in recent years with a new focus on critical and literary analysis, specifically, her poem “Goblin Market” written in 1859. This enchanting poem about two sisters, Lizzie and Laura, was originally marketed to the public as a tale for children, but has a more menacing, violent, and gruesome story to tell. The appearance of the supernatural and the sinister consequences of Laura indulging in the goblin’s fruit while Lizzie fears for her sister’s well-being invites readers into the doors of gothic literature, veering them away from an adolescent’s bedtime story. Although gothic horror can be used for any purpose, the macabre in the narrative of “Goblin Market ” shows that control lies not in the hands of women in the Victorian Era, but instead, of the men. It is the men who make the laws, wield the power, and ultimately, are the ones who run the market of irresistible fruit. By examining the imagery and the prominent existence of the supernatural in conjunction with the knowledge of the treatment and regulation of women during the Victorian times, gothic horror serves to take the stage in exposing the very real horror these women faced. This narrative proves that even though these are real threats --wrapped inside the guise of the gothic and supernatural-- they can be conquered.

O1A.5 *The Norse Vinland Sagas: Mapping Their Real World Locations*

Author(s): Miles Lourenco

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Darcy Kern

Department: History

Abstract: During the course of the spring semester, I have been researching the Old Norse Vinland Sagas, which tell the tale of Norse expeditions to North America around the year 1000 AD, with the goal of identifying real world locations on the east coast of North America that line up to the settlements described in the tales. I have made a case arguing that at least one of the Norse settlements in North America was partially in what is today the state of Maine, and that the other two fell in modern day Canada. I have done this with a focus on close reading of the primary sources in order to pick out explicit environmental details, with secondary sources used to back up my arguments on location based on those details. In conjunction I have used Geographical Information Systems technology to create maps that lay the routes of these early medieval Norse explorers over the modern North American Atlantic coast to show the scope of this early European contact with North America.

O1B.1 *COM 450 Capstone: SCSU Invisible Illnesses***Author(s):** Alessandra Lupo**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Dana Rogers**Department:** Communication

Abstract: Every upperclassman communication major is required to take COM 450, which is the capstone class for the major. The objective of the class is to pitch and execute a social justice project. This semester, I pitched a short film and speaker panel event to my class that would raise awareness for invisible illnesses and to educate SCSU students about resources available to them. My pitch was chosen, and SCSU Invisible Illnesses was born. As the project manager, I helped my directors and my team develop the event from start to finish. Our short film highlights the experiences of students and faculty members dealing with invisible illnesses, and our speaker panel is comprised of different resources available to students at Southern that would be helpful to someone dealing with an invisible illness. We held a fundraiser that raised over \$150 for invisible illnesses, and our social media accounts and website act as places where students can read more about our project and invisible illnesses as a whole. Our event is taking place on April 27th, and we would love to educate the Southern community and share our project at the Research and Creativity Conference.

O1B.2 *The Impact of Environmental Education in k-12 Curriculum***Author(s):** Elizabeth Mercado**Faculty Mentor:** Charles Baraw**Department:** English

Abstract: This semester, I worked on a semester-long white paper for my Independent Study project with the Greater New Haven Green Fund. I interviewed teachers and other board members from New Haven Public Schools and other schools around the area. The white paper is a cultivation of all of the interviews I've done, exploring the main theme of how schools incorporate environmental education into their curriculums and why it's so important to be teaching children about these types of subjects at such a young age.

O1B.3 *Student Teaching in a Time of Controversy: Politics, Pandemic, and Pedagogy***Author(s):** Crosby Fox**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Andrew Smyth**Department:** English

Abstract: When tasked with creating a unit for my student teaching experience in a 9th grade classroom in a New Haven high school, my mentor teacher essentially allowed me free range with regard to what I could teach. Such flexibility was simultaneously liberating and daunting. Framing a seven-week-long unit around the question, "What are the most important lessons we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic?" allowed me to bring in a local article about mutual aid organizing in New Haven in the early stages of the pandemic coupled with pandemic poetry from Amanda Gorman. My experience stepping into a student-centered classroom has allowed me to take creative risks by creating lessons and mini projects that try to bring students' interests, passions, and strengths as learners to the fore. Students recently led their own small group discussions for one of the unit's culminating tasks, and as their teacher, I have witnessed the difficulties of students having to re-socialize in a post-online-school environment while also noticing the genuine, insightful conversations that students can have with one another when the instructional material is relevant and meaningful to their lives.

O1B.4 *"Am I Doing This Right?" What I've Learned-And Still Have To Learn-About Being A Teacher***Author(s):** Evan Faline**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Andrew Smyth**Department:** English

Abstract: What is it like being a student teacher in 2022? Three Secondary English student teachers this spring will share their reflections on a range of challenges and motivations in middle and high schools as area districts moved through and past the second year of the pandemic in a time of political controversy. Fearmongering from local and national politicians—with accusations of indoctrination through Critical Race Theory, the 1619 Project, and a free range of readings that appeal to young adults of all backgrounds and identities—has daunted school boards, aggravated teachers, and made students and their learning the locus of ideological conflict. Higher numbers of veteran teachers are reconsidering their vocation or leaving the profession. Amidst this upheaval, the SCSU English student teachers presenting today have extraordinary insights to share on topics from re-socialization of students and teachers after two years of pandemic-disrupted teaching and learning to anti-LGBTQ+ administrative policies to strategies for motivating both teachers and students to find their joy and critical development through the English Language Arts.

O1B.5 *Classroom Strategies for Creating Community, Respect, and Understanding.*

Author(s): Kiersten Conner

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Andrew Smyth

Department: English

Abstract: Upon walking into my classroom of 7th grade students this year in Wallingford, I heard a student make a deeply offensive homophobic comment. As an openly queer teacher in the time of the “Don’t Say Gay” mindset, I was almost immediately instructed to keep from exposing my identity in the classroom. In the introduction of a unit with diverse characters, students have shown pushback, claiming authors have agendas. At the same time, there is political fire, and students have only learned to socialize by spending the last two years inside. Since my first day, these comments have only continued, leaving me looking at the unit from a new frame: “How can I effectively manage a classroom in the wake of Covid breaking apart social awareness?” In a time where I cannot feel safe “coming out” in the classroom, I will tackle the idea of how I can create a safe space for my students? Students are moving into a reading unit that centers around characters of color, characters that are disabled, characters that are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community, and more. My research and findings will center around strategies that may help me achieve a classroom of understanding and respectful students.

O1C.1 *Veterans Rights*

Author(s): Michael Galiger

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melanie Savelli

Department: Communications

Abstract: This presentation is about my 10-page paper on veteran rights. The page will explain the right veteran do have already and what life is like outside the military and why the rights are not good enough and thing we can improve on as a society to help veterans.

O1C.2 *The importance of Housing and well-being for students at Southern.*

Author(s): Michael Overton

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melanie Savelli

Department: Communications

Abstract: My presentation will go into depth why housing is important for college students and will discuss solutions to various housing issues that face southern students. Furthermore, I will explore how mental health is affected.

O1C.3 *Society Versus Self*

Author(s): Breanna Arce

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Shea

Department: English

Abstract: I will be discussing film and literature's ability to cultivate a reaction as well as communicate an intended message through aural, visual, and literary elements. In this presentation, I'll be discussing Brokeback Mountain, specifically how Ennis fights himself the entire story and film based on socialization enforced throughout childhood. This turmoil is prevalent to the viewer and reader. Specifically, Ennis defies masculine roles by meddling between a heteronormative world and his true desire (to be with Jack). The film devices signal this dilemma and nurturing safety with Jack Twist without a word said. Similarly in the text, their bond is described eloquently, the author carefully selects important information to create the "correct" image. Overall, novels and films provide a gateway into our society through expressing cultural roles and values within the pages or onscreen.

O1C.4 *Methadone experiences in a sample of suburban mothers and pregnant women”*

Author(s): Nadesha Shakes

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Frances Penny

Department: Public Health

Abstract: Drawing from an ethnographic study with mothers and pregnant women who use opioids, we investigate treatment experiences with methadone, as a part of an MAT program. Participants were recruited from the suburban communities of Newark, NJ and New Haven, CT. Women in our sample discussed their experiences with methadone treatment in the suburbs including the benefits and drawbacks of utilizing methadone for treatment of their use of opioids. Themes such as withdrawal from methadone, physical effects of methadone, as well as the addictive qualities of this MAT are explored in the context of the women's lives.

O1C.5 *Relationships as Barriers and Motivators to Opioid Treatment*

Author(s): Benjamin Godlewski

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Aukje Lamonica

Department: Public Health

Abstract: “She helped me get into the methadone program the following day”: Investigating the role of interpersonal relationships on access to Medication-Assisted Treatment.

Drawing from an ethnographic study involving opioid-using mothers and pregnant women, lived experiences regarding access to Medication-Assisted Treatment as influenced by relationships with significant others, family, and friends are discussed. Participants were recruited from the suburbs of New Haven, CT and Newark, NJ. Women who reported having more support from relationships had greater success accessing treatment due to a number of factors that include housing, transportation, financial support, and childcare. Adversely, women who reported having less support from relationships held negative perspectives on the quality and accessibility of social services which could influence efficacy as it pertains to accessing MAT.

P1.1 *Response of the Freshwater Invasive Bivalve Corbicula fluminea to Light and Dark***Author(s):** Brienne Simmonds**Faculty Mentor:** Robert S. Prezant, Ph.D.**Department:** Biology and Academic Affairs

Abstract: Native to Asia, *Corbicula fluminea* is a hardy, invasive freshwater clam that can now be found in 49 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Specimens for this study were found in shady pockets along the sides of the Wepawaug River in Milford, Connecticut. Because of the ‘dark’ location of the collection site, we undertook a study to consider light – dark preferences of this bivalve. Two aquaria, a control, and a light/dark experimental tank, were set up to observe the preferential response of *C. fluminea* to light vs dark. In a first set of experiments, the specimens were evenly distributed throughout the experimental aquarium. In a second set, specimens in the experimental aquarium were lined up in the middle of the aquarium. In both experimental runs, it was found that *C. fluminea* seemed to prefer the dark side over the light side of the aquarium. The results of this experiment can be used to better understand the behavior and distributional success of this species in various aquatic environments.

P1.2 *Authentication of Food and Wild Animal Species Through DNA Barcoding***Author(s):** Thien Dang**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. JiongDong Pang**Department:** Chemistry

Abstract: Authentication of food labeling and identification of invasive species such as animals and plants become important in our daily life. The invasive species could harm the ecosystem and human life. Some non-native species express an aggressive growth habit which can compete and displace native ones. Invasive species are referred as a serious problem in the environment. Food authentication is important in food supply chain and supermarket produce. This research project focuses on testing samples of mammals, fungi, and fish using DNA Barcoding methods. Bioinformatics analysis is performed to identify the identity and authenticity of the species tested.

P1.3 *A Faulty Digital Bridge***Author(s):** Brian Ramanauskas**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Melanie Savelli**Department:** Communication

Abstract: Individuals will learn the Connecticut’s efforts to close the digital divide. The efforts are falling short due to funding, execution, and application obstacles. These initiatives do not address another contributing factor, retaining quality educators in underserved school systems. The below findings will show the opposite end of the digital divide is based on the zip code you live in. Using a better method in determining a district need, addressing issues with the current initiatives and speaking up for those underrepresented communities could make the difference in collapsing the digital divide in CT.

P1.4 *Unaffordable Mental Health Care in U.S***Author(s):** Laura Gonzalez**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Melanie Savelli**Department:** Communication

Abstract: The decline in Americans' mental health keeps on getting worse with the challenges of breaking the stigma for getting help and the weak support of the public health infrastructure. Beyond raising awareness, I intend to educate people about major repercussions, what they can do as individuals, and what they need to demand as a community. I aim to generate an idea that grasps the severity of the issue and the complications if we don't bring the required actions.

P1.5 *The Life of a College Student: During a Pandemic***Author(s):** Diante Campbell**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Michael Bay**Department:** Communication

Abstract: In this presentation, I will discuss a day in a life of a Southern College student during the pandemic, statistics relating to Covid-19 and mental health, testimonies of other students, and give resources on how we could prepare for a pandemic in the future. It is important to talk about this information because these past two years have not been easy. We could use this time to hear others’ stories and realize that we are never alone in dark times like the pandemic.

- P1.6 *Why athletes deserve self care days?*
Author(s): Ramsley Exantus
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melanie Savelli
Department: Communication
Abstract: To understand that being an athlete is rather difficult but to add academics is even a little more complicated. To process the fight that student-athletes have to endure to meet their athletic and academic goals. Self-care days should be a global demand to meet for our student-athletes.
- P1.7 *Racial Injustice vs The Education System*
Author(s): Nickailla McLean
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melanie Savelli
Department: Communication
Abstract: Racial injustice is still prominent in today's society. It has taken a toll on many things, one of the main things that it still has a major impact on is the educational system. With past court cases like Sheff v. O'Neill being one of the prominent cases in the breakthrough of change in the educational system, it still has a lasting impact on society. Looking into how the lack of diversity in schools and the effects it has on students is still prevalent today.
- P1.8 *Issues Surrounding Gun Violence Pre and Post COVID-19*
Author(s): Isabella Sandoval
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melanie Savelli
Department: Communication
Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with psychological distress; mostly due to the 2020 lockdown, the increase in domestic violence cases, the death of family members due to the pandemic, and other factors. Gun Violence has been a prominent issue in the United States for many years, with the height of the pandemic being a catalyst for rising numbers in regard to gun violence. The pandemic worsened this problem, which has now been deemed a public health issue. Gun violence cannot be fixed with law alone, and the first step to taking action is to inform ourselves and others on how prominent this issue currently is and will continue to be without change.
- P1.9 *The Effect of an Educational Program on Increasing Student Athlete Awareness of the role of the Speech-Language Pathologist in Managing Symptoms to Facilitate the Return to Academics*
Author(s): Megan Mercer
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mary Purdy
Department: Communication Disorders
Abstract: College athletes are prone to concussions, which can cause persisting cognitive issues that can lead to difficulty with academics. While some support for academics is available, current literature suggests it is not enough and concussed student-athletes often struggle as they attempt to return to class. Speech-language pathologists can provide additional support for athletes in the return to academics process and help address any persisting cognitive symptoms likely to arise.
- The purpose of this study was to determine whether a concussion education module improved athlete's knowledge of concussion symptoms, the role of the SLP in concussion management, and the likelihood of seeking interventions from an SLP. Participants included 28 student-athletes at SCSU. An educational video with testimonials from former athletes and a narrated presentation on concussion symptoms was created. A pre-post survey gathered anonymous data on student athletes' knowledge of concussion symptoms, the role of the SLP in concussion management, and resources available. Results of a paired t-test indicated there was a significant improvement in concussion knowledge following the educational video ($t(19) = 3.2, p = .005$). On the pre-test, 4/28 athletes indicated they would seek services of the SLP compared to 17/28 post-test.
- The use of a concussion education program was successful in increasing the student-athlete's knowledge of symptoms and the role of the SLP in concussion management.
- P1.10 *Social Media Outlets: The negative effects of having a like button*
Author(s): Abdel-Kader Ben-Toukour
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Bay
Department: Communications
Abstract: My poster will be on the negative effects of having the like button on social media. I will plan to show some interesting views on the like button and how it was invented. I will also see the how people depend on the like button and how it affects mental health.

P1.11 *The impact of COVID-19 on the Mental Health of US College Students*

Author(s): Josephine Toni

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melanie Savelli

Department: Communications

Abstract: College students across the United States have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Over 80% of college students have reported that COVID-19 has negatively impacted their mental health. Across the US students struggle to be able to adopt a self-care routine due to the impact of the pandemic on their mental health. It was discovered that “76% have trouble maintaining a routine, 73% struggle to get enough physical activity, and 63% find it challenging to stay connected with others”. (active minds.org) Since the pandemic first developed in December of 2019 students are still unaware of services at their universities that can provide them with mental health services. “More than 55% of students say they would not know where to go if they or someone they knew needed mental health services”. (activeminds.org)

In a world where human connection and communication is essential for students to learn and grow as individuals this has been sadly stripped away only to be left with uncertainty and hopelessness. I want to be a voice for US college students and provide resources that can help students get the support they need during this difficult time where students feel they are alone.

P1.12 *Evicted: The Impact of the pandemic on Housing Insecurity in the U.S. -Short Film Pre Production*

Author(s): Jessenia Fuentes

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melanie Savelli

Department: Communication

Abstract: Housing Insecurity/ affordable housing are some of the biggest crises arising in our country today. As the pandemic of 2020 began, the problem of housing insecurity was exacerbated. This not only left those who were already on the edge of collapse on the street but also put many previously financially stable people in a difficult position. 'Evicted' is meant to represent the stories of thousands of citizens who were displaced by the pandemic during the early days of 2020. Additionally, it was written to exemplify the effects of housing insecurity on a person's physical/mental health and overall quality of life. Despite being a fictional piece of work, 'Evicted' handles authentic themes and circumstances. This presentation will take you through the preproduction process of planning this short film through the display of its treatment, script, location scouting, look books, and much more.

P1.13 *How separation from family ignites mental health issues*

Author(s): Jonas Shivers

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melanie Savelli

Department: Communications

Abstract: My project is about how immigration to the United States through the Mexico/US border effects the mental health of children, teenagers, and adults. I'm creating a poster that'll invoke conversations about how the immigration process has negative impacts on children, specifically those who were separated from their families at the border for “processing”. It'll include testimonies from families who have experienced separation firsthand, statistics, and blunt imagery. I hope that the poster creates an insightful impact on its viewers.

P1.14 *Diverse Healthcare*

Author(s): Jonell Bailey

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Cheryl Green

Department: Nursing

Abstract: The lack of diversity in the American healthcare industry has created health disparities that impact marginalized groups of people, specifically the Black and/or African American community. Studies have shown that 70% of Black people are hesitant in seeking medical treatment with nonblack doctors because they often feel they are treated differently compared to other races. This hesitancy can cause delays in seeking medical treatment and can cause diseases and medical issues to go untreated and undiagnosed. Representation and diversity in healthcare is a step forward to closing the gap of racial health disparity. One solution that was researched was on creating an online database called "Diverse Healthcare," where its goal is to connect Black and/or African Americans with healthcare professionals that share important identities as them such as race, gender, or cultural background. To test this research, a customer discovery was conducted with over seventy people participating who identified as my target audience (i.e. Black and/or African American in Connecticut). The results showed that while 69.2% reported that it was very/somewhat important that their healthcare provider was the same race as them, only 12.7% reported that they have been to a healthcare provider that identified as Black. This validates the concept that the need of Diverse Healthcare, a platform to serve this community and bring diverse medical care is necessary.

P1.15 *Authenticity Reading in the Fiction Publishing Industry*

Author(s): Natalie Stoffel

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Shea

Department: English

Abstract: The focus of my project will be to explore the roles and importance of sensitivity readers and diversity editors in the publishing industry. In my own experiences in reading fiction, I have come across authors who write characters which are outside the author's own lived experiences, and, therefore, create problematic, unrealistic, and misguided representations of different groups. In seeing the successes and failures of authors writing characters outside their own identities, I researched the burgeoning job of authenticity reading, which mostly functions in the freelance editing world. Sensitivity readers are able to check the works of authors in the editing process to ensure that the characters they write are not misguided representations of a group, or perpetuating stereotypes which could harm the group at hand. For example, if a straight author were to write a gay character, a authenticity reader who is a member of the LGBTQ+ community would be employed to make sure that this character is an accurate representation of the group. In order to investigate this topic, I have set up interviews with sensitivity readers and diversity editors and to learn more about their jobs, and why it is imperative to make this a more commonplace role in the publishing industry. I have created a website where I compiled my research, interviews, and findings. I hope to highlight the importance of this role in creating more accurate representations of different races, religions, ethnicities, sexualities, and genders in fiction.

P1.16 *Using the past to paint the future: The sustainability potential of organic pigment processing and creation*

Author(s): Caitlin McLaughlin

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Axon

Department: Environmental Systems and Sustainability

Abstract: The arts, particularly paint, have evolved alongside humanity in both functional and creative ways. Historically, paints were created using pigment products found in nature. As part of the mass-produced paint industry, there has been a shift away from these resources in favor of synthetic replacements that pose health and environmental risks. However, within niche communities a return to more sustainable and naturally based pigments has seen a revitalization. This demonstrates that not only do these processes work, but that the products produced from them are actively sought out as a replacement for commercial products. By implementing these processes on a larger scale, the paint industry can meet the needs of these individuals while introducing paint products that are more sustainable to a wider range of consumers. This incorporates the need to find natural materials that are easy to harvest pigment material from with a consideration to the economic cost of processing them into a usable form. In addition, it is vital to consult the individuals within these specialized painting communities in an equitable way. This presentation reports on findings that examined both these dimensions. It highlights the growing interest in natural pigments across painting ability, the challenges that home-growers face when trying to grow plants for pigments, and the variability in the quality of the end paint result. An evaluation of the sustainability potential of organic pigment processing and creation to move the paint industry towards a sustainable future concludes this research.

P1.17 *Long Term Trends in New Haven Harbor Water Quality (2012-2021)*

Author(s): Daniel Andrien

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vincent Breslin

Department: Environmental Systems and Sustainability

Abstract: Students and faculty of the Werth Center for Coastal and Marine Studies established a long-term water quality monitoring program in January 2012 to address the lack of water quality data in Long Island Sound. Now at the ten-year mark of the program we have analyzed the past decade (2012-2021) of water quality and atmospheric conditions at Long Wharf, New Haven, Connecticut. The parameters measured weekly included air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, solar radiation, salinity, conductivity, specific conductance, water temperature, turbidity, pH, and dissolved oxygen. From this data analysis we have been able to identify long-term trends in this coastal region which serves as an indicator for the overall condition of the Long Island Sound estuary. Trends were identified through linear regression analysis of annual mean measurements of the respective parameters. Results showed that pH decreased over time possibly due to increased CO₂ in the atmosphere. Slight increases in water and air temperature were likely due to a changing regional climate. Variations in salinity at this location correlated with extreme weather events (precipitation) and seasonal conditions. Overall, water quality at this location is good as determined by secchi disk depth and dissolved oxygen measurements. There were only a few days in this ten-year period where dissolved oxygen was below the 5 mg/L water quality threshold, indicating hypoxic conditions are rare at this location. The WCCMS will continue to collect weekly water quality measurements at Long Wharf to determine future changes in Long Island Sound estuary water quality.

P1.18 *Spatial and Temporal Patterns in Copper and Zinc Contamination in New Haven Harbor Sediment*

Author(s): Carolina Capelo

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vincent Breslin

Department: Environmental Systems and Sustainability

Abstract: New Haven Harbor is a hub of regional transportation networks and plays a crucial role in Connecticut's economy. The harbor is both industrialized and urbanized with many possible sources of contamination, including industry, shipping, fuel oil storage, and interstate 95. Previous Werth Center for Coastal and Marine Studies research has shown contaminated sediment in the inner (northern area) harbor is an issue of concern. The objective of this study was to determine the spatial and temporal trends in sediment metal contamination. Two sediment sampling cruises were conducted in June 2021, collecting a total of 27 sediment samples throughout New Haven Harbor to determine both the sediment's physical (loss on ignition) and chemical (copper and zinc) properties. Results showed spatial trends with copper and zinc concentrations decreasing north to south in the harbor. The inner harbor contained copper and zinc concentrations exceeding four to six times their respective crustal abundances. The spatial trends in sediment copper, zinc, and iron concentrations correlated with the sediment's physical characteristics (grain-size and LOI). In general, copper and zinc concentrations exceed the Effects Range Low (ERL) sediment toxicity threshold in many areas but do not surpass the Effects Range Median (ERM) threshold in some locations. The results of this study will also be compared to contaminated metals measured in previous New Haven harbor studies over the past 20 years (2001-2021). Linear regression analysis will be used to examine temporal trends in sediment copper and zinc contamination over time.

P1.19 *The impact of shellfish aquaculture on mesozooplankton abundance and species diversity in Martha's Vineyard*

Author(s): Sara Gerckens

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Emma Cross

Department: Environmental Systems and Sustainability

Abstract: Multi-species ocean farming allows the co-cultivation of species in the water column with decreased spatial conflicts, reduced environmental impacts, and increased nutrient assimilation. Aquaculture has the potential to provide habitats for motile organisms, settlement substrates for sessile organisms, refuge from predators, and food sources. In the northeast U.S., farms currently deploy macroalgae during the winter-spring seasons; in the summer-fall months, the farms consist only of shellfish cages. There is a lack of existing data on aquaculture's impacts on zooplankton, a critical part of the ocean's food chain. In collaboration with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and Cottage City Oysters, this project examined the impact of multi-species ocean farming on mesozooplankton abundance and species diversity during the summer-fall seasons, when macroalgae is absent, in Martha's Vineyard, MA. Two 5-minute plankton tows were conducted monthly from July-November 2021. One tow was conducted in the farm; one tow was conducted at a site without aquaculture 120m away. To quantify mesozooplankton abundance and determine species diversity, samples were diluted, and individuals were identified and counted using an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope fitted with an Olympus DP22 camera. The Shannon Weiner Diversity Index was used to quantify species diversity. Initial data analysis shows increased diversity and abundance on the shellfish farm in organisms such as adult copepods, copepod and barnacle nauplii, polychaete worm larvae, and bivalve larvae. The results from this study will provide preliminary data for a larger interdisciplinary research project at SCSU and WHOI, which investigates the environmental impacts of this emerging aquaculture technique.

P1.20 *Spatial Trends in Mercury Concentration Throughout New Haven Harbor.*

Author(s): Abigail Lucas

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vincent Breslin

Department: Environmental Systems and Sustainability

Abstract: New Haven and its harbor are a hub for commerce in the northeastern United States. Recent and legacy industrial activity has resulted in sediments of urbanized harbors typically containing elevated concentrations of contaminant metals. Tributary rivers, wastewater treatment plants and industrial effluent all contribute to mercury deposition in harbor sediments. The objective of this study was to examine spatial trends in mercury concentrations throughout New Haven Harbor. Students and faculty from the Werth Center for Coastal Marine Systems participated in sediment collection on two occasions: June 16th (18 stations) and 29th (10 stations), 2021. Sediments were collected using a ponar grab aboard the New Haven Sound School's vessel the R/V Island Rover. The collected sediment samples were processed through freeze-drying before being weighed into a Milestone DMA 80 Mercury Analyzer to determine mercury concentration. Loss on ignition (LOI) and sediment grain-size was also measured for each sample. Positive correlations existed between mercury concentration and the physical properties of the sediment (grain-size and LOI). Higher sediment mercury concentrations are associated with fine grain-size sediment with a comparatively high LOI. Measured sediment mercury concentrations ranged between 0.033 mg/kg in the outer harbor to 0.6 mg/kg in the northern reaches of the harbor. Results show New Haven Harbor's sediment mercury concentrations are elevated compared to crustal abundance (0.08 mg/kg).

P1.21 *WE: Women Supporting Women*

Author(s): Tommi Bonomo

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melanie Uribe

Department: Graphic Design

Abstract: Poster presentation to showcase a new interactive App “WE” covering UX/UI design. Created to search, support, and connect with women owned businesses, WE is an app space that highlights women empowerment. WE is a creative spin on Yelp, that sources businesses and resources for women. My inspiration for the app came from my passion for women empowerment and the concept that women tend to feel more comfortable around other women. It is a useful app for both individuals and businesses. Individuals can create a profile, join public chats, favorite businesses, direct message other users, and filter searches. Businesses can promote themselves, connect, and create relationships with current and potential customers. Under the resources tab, the search leads users to helpful resources such as scholarships, certifications, and housing all geared towards women. The chat feature allows for both public and private chats. Public chats ask pressing questions where women can add input, advice, and opinions while the private chats allow users to talk one on one to schedule appointments and ask questions. This app is designed to support and empower which is why there is no review feature, as reviews often tear down businesses which is not what I wanted to display. WE promotes women supporting women.

P1.22 *Help Other People Exhibition*

Author(s): Daniel Brinsmade

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melanie Uribe

Department: Graphic Design

Abstract: My Research Project is entitled the Help Other People Exhibition. The project is a multimedia Typographic Exhibition. The problem statement: “Design a typographic piece that communicates a moment, event, idea, or experience that resonates with you and brings attention to a social cause.” Due to a widening political divide, a general sense of polarization, and worsening xenophobia in this country and the world, I decided to stress a broader theme of helping other people, taking care of, and respecting your fellow man, without coming off as overly political. I achieved this through minimalistic bold typographic statements such as “Help Other People.” “Love People.”, and “Be Kind.” I then Created both full sized posters with a scannable QR code and smaller letter sized posters with tear off info tabs which linked the viewer to a website explaining the project, included visual examples of the assorted designs, testimonials from people who had found help or compassion from strangers during challenging times, as well as a page of community resources which I cataloged into a table of links. I also made T-shirts for the class with the statements “Be Kind” and “Love People” as a broader experiment in both merchandising treatment as well as spreading the message through placement on clothing. In retrospect, the Exhibition was successful overall, I was able to grab the viewers' attention, leading them to wonder about and visit the website. I plan to create a poster displaying the projects and individual designs for the Presentation.

P1.23 *Experimental Typography: Environmental Impact*

Author(s): Malena Araujo

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Melanie Uribe

Department: Graphic Design

Abstract: It's time to do something. The protection of our earth is no longer a negotiation. The results of climate change are becoming evidently clear as each day passes. Global and oceanic temperature rise, shrinking ice sheets and sea level rise are all examples of how our time on earth is running out. I hope to inspire others to “go green” with the visualization of the great amount of waste, us humans pollute the earth with. This will inspire everyone to practice self-correction and be active in the fight against climate change.

Poster presentation will showcase the process of creating transparent 3D large letters that will be used to hold different kinds of trash (old receipts, chewed gum, cigarette buds, and plastic water bottles). The messages will be set up on a grassy courtyard or beach to represent the places most people litter. The statement in this concept contains short amount of characters to make the piece readable. Each phrase I chose motivates the observer to join the fight against climate change.

P1.24 *Quantitative Analysis of Porous Structure of Pine-Based Biochar*

Author(s): Dan Shibu & Jules Scanley

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christine Broadbridge & Dr. Tom Sadowski

Department: Physics

Abstract: Biochar is a charcoal-like material that is the result of biomass going through pyrolysis, a thermal decomposition process in an inert environment. Biochar is characterized by its diversity of pore sizes, which makes it a particularly attractive material in multiple fields. For example, these pores can retain water, potentially capture carbon dioxide, and provide an increased contact surface area for electrolytes in supercapacitor applications. This porous structure is a consequence of water vaporizing and expanding outward to escape the cellulose during pyrolysis. In this study, the pore structure of pine-based biochar was investigated and quantified using scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Results indicate that the biochar largely retains the porous structure present in the pine feedstock prior to pyrolysis. Moreover, this porous structure is highly size-dependent, as biochar granules below 2 mm lose many of the features that make it attractive for industrial applications.

P1.25 *Classic vs. Deep Learning Algorithms for High-Precision Astrometry on Hubble Space Telescope Images*

Author(s): Max Martone

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dana Casetti

Department: Physics and Applied Mathematics

Abstract: We are testing classic and machine learning centering algorithms to obtain high-precision astrometry on images from the Hubble Space Telescope's Wide Field Planetary Camera 2 (HST WFPC2). WFPC2 images are undersampled and therefore pose challenges to classic centering algorithms. We explore deep learning algorithms to overcome these challenges. We create simulated images using the code Skymaker and then test two classic centering algorithms and one deep learning scheme. We find that our results depend strongly on the point spread function used to create the simulated images. We also find the deep learning schemes increase precision by a factor of 2-3 and systematics are eliminated.

P1.26 *Impact of Early Prenatal THC Exposure on Psychosis Related Outcomes in Rattus norvegicus*

Author(s): Elizabeth Traester

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Kelly Bordner

Department: Psychology

Abstract: Early stages of fetal development are crucial for proper neural development. The neuromodulatory endocannabinoid system plays a vital role in this development. Use of Cannabis sativa (marijuana) during pregnancy has been theorized to impact this system, increasing the risk for schizophrenia and other neuropsychiatric disorders in offspring. Much is still unknown about this relationship and less is known about the impact of first trimester prenatal cannabis exposure specifically. This study functioned as a pilot project to assess the impact of early and late prenatal Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) exposure on psychosis related outcomes in *Rattus norvegicus* offspring. Pregnant dams were assigned to 1 of 4 drug administration conditions: early THC (GD0-5), early vehicle, late THC (GD15-20), or late vehicle. THC was administered at a dose of 5mg/kg p.o, a dose comparable to moderate exposure in humans. Offspring were analyzed at three ontogenetic time points for behaviors consistent with a prodromal psychotic phenotype. Data was analyzed using a two-factor ANOVA with sex and prenatal treatment as between subject factors.

P1.27 *PTSD and CWB's: A moderated mediation approach*

Author(s): Shibu Ramsley, Emely Rodriguez & Robert Kinzler

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christopher Budnick

Department: Psychology

Abstract: Paranoia attributed to work treatment may influence how employees perceive the cause of an event. We expected individuals who face paranoia from unfair work treatment to perceive success and failure causes in terms of internal locus of causality, stability, and personal control.

Participants consisted of a demographically representative panel of Qualtrics's members ($n = 205$, 51.7% female, 25-44 years old = 41.5%), 18 years or older. Participants were selected to contribute to this study via Qualtrics. They completed this study online, on their PCs or Smart Phones. Next, they completed the pre-measures (i.e. trait anxiety, PTSD). At that point, they were randomly assigned a vignette (unfair or fair) to read. Then, the participants completed follow-up measures (i.e. state paranoia, self-awareness).

A bivariate correlation analysis showed statistically significant and positive correlations across all variables from individuals who feel they face unfair work treatment. Paranoia predicted higher levels in internal locus of causality ($r [106] = .287$, $p < .001$) stability ($r [106] = .278$, $p < .001$) and personal control ($r [106] = .318$, $p < .001$).

Paranoia predicts causal perceptions in employees who feel treated unfairly by work supervisors. As individuals feel more paranoid from unfair supervisor treatment, results showed higher levels of internal locus of causality, stability, and personal control. Limitations, implications, and applications will be discussed.

P1.28 *Word Family Reading Intervention: Case Study of a Third Grade Student in Special Ed*

Author(s): Sarah Masotta & Hannah Rosario

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Cheryl Durwin & Dr. Dina Moore

Department: Psychology

Abstract: We present a case study of Ben, a third grader who had been receiving special education for a speech-language impairment, literacy/numeracy deficits, and behavioral/emotional regulation since first grade. Ben came to the SCSU R.E.A.D.S. Lab in November 2020. From February through May 2021, Ben received an individual intervention aimed at improving oral vocabulary, verbal expression and comprehension. This resulted in substantial gains in oral language skills. Because of this, our intervention this year focused on word-level reading skills. We used a color-coded word-families flashcard intervention developed and validated by Durwin and Moore (2019) with kindergarteners. Ben's ability to identify and decode words was significantly below-average compared to same-age peers. In weekly sessions from October through March, Ben practiced reading words in 8 flashcard sets (12-25 words within a set), with an emphasis on encouraging automaticity (fast, accurate processing using few cognitive resources). In our poster, we will: explain the process of interleaved practice used for varying practice among the sets of words, illustrate the color-coded word-families, and present data showing Ben's improvement in word recognition skill.

P1.29 *Trait Anxiety and High Neuroticism on the role of PTSD*

Author(s): Erin Barrett & Michelle Negron

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christopher Budnick

Department: Psychology

Abstract: Rational. Individuals who are high in neuroticism will experience more distress and discomfort in response to trauma, thus higher neuroticism predicts higher PTSD symptoms. Those with high neuroticism should also experience trait anxiety thus, trait anxiety predicts higher symptoms of PTSD.

Methods. Participants consisted of a demographically representative panel of Qualtrics members ($n = 205$, 51.7% female, 25-44 years old = 41.5%), 18 years or older. The majority (41.7%) of the sample was between 25 and 44 years old.

Results. A bivariate correlation analysis showed statistically significant and positive correlations across all variables from individuals who have PTSD. High neuroticism predicted higher PTSD symptoms ($r [204] = .635$, $p < .001$), high neuroticism correlates with trait anxiety ($r [204] = .706$, $p < .001$), and trait anxiety predicts higher PTSD symptoms ($r [204] = .729$, $p < .001$).

Discussion, Conclusions & Further Research. The results for all hypotheses were shown to be statistically significant. Individuals high in neuroticism correlate with higher PTSD symptoms. High trait anxiety and high neuroticism are positively correlated. High trait anxiety correlates with higher PTSD symptoms. Limitations, implications, and applications will be discussed.

AI.1 *Reflection***Author(s):** Samantha Melendez**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Jeremy Chandler**Department:** Art

Abstract: Biblical stories are used for advice, structure, hope and strength. I use animals that convey symbolic meanings to represent my religion and heritage. These paintings will draw inspiration from childhood biblical stories, vibrant colors, and patterns of fabrics from Puerto Rico. In doing this the paintings take on a life of their own, making for a more unique perspective on how I view these biblical animals.

AI.2 *Vanity 8***Author(s):** Alex Mickens**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Thawn Vu**Department:** Art Studio

Abstract: My art is about my lived experience in the Bronx, New York. Although what I saw was beautiful, many saw it as a punching bag where they can subconsciously let out their anger and not even realize what they're physically doing to our environment but because of the systematic oppression we face daily. It was hard to see the beauty while reality sewed right through it. I want my viewers to appreciate and find the beauty in things we tend to overlook, to take a closer look into the world we live in. Whether drawing, sewing, painting, sculpting or mixed media, my mission is to add beauty in everything I touch.

AI.3 *Maple Breeze Farm***Author(s):** Ben Sordo**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Jeremy Chandler**Department:** Art Studio

Abstract: I will be presenting my work about Maple Breeze Farm. In the last two years I have been focusing on telling stories through the documentary style using video and photos. In my recent work, I have chosen to document Maple Breeze Farm in Westbrook Connecticut. Maple Breeze Farm is one of the oldest farms in Connecticut. I want to show what modern life is like on the farm and how that affects the responsibility of having animals, crops, land, and a business. I photograph in black and white and to print on cotton rag paper, which has a tone and texture which emphasizes shadows and highlights, resulting in a dramatic presentation. As a student, I studied black and white film and how to develop photo negatives in the darkroom. This gave me a foundation for the fundamentals of photography. My current camera is digital which allows me to instantly see my photographic exposure before I take a photo. This helps me evaluate light and composition in the field. I intend to show the viewer an honest and unvarnished account of what I witnessed on my visits to Maple Breeze Farm. I interviewed John Hall, one of the owners of Maple Breeze Farm through video recordings. My goal was to have his perspective of the farm, as someone who has lived and worked the land for many years and has insightful knowledge about the history and what goes on behind the scenes.

AI.4 *Wanderlust***Author(s):** Shaina Alexander**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Mia Brownell**Department:** Art

Abstract: This presentation will be on the artwork created for my senior thesis exhibition titled "Wanderlust". Wanderlust is more than a desire to travel; it is a feeling. A restlessness, unsettledness. This impulse or longing to wander, to be somewhere else. An irresistible pull towards something out there. We try to get away from it all, to escape our current life for something else. I have been weaving ideas of wanderlust into my illustrations since the start of the pandemic. I am creating my own form of escapism. My drawings allow me to explore a world seemingly outside of myself and has provided me the means to escape during this stressful time. I am creating my own world with characters of my own design inspired by classic fairytales and the Victorian era.

- AI.5 *Blacknificent*
Author(s): Shiyenne Dunkley
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Thuan Vu
Department: Studio Art
Abstract: As a young Black American artist I want to take this opportunity to share with you my series entitled Blacknificent. My series contains 3 portraits: one of myself, one of my friends Joneal, and one of my partner Akeim. Each of these portraits were painted using oil paint on a sheet of plywood. Growing up in America as a person of color, I have experienced many moments of isolation and discrimination. Throughout my art education I have been exposed to artists such as Michelangelo, Van Gogh and Leonardo Da Vinci. I envision my work as an opportunity to increase the positive representation of black and brown people in works of art. My work is influenced by contemporary black artists such as Titus Kaphar, Kehinde Wiley, Brionya James and their unique ways of presenting the brown figure. From them I have learned that the world will continue to make room for artwork that displays people of color in a positive manner. Since my work focuses primarily on the figure this allows for the beauty of each individual person to be the primary focus of the painting. I pair the floral/ greenery arrangements behind the figures to represent growth, creation, authentic natural beauty. I want my work to be an extension of my pride in my culture. I want for the audience to be able to feel the deep love I have for being in my skin despite what takes place in the world around me.
- AI.6 *Impermanence and Identity*
Author(s): Milena Alvarez
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeffrey Slomba
Department: Studio Art
Abstract: I'm pleased to present my Studio Art Senior Thesis, Impermanence and Identity, to the Southern Connecticut State University Undergraduate Student Research and Creativity Conference. My work explores my relationship with impermanence and its effects on my interpersonal relationships and identity. Stemming from my experiences with devout religious cult upbringing and excommunication from those foundational relationships with friends and family in my youth, I am newly discovering my place in the world. As I explore these liminal spaces I am surrounded by omniscient viewers from my past and what feels like a constant surveillance on my actions. Experiencing this jarring impermanence has hindered facets of my evolving intersectional identity and my relationship to my corporeal form. This navigation of a voyeuristic world and fearing building new relationships with myself and others is reflected in my work through scenes of isolation and unreliable memories. Working in primarily oils, I utilize traces of underpaintings to create a visual chronology of my experiences that display the development of my past, present, and future selves in context. Depicting fragmented scenes from my youth and displacing parts with my current self I bridge the narratives of my late identities with my metamorphous present.
- AI.7 *Iterations and Maladaptation's of the Skin: An Aversion and Obsession of the Mind*
Author(s): Julia Moores
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Thuan Vu
Department: Studio Art
Abstract: It is my pleasure to present Iterations and Maladaptation's of the Skin: An Aversion and Obsession of the Mind to SCSU Undergraduate Research Conference. This body of work explores maladies of the flesh, both macabre and taboo. Our skin has its own type of memory. It can be permanently manifested in scars and other tangible traces of trauma and damage. It also remembers stimulus it finds irritable. My work explores this space between the skin and its cerebral memory. Bringing skin into the center of my practice has resulted in a psychological conversation between me and the subject, followed by an equally psychosomatic conversation between the work and the viewer. This installation combines painting elements with domestic life. While exploring this subject, I used two different modes of painting: The first mode relies on traditionally stretched canvas that is painted in thin washes, treating each layer as its own skin. Within this installation space, they hang on the wall, acting as decoration for the boudoir. In the second mode, I have cut and torn raw canvas, pulling, and fraying the edges to create the feeling of cut skin. With washes of acrylic, gouache, and ink, I have built up layers of pigment that invoke the sense of an eroded protective barrier. The juxtaposition of warmth in the space coupled with jarring and raw pieces of flesh brings up feelings of nostalgia as well as pain and vulnerability. It is a survival mechanism that I am manipulating in the viewer.

AI.8 *Memory and the Self*
Author(s): Abigail Marselli
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mia Brownell
Department: Studio Art
Abstract: I will be presenting my body of work made during this semester in a power point format. I will be sharing both my technical and idea process.

My work is a representation of the memories that make up my sense of self. Soft illustrative versions of carefully chosen moments that represent who I am. Photographs themselves have an innate archival quality, whereas memories exist outside of time and seem to have no beginning or end. Transcribing them through a brush allows me to showcase my altered perception and recollection of the moment. There is nothing and everything special about these moments.

AI.9 *That Weird Feeling*
Author(s): Alexandra Nicks
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mia Brownell
Department: Studio Art
Abstract: Using acrylic paint on canvas, I express my thoughts and feelings through illustrations, characters, ideas, and concepts of mysterious spaces. My work is inspired by the online aesthetic and art movements known as Weirdcore and Dreamcore which exploit the idea of spaces that you may find in a dream or a faded nostalgic flashback.

O2A.1 *The Impact Of Income Inequality On Low Income Housing Tax Credit Allocation***Author(s):** Christianne Accurso**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Younjun Kim**Department:** Business Administration

Abstract: The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program is the single-biggest way the government supports the creation of affordable housing through new construction and rehabilitation in the United States. Previous research has found a correlation between the distribution of LIHTC funding affecting income levels and demographics in the neighborhoods they are built in. Rather than focusing on whether the LIHTC affects neighborhood demographics, we are looking at the decision-making level of distributing the LIHTC at the local level. We use data from the American Community Survey to investigate if and how income inequality is correlated to the distribution of the LIHTC across the United States as a whole and Connecticut, specifically. We hypothesize that the LIHTC would be allocated at higher rates to towns across the United States with higher income inequality than towns with lower income inequality levels. The rationale behind this hypothesis is that areas of high-income inequality house both low income and high-income households. Low-income households in these areas are housing insecure because of inflated housing prices due to the presence of high-income households in the same area and thus would be an area in need of access to affordable housing options, one of which is the LIHTC. We found that both on the national-level and state-level, results showed a statistically significant positive correlation between income inequality and LIHTC housing unit growth.

O2A.2 *Black Maternal Mortality***Author(s):** Jonell Bailey**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Anuli Njoku**Department:** Social Work

Abstract: The objective of this research conducted was on the topic of black maternal health. The public health issue is caused by health disparities due to racial inequalities in the healthcare industry. Currently, the rate of maternal mortality is caused by factors such as, but not limited to, racial status, socioeconomic status, and levels of urbanization. Statistically, Black women are more likely to experience maternal mortality than any other race in the United States. The research done was by conducting a detailed annotated bibliography on eight scholarly articles ranging on the topics of the statistics of maternal mortality, what causes maternal mortality, how race plays a role in the rate of maternal mortality, comparisons of the rate of maternal mortality in the United States versus underdeveloped countries, and any solutions to lower the rate of maternal mortality.

O2A.3 *Examining Insomnia and Paranoid Thinking***Author(s):** Karlos Mate**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Christopher Budnick**Department:** Psychology

Abstract: Rationale. Insomnia is a strong predictor of paranoid thinking; thus, insomnia will predict paranoia. Negative affect and expressive suppression predict paranoia. I predict that higher negative affect and expressive suppression will strengthen positive insomnia and paranoia relationship.

Methods. Participants, consisting of a demographically representative panel of Qualtrics's members ($n = 205$, 51.7% female, 25-44 years old = 41.5%), were randomly assigned to unfair versus fair treatment and had their outcomes assessed with pre (i.e., JSEQ, ERQ, PANAS) and post measures (i.e., State Paranoia Scale).

Results. Bivariate correlation analysis revealed negative affect and emotional regulation do not relate ($p = .600$), nor do negative affect and state paranoia ($p = 0.453$). However, as insomnia increases so does negative affect ($r[200] = .207$, $p < 0.001$). Both insomnia ($b = .458$, $p < .001$) and paranoia ($b = -.031$, $p = .455$) uniquely predicted negative affect, and their interaction approached traditional significance levels ($b = .081$, $p = 0.055$). Simple slopes analysis indicated that at low insomnia, increased paranoia predicts decreased negative mood ($b = -.091$, $p = .171$). At high insomnia levels, paranoia predicts more negative mood ($b = .029$, $p = .366$). Although both state paranoia ($b = -.149$, $p = 0.023$) and insomnia ($b = .306$, $p = 0.028$) significantly predicted expressive suppression, their interaction was not significant ($p = .254$).

Conclusion. Insomnia failed to predict paranoia. Negative affect and expressive suppression failed to strengthen this relationship. Limitations, implications, and applications will be discussed.

O2A.4 *PTSD, Perceived Stress, and Situational Self-Awareness*

Author(s): Kevin Reed & Robert Kinzler

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christopher Budnick

Department: Psychology

Abstract: Rationale. Trauma's impact transcends the event those with PTSD faced. PTSD affects people's everyday living. PTSD sufferers relate differently to stress and have an altered sense of situational self-awareness. I expect PTSD sufferers treated unfairly at work will have more self-awareness overall, decreased awareness of immediate surroundings, and report increased work stress.

Methods. Participants consisted of a demographically representative panel ($n = 205$, 51.7% female, 25-44 years old = 41.5%), 18 years or older. They completed this study online, on their PCs or Smart Phones. Participants completed the pre-measures (I.e., PCL-5 and Perceived Stress Scale). At that point, they were randomly assigned a vignette (unfair or fair) to read. Then, the participants completed post-measures (I.e., Situational Self-Awareness Scale).

Results. Working PTSD sufferers had increased levels of situational self-awareness when treated unfairly ($r[106] = .309$, $p = .001$). PTSD did not decrease awareness of immediate surroundings ($r[106] = -.105$, $p = .285$). PTSD sufferers had high stress levels while working ($r[106] = .745$, $p < .001$).

Discussion, Conclusion, Limitations, & Future Research. Those with PTSD who received unfair treatment experienced increased situational self-awareness. Contrary to expectation, PTSD's presence decreased self-awareness of immediate surroundings. PTSD sufferers perceived high levels of stress at work. How situational self-awareness relates to perceived stress at work could be investigated further.

O2A.5 *Student-Led Activism for Curricular Change in Higher Education: An Examination of General Education and the Student Voice Historically from the 1930s to Today*

Author(s): Sarah Gossman

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jason Smith

Department: History

Abstract: Historically, students have commonly been catalysts for change. Whether they have been leading protests during the Civil Rights Movement or participating in walk outs of their classrooms, students have asserted their views and interests in a way that forces faculty and administration to listen. However, why is it that there has been so little written about students' role in the debate surrounding academic requirements? Where is the literature that centralizes the pivotal role that students had in history? In this thesis, I argue the importance of student-led activism within a student's general education curriculum. Although a student's role is multifaceted, students have a role in academic reform. Students are highly capable of enacting change, and faculty and administration need to have a better understanding of how to channel the "student voice" in general education reform. The overall student experience is best represented if students have a say in what they want represented in their education. This thesis explores how general education differs across universities, and how by viewing the student voice historically, faculty and administration can recognize the significance of underrepresented agents in modern day curriculum reform. This thesis also views general education both from a historical and modern-day lens.

O2A.6 *Characterization of MWCNT/BIOCHAR-MnO₂ Nanocomposites for Supercapacitor Applications*

Author(s): Kaleb Roman

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Christine Broadbridge

Department: Physics

Abstract: In the digital age of computers and smart devices, energy storage has been an increasingly important area of study in nanotechnology and electronics. Many power grids are under critical strain and relying on fossil fuels has had a deleterious effect on the environment. In hopes of improving the efficiency and practicality of renewable energy electrical components, scientists have started looking into designing high performance supercapacitors. 1 These capacitors combine coulombic and chemical energy storage, often using porous carbon materials bonded with metal oxides in solution. 2 Our project has focused primarily on utilizing Biochar- MnO₂ composite as a replacement material for carbon nanotube-based composites. Our initial results indicate that combining MnO₂ with Biochar results in a similar increase (14%) in specific capacitance to that of combining MnO₂ with carbon nanotubes which are more hazardous and expensive.

O2B.1 *The Tragically Flexible Nature of History*

Author(s): James Barra

Faculty Mentor: Charles Baraw

Department: Public Health

Abstract: The Holocaust stands as one of the most unspeakable tragedies our world has ever experienced. A simple look at the objective facts and statistics of it will reveal that this was indeed a period of unfathomable loss and horror. This, however, begs the question, "how was Adolf Hitler able to gain any level of support for this horrid campaign?" The answer lies in his use of propaganda and manipulation tactics. Through his demonization and dehumanization of the Jews, Adolf Hitler was unfortunately able to gain support from the people of Germany, as well as citizens of several collaborative countries such as Poland and Hungary, for his crusade against the Jewish people. This unfortunate phenomenon is a key theme in Art Spiegelman's esteemed graphic novel, *Maus*. The story is a recount of Spiegelman's father's experience during the Holocaust. While reading it, the audience will almost immediately notice that different characters are drawn as different animals according to their social identity. The Jews are drawn as mice, the Germans as Cats, the non-Jewish poles as pigs, etc. Upon further inspection, it will become apparent to the reader that the anthropomorphic portrayals of these characters falls in line, in an abstract sense, with Adolf Hitler's view of the social groups featured in the novel. However, the characters do not speak or behave as such. This is but one of the ways Art Spiegelman uses the medium of comics to contrast Adolf Hitler's view of the Holocaust with the true events of it.

O2B.2 *Social Distancing from the Fourth Dimension*

Author(s): Victoria Moll

Faculty Mentor: Shelley Stoehr-McCarthy

Department: English

Abstract: This paper is on the impact that technology has on society. My stance is that teenagers need to get taught how to differentiate real life from social media in order to have the necessary skills to become professional adults.

O2B.3 *Effects of Technology.*

Author(s): Hailey Roy

Faculty Mentor: Shelley Stoehr-McCarthy

Department: English

Abstract: The emergence of technology has positively but mostly negatively effected our youth. Listen to my paper to hear actual statistics and evidence that contributes to this idea.

O2B.4 *The Effects of Digital Technology on Young People's Mental Health*

Author(s): Alyssa Franco

Faculty Mentor: Shelley Stoehr-McCarthy

Department: English

Abstract: My paper is about the Effects of digital technology on young people's mental health. My stance is that today's technology and social media use has made a negative impact on young people's mental health.

O2B.5 *Teenagers and Technology*

Author(s): Danny Acevedo

Faculty Mentor: Shelley Stoehr-McCarthy

Department: English

Abstract: My paper is about the effect technology has on teenagers. My stance is digital technology has a positive effect on teen safety.

Literature and Film | The presentations on this panel will explore how and why meaning changes as the same basic story is told through literature and through film.

O2C.1 *Tone, Point of View, and Theme in Ang Lee and Annie Proulx's "Brokeback Mountain"*

Author(s): Kristen Robertson

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Shea

Department: English

Abstract: Both Annie Proulx's short story "Brokeback Mountain" and Ang Lee's film adaptation tell the story of Jack Twist and Ennis Del Mar's developing relationship throughout their lives beginning when they worked together on Brokeback Mountain and continuing through their separate marriages. Although the film and text use different media to tell the story, the tone, themes, and point of view are identical. In both media, a dreary tone is created, the third person point of view is utilized, and the theme of conflicting desires for passion and conformity is made known. While the text uses carefully selected words to convey the tone, theme, and point of view, the film adaptation uses film devices like camera angle and set design to achieve a similar goal.

O2C.2 *Literature and Film*

Author(s): Roger King

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Shea

Department: English

Abstract: As I both read and watched the story of Brokeback Mountain, there was one literary conceit that continued to return to my mind: the concepts of the "polis" and the "greenworld." This tried-and-true literary concept of the polis and greenworld states that, in pieces that speak to society's structure whether it be critique or compliment, narratives fluctuate between two places: the place of society, structure, and conforming to the social status quo in the polis and the world of the wilds, chaos, and self-reflection and introspection away from the judging eye of the polis in the greenworld. These two places are seen as cyclical, as a protagonist is usually seen struggling in the original polis, having found themselves and their true motives and intentions in the cleansing nature of the greenworld, only to return to the same polis now having dealt with what they did in the greenworld. In this sense, they are overaware and over concerned with their social status in the polis so that, when arriving in the greenworld, they achieve a life-changing reflection of themselves and their situation in the polis. This fluctuation between settings is apparent in both the short story and film adaptation of Brokeback Mountain through our protagonist Ennis Del Mar, who consistently alternates between them. We are shown these two worlds of the polis and greenworld through multiple literary themes and film devices, more specifically: each medium's use of theme, tone, and point of view.

O2C.3 *Literature and Film*

Author(s): Kayla Brown

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Shea

Department: English

Abstract: Annie Proulx's short story "Brokeback Mountain" opens as protagonist Ennis del Mar urinates in his trailer's sink, heats up leftover coffee in a chipped pot, and listens to the screeching of the wind roar around his trailer. Despite this drab setting, Ennis is left reminiscing on a dream he had the night before about a man named Jack Twist, a dream which gave him a "sense of pleasure" (Proulx 255). In the opening paragraph, the tone, theme, and point of view become well established. These elements continue to be explored and deepened by Proulx as the story unfolds. In contrast, the film adaptation of Brokeback Mountain opens with a view of two cowboys, chain smoking and waiting outside of a trailer together, both full of unspoken tension and unfamiliarity. Although hints of interest could begin to be pieced together as Jack Twist adjusts his mirror to get a better look at the awaiting Ennis del Mar, the viewer is waiting, too. The audience is in store for an eventual reveal of the tone and theme, which remain mysteries at the film's opening. Despite this delayed disclosure, the theme and tone mirror the same ones established in Proulx's short story with only the point of view differing slightly. Even with this slight difference, the film and literary works establish point of view, theme, and tone to stack, build, and weave together a powerful story of love between the two cowboys.

O2C.4 *Development of Theme, Tone, and Point of View in “Brokeback Mountain”*

Author(s): Allison Wang

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Shea

Department: English

Abstract: In both modes of film and literature, the core concepts of the story and the events of “Brokeback Mountain” remain the same. The short story “Brokeback Mountain” was written by Annie Proulx in 1997. Later in 2005, in a production directed by Ang Lee, “Brokeback Mountain” was brought to life on screen as an adaptation. In the star-packed film, Jake Gyllenhaal was cast as Jack Twist and Heath Ledger was cast as Ennis Del Mar. The story written by Proulx is identical to what Lee brings to life, telling the tragic tale of Jack and Ennis. In terms of the tone between both tellings of “Brokeback Mountain,” they remain very similar with longing and a sense of mourning. The two also share an overarching theme. However, an interesting place where they deviate is in terms of the point of view of the story.

O2C.5 *“Brokeback Mountain” & Brokeback Mountain: Visually and Textually*

Author(s): Christopher Iacobellis

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Shea

Department: English

Abstract: Annie Proulx’s short story of “Brokeback Mountain” and Ang Lee’s film adaptation both feature parallels in themes, tone, and point-of-view, but in doing so, each remains distinctive in their narrative and technical choices. From literary choices to film techniques, each artist displays the lives of Ennis Del Mar and Jack Twist in separate ways. Ultimately, Lee’s adaptation builds off Proulx’s prose, with each utilizing and subverting the Western genre to call attention to a narrative that supplants the expectations of not only the men within, but the locale as well.

- AI.10 *The Inner Machinations of the Mind*
Author(s): David White
Faculty Mentor: Dr Alexander Girard
Department: Studio Art
Abstract: My presentation is about the random thoughts and daydreams that pop into my head throughout the day. My medium is usually graphite and charcoal on paper, and although I will occasionally use acrylic or gouache paint on canvas. I will be presenting four graphite/charcoal on paper drawings. I take slight inspirations from superhero media, and the cartoons I watched growing up, mainly Spongebob Squarepants.
- AI.11 *The Microscopic Human Form*
Author(s): Angela Tesky
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeremy Chandler
Department: Studio Art
Abstract: This presentation explores my current series inspired by microbiology and microscopic imagery. With the use of watercolor, adding vibrant splashes of blues and its complementary colors... This series of painting focuses on different segments of the human body to create abstract patterns. The biomorphic forms capture a snapshot into the microscopic world down to a cellular level. Primarily working with vibrant watercolor paints create interesting visual texture similarly to construction of the human body.
- AI.12 *Commentary on Climate Change Through Mixed Media*
Author(s): Carlo Chinatti
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeremy Chandler
Department: Studio Art
Abstract: This presentation will exhibit the works of art that I created for my senior thesis exhibition titled, "Commentary on Climate Change Through Mixed Media". I am displaying 4, 18 x 24", charcoal drawings and 4 ceramic sculptures. My imagery draws heavily on art historical references to build a connection between our past and the realities of the future. The sculptural portion of my exhibition is intended to underscore this connection. My goal isn't to make my audience feel hopeless but instead to allude to the possible realities of what may be on horizon and hopefully some action will be derived from it. After all, fear is a great motivator.
- AI.13 *"No Consent, a Photographic Depiction of Domestic Violence"*
Author(s): Kara Catapano
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeremy Chandler
Department: Studio Art
Abstract: "On average, there are 463,634 victims (age 12 or older) of rape and sexual assault each year in the United States. On average, more than 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the US will experience rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner. 94% of women who have been raped experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) during the two weeks following the rape. Approximately 70% of rape or sexual assault victims experience moderate to severe distress, a larger percentage than for any other violent crime."
My project tells a fictional story of a woman who did not give consent to a man. These photos are not explicit but still depict the act of rape. I use my portraiture style of photography to convey this message about domestic violence. We cannot stress anymore that giving consent is very important and a must during times of intimacy. My goal is to bring awareness to the act of rape, the trauma that goes on after, and how important consent is. No matter your age or gender, consent is always a must. It is essential to address the topic of rape and domestic violence.
As a photographer, my attention is drawn to the diverse range of emotions a person is capable of producing with just a glance or with their body language. From warm and intimate to distant and dark, the range of human feelings that can be discussed in just a single frame inspires me.
- AI.14 *Night Drive*
Author(s): Aleesa Martins
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeremy Chandler
Department: Studio Art
Abstract: As a photographer I'm interested in photographing the quotidian, the mundane scenes that get passed by most people. I memorialize these places using my camera as a form to record a sense of time and place. The places I choose to photograph are scenes that I drive by throughout my daily travel. The goal for these shots is centered towards

taking photos that show space in a way that cannot be seen in the daylight. For me it becomes less of the space and more about how the lighting impacts the mood of the photo.

My photos are taken as long exposure shots. This captures the saturation and color grading in a way that the natural eye can't see. The unpredictability of long exposure shots is interesting to me because of the way that the color is rendered. I take photos late at night, so the artificial lights are at their most saturated state. The artificial lighting is interpreted different from how natural light exposes the space; the color temperature of the artificial light reads warmer tones in the night. The time of night for each shoot allowed me to focus more on the lighting and components of the image without disturbance from traffic. For me, this allows a quiet and calm space to take my time and capture the ideas in my head into digital and physical pieces of art. My work is displayed in light boxes to enhance the glow of the artificial light captured in my photos.

AI.15 *The Garden of Eden*

Author(s): Christina Jones

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Thuan Vu

Department: Studio Art

Abstract: I will be presenting my art series, The Garden of Eden, which is a collection of oil paintings. This has been a semesters-long concentration on queerness, safe spaces, sexuality and spirituality. These paintings come to fruition in the form of emotionally engaged narratives amongst dreamscapes. Spirituality and sexuality are socially understood to be the inverses of each other, but I am most interested in what takes place when they are present within the same realm. I consider the Garden of Eden to be a place of origins, and a home to both the queerness of spirituality and sexuality. Queerness is as in the non-conformity to Patriarchal standards.

My works typically feature culturally symbolic imagery that serves as a landing pad for Black and Queer communities. My hope for this event is to create a visual realm of relief for my audience and to reinforce the need for more safe spaces within the world.

AI.16 *Catharsis*

Author(s): William Michaud

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mia Brownell

Department: Studio Art

Abstract: I am dedicating my current artistic drive toward the surrealistic mentality that surrounds the abstract concept of catharsis. Stemming from the Greek translated “katharsis”, this ideal was prevalent in ancient Greece before its psychological backing was founded by respected colleague of Sigmund Freud, Josef Breuer. Catharsis in the art world can be an effective measure of conveying raw emotions, traumatic byproducts of tragedy linked as a common reason. Catharsis is often regarded as the result stemming from a release of emotion. In healthy commodities, catharsis can be achieved therapeutically through artistry to reduce negative feelings of frustration. By painting surreal abstract landscapes in oil on canvas, I have produced the same sobering feeling of catharsis that others strive for to embrace a soothing experience. I have taken to viewing numerous works from esteemed past artists that encapsulated the same feeling. These artists include Vincent van Gogh and Edvard Munch, and I have inspiration from their method of brush strokes in my works as well. Hopelessness, loss, despair, all sorts of interconnected feelings that are prevalent in society today can affect all of us. I am going to recreate the same passionate maelstrom of emotions in my upcoming works for all to see.

AI.17 *The Complexities of a Bad Bitch*

Author(s): Gabriela Marroquin

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Patricia Bode

Department: Art Education

Abstract: My series is an attempt to answer the question of, “What is a bad bitch?” I believe that it is a mentality; anyone can be a bad bitch should they deem themselves so. A bad bitch radiates confidence. She demands respect and attention the minute she walks through the room. A single look can send the message that she is not one to be messed with. With every bad bitch comes a bestie who is just as wild. Bad bitches do not worry themselves about what the male gaze prefers. They deserve respect regardless of how much skin is shown, stretch marks and belly rolls included. She has complete autonomy in her own body and rejects the benevolent sexism that pressures women into having children that she is not ready for. A bad bitch is still a bad bitch even on their worst days. Even when the dishes pile up, the bills are due, and the nights get lonely.

Appendix

In The Impact Of Income Inequality On Low Income Housing Tax Credit Distribution

Author(s): Accurso, Christianne

Mentor: Dr. Younjun Kim

Format: Oral Presentation

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Teenagers and Technology

Author(s): Acevedo, Danny

Mentor: Dr. Shelley Stoehr-McCarthy

Format: Oral Presentation

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Wanderlust

Author(s): Alexander, Shaina

Mentor: Dr. Mia Brownell

Format: Art Installation

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Impermanence and Identity

Author(s): Alvarez, Milena

Mentor: Dr. Jeffrey Slomba

Format: Art Installation

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Long Term Trends in New Haven Harbor Water Quality (2012-2021)

Author(s): Andrien, Daniel

Mentor: Dr. Vincent Breslin

Format: Poster Presentation

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Experimental Typography: Environmental Impact

Author(s): Araujo, Malena

Mentor: Dr. Melanie Uribe

Format: Poster Presentation

13

Society Versus Self

Author(s): Arce, Breanna

Mentor: Dr. Michael Shea

Format: Oral Presentation

7

Black Maternal Mortality

Author(s): Bailey, Jonell

Mentor: Dr. Anuli Njoku

Format: Oral Presentation

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Diverse Healthcare

Author(s): Bailey, Jonell

Mentor: Dr. Cheryl Green

Format: Poster Presentation

10

The Tragically Flexible Nature of History

Author(s): Barra, James

Mentor: Dr. William Faraclas

Format: Oral Presentation

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Trait Anxiety and High Neuroticism on the role of PTSD

Author(s): Barrett, Erin & Negron, Michelle

Mentor: Dr. Christopher Budnick

Format: Poster Presentation

15

Social Media Outlets: The negative effects of having a like button

Author(s): Ben-Toukour, Abdel-Kader

Mentor: Dr. Michael Bay

Format: Poster Presentation

9

WE: Women Supporting Women

Author(s): Bonomo, Tommi

Mentor: Dr. Melanie Uribe

Format: Poster Presentation

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Help Other People Exhibition

Author(s): Brinsmade, Daniel

Mentor: Dr. Melanie Uribe

Format: Poster Presentation

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Gothic Horror in "Goblin Market": Women's Mastery through the Macabre

Author(s): Brown, Kayla

Mentor: Dr. Brandon Hutchinson

Format: Oral Presentation

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<i>Blacknificent</i>	
Author(s): Dunkley, Shianne Mentor: Dr. Thuan Vu Format: Art Installation	17
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The Changing Power of Kings' Language in 2 Henry IV

Author(s): Wetherall, Mimi

Mentor: Dr. Joel Dodson

Format: Oral Presentation

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The Inner Machinations of the Mind

Author(s): White, David

Mentor: Dr Alexander Girard

Format: Art Installation

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