

CSU STANISLAUS

Honors Capstone Conference



John Rogers Faculty Development Center

Friday May 19, 2017

11:30-4:30 pm

University Honors Program

California State University Stanislaus

One University Circle, Turlock CA 95382

(209) 667-3180 <•> csustan.edu/honors

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the following faculty who generously agreed to serve as **Research Mentors** for our **2016-17 Senior Capstone Research Projects**: *Ritin Bhaduri (Biology), Michael Tumolo (Communication Studies), Katherine Royer (History), and to Andrew Dorsey (English), our Honors Presentation Seminar Instructor. Thanks to Therese Lunt for her work with our sophomore Service Learning students, and to Ellen Bell (Anthropology), Suditi Gupta (Psychology) and Tim Held (Library) for guiding the research activity of our juniors.*

The following faculty taught in the Honors Program this year:

Ellen Bell (Anthropology), Tom Carter (Computer Science), Andrew Conteh (Political Science), Jennifer Cooper (Biological Sciences), Andy Dorsey (English), Jeffrey Frost (Anthropology), Suditi Gupta (Psychology), Tim Held (Library), Therese Lunt (History), Alexander Markov (Communication Studies), Kenneth Mashinchi (English), Chris Nagel (Philosophy), Richard Randall (Political Science), Jennifer Richmond (Biological Sciences), Jennifer Ringberg (Anthropology), Jeffrey Solomon (Political Science), Kathryn Steele (English), Kyle Stubbs (Communication Studies) Jim Tuedio (Philosophy), Fela Uhuru (Ethnic Studies), Arnold Webb (English), Katrina Weber (English) and Andy Young (Philosophy)

Seniors in the Honors Program are encouraged to tackle complex problems using methods and knowledge drawn from relevant disciplines.

Honors Program faculty and research mentors offer critical feedback and guidance along the way. The main objective is for students to explore, gather and analyze information effectively, and to reflect on the implications of what they have discovered. Group discussions help to promote thoughtful questioning. The goal is to communicate knowledge, judgments, and original perspectives based on careful inquiry, exploration and analysis.

Featured Presentations in FDC 118

11:30-11:40	Conference Welcome
11:45-1:30	Presentations in FDC 103 and FDC 114
1:30-2:00	Poster Break and Refreshments Capstone Research Poster Displays (Honors Juniors) Service Learning Poster Displays (FDC 113 Honors Sophomores)
2:00-2:20	Griffin Cheek (Communication Studies): The Role of Student Anxiety in Perceiving Instructor Behaviors
2:20-2:40	Taiga Yamaguchi (Biology): Exploring the Biology of the Siberian Prawn <i>Palaemon modestus</i> Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ritin Bhaduri (Biology)
2:40-2:50	Refreshment Break
2:50-4:10	Presentations in FDC 103 and FDC 114
4:15pm	Closing Remarks

Featured Presentations in FDC 103

11:45-12:05	Gabriella Peralta (Communication Studies): A Rhetorical Analysis of the Inaugural Address: John F. Kennedy and Donald Trump
12:05-12:25	Joslyn Hillberg (Communication Studies): A Circular Process for Understanding Humanity: The Interdependency of Group Narratives and Individual Narratives Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael W. Tumolo (Communication Studies)
12:25-12:45	Stephanie Landeros (Sociology): The Culture of Drag: Its Influence on the LGBTQ Community
12:45-1:05	Elijah Mays (Ethnic Studies): Repositioning Criminal Justice in the American Settler Colony
1:05-1:25	Nicole Larson (Criminal Justice): Challenges of S.I.V. Afghan Refugees in Turlock, CA

- 1:30–2:45 Poster Review, Plenary Sessions and Refreshment Break in FDC 118
- 2:50-3:10 **Aubrey Glidden** (Liberal Studies): Learning Disabled and Gifted: Social Emotional Aspects of Inclusion
- 3:10-3:30 **Tatiana Olivera** (English): Extended Copyright Curtails Creativity: How the Copyright Term Extension Act Limits Writers
- 3:30-3:50 **Emelie Pepito** (Philosophy): Bias in the Meeting of Depths and Shallows: Search Engine Algorithms and the Untapped Power of the Brain
- 3:50-4:10 **David Bishel** (Physics): A Contemporary Assessment of Thomas Kuhn: The Detection of Gravitational Waves as a Kuhnian Revolution
- 4:15pm **Closing Remarks in FDC 118**

Featured Presentations in FDC 114

- 11:45–12:05 **Astrid Itzep Lopez** (Psychology): Are Parents and Children Well Prepared for a Disaster?
- 12:05-12:25 **Neal Southern** (Math): The Rise of ESports: A Comparison of Audience Modes to Traditional Sports
- 12:25–12:45 **Jordan Porter** (Math): Using Herbal Mixtures to Ward Off Wax Moths
- 12:45-1:05 **Mario Muniz** (Computer Science): Smartphone Addiction: The Weight in our Pockets
- 1:05-1:25 **Brett Martin** (Computer Science): Digital Piracy: Imminent Change in a Broken Market
- 1:30–2:45 Poster Review, Plenary Sessions and Refreshment Break in FDC 118
- 2:50-3:10 **Rachel Heiss** (Anthropology): Art and Artifact Repatriation or The Elgin Marbles: A Case Study
- 3:10-3:30 **Jynessa Mendoza** (History): In the time of the Butterflies: The Murder of the Mirabal Sisters

- 3:30-3:50 **Rebecca Rooker** (History): The Myth of Cleopatra VII: Shrewd Sovereign or Wanton Woman
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Katherine Royer (History)
- 3:50-4:10 **Joshua Tanis** (History): The Divinity of Jesus in Early Christian Thought: A Historiographical Approach
- 4:15pm **Closing Remarks in FDC 118**

ABSTRACTS OF SENIOR CAPSTONE

Presentations

The Role of Student Anxiety in Perceiving Instructor Behaviors

Griffin Cheek

Communications scholars have done a lot of work in hopes of better understanding the anxiety associated with communication in the classroom. There are studies that make the connection between communication anxiety and the behaviors of instructors in college classrooms. There are also studies that show a link between instructor behaviors and the amount college students like their classes and instructor (i.e. affect). Much of the research into the interpersonal relationship between college students and their instructors has been conducted through social scientific surveys. Those surveys have established the correlation between instructor behaviors and student perception of those instructors. There is no research that asks the students why they perceive instructors the way they do. This study will conduct interviews with college students instead of using surveys. These interviews will create data that can be analyzed to gain a better understanding of the reasons students perceive their instructors the way they do. This study proposes that the factor effecting these perceptions is anxiety caused by the interpersonal communication between the student and the instructor. If the connection between anxiety and college student perception of instructors can be established it will open the door to further research into this dynamic. A better understanding of these factors may lead to strategies to reduce anxiety in this type of interpersonal communication and improve perceptions of instructors. The previously noted research links improved instructor perception to better cognitive outcomes for students. Therefore, a better understanding of the role of anxiety in these scenarios should lead to better outcomes for instructors in the form of improved effectiveness and more positive evaluations. Students should gain increased positive outcomes associated with liking classes, learning more, and getting better grades.

Exploring the Biology of the Siberian Prawn, *Palaemon modestus*

Taiga Yamaguchi

The Siberian Prawn, *Palaemon modestus*, is an invasive species recently introduced into the San Joaquin Delta, California through ballast water from Southeastern Asia. They are now the most dominant shrimp species in the area. Previous studies have shown their morphometric and current distribution, but very little is known about their ecological profile. In this study, we will evaluate their salinity tolerance level from 0ppt to 72ppt and analyze their salinity regulation method using a microsyringe and an osmometer. By determining these two factors, we aim to predict their distribution pattern in the future to make appropriate conservation plans for any native species that may be threatened from their dispersal. In our pilot study, they exhibited no behavioral issues in 0ppt environment but are susceptible to ammonia poisoning caused by the failed nitrogen cycling due to the lack of Ammonia Oxidizing Bacteria (AOB) and Nitrobacter. Future mortality from ammonia poisoning in a laboratory setting can be prevented by mixing in bacteria pills in the tank or by replacing a third of the tank water with the water from the capturing site.

Are Parents and Children Well Prepared for a Disaster?

Astrid Itzep Lopez

A disaster can occur anywhere and can impact anyone. Not every disaster can be prevented but preparation can be done beforehand. It is important to teach children how to prepare for a disaster because they are the most vulnerable age group. This pilot study examines two different groups; the first group is a set of parents whose children attend the Child Development Center and the second group is children whose parents agreed to take a survey and allow their child to be observed during their emergency drill. Parental participation in the children's education on preparing for a disaster was recorded through a survey regarding "at home" education and preparedness for disasters. Young children, from the ages of three to four years old, were observed during an emergency drill at the Child Development Center. The children's behavior and emotional response during the drill was recorded. This pilot study needs to further explore programs that may be offered at school for parents regarding emergency preparedness at home or addressing challenges when children who are not well at home or at school regarding disaster preparedness. Further examination is needed on follow ups with parents done by the school, if any, concerning a child's behavior or emotional response during the drills.

A Rhetorical Analysis of the Inaugural Address:

John F. Kennedy and Donald Trump

Gabriella Peralta

Inaugural addresses play an important role in how the people will accept the president, as the Inaugural Address is the first formal speech given to the public. This research analyzes the purpose the inaugural address serves and how two different Presidents—John F. Kennedy and Donald Trump,

used their inaugural addresses to call to a divided nation. In this presentation, I analyze the purpose of the inaugural address and how the inaugural address often sets the tone for the entirety of the presidency. Using the lens of Karlyn Kohrs Campbell and Kathleen Hall Jamieson, as depicted in the book, *Presidents Creating the Presidency: Deeds Done in Words*, I examine the effectiveness of the different rhetoric used in both Kennedy's and Trump's inaugural addresses. By a thorough comparison of both inaugural addresses, I make the argument that Trump did not use his inaugural address to its fullest potential, while Kennedy did, based upon four steps Campbell and Jamieson set forth.

The Circular Process of Understanding Humanity: The Interdependency of Group Identity and Individual Identity

Joslyn Hillberg

The process of understanding humanity is one that is circular. People navigate society through the groups and labels that they associate with or that are attributed to them by others. Society has normalized the categorization and labeling of people in a systemized manner, which is a grouping process that detracts from one's own individual story and existence. We must make an effort to look beyond groups and recognize people as individuals. One of the most effective methods of this process is by looking through the narrative paradigm and acknowledging that different people have different stories to tell that are personal to them; narratives are powerful for provoking empathy and understanding. However, the process of understanding humanity becomes circular when it is realized that the most personal stories are not the only ones of their kind. The practice of understanding who an individual is relies on also realizing that one's social group affiliation impacts one's lifestyle. The labels attributed to people by society play a part in contributing to an individual's identity and story. Thus, to understand an individual, his or her background and social circles must be taken into account for having played a part in the development of his or her personal narrative. In my research I encountered others who looked at either groups or individuals as an important key to understanding humanity, but my position is different in that I identify the two as being interdependent for deeper understanding. For my case study, I explore *Humans of New York*, which is a photoblog that aims to humanize people in society. Brandon Stanton, the creator and photographer of the project, approaches various individuals to include a photograph of them on the blog accompanied by a caption (a story) provided by the subject. The blog has developed a focus on specific "series" of stigmatized groups that present social "groups" and "labels" as individuals with personal stories that have been shaped by their affiliation with the group in question. The various series presented on *Humans of New York* illustrate the need of groups for individuals and individuals for groups in the process of understanding each's purpose and existence. This project is important because it encourages the engagement of individuals with one another to overcome stereotypes and misconceptions in order to develop a healthier and more understanding society.

The Rise of ESports: A Comparison of Audience Modes to Traditional Sports

Neal Southern

Electronic sports, or esports, are competitive events that involve the use of computers and online video games to compare the skills and intelligence of the people who play. It has been increasing in popularity over the coming years, having its own audience following that is similar to that of traditional sports such as football and basketball. The model used to capture the audience's attention in esports follows that of an experience economy, which is the idea that the companies who sponsor the events promise to give the viewers a unique experience that will allow them to escape from the throes of everyday life. Through research into various studies looking into the audiences of both esports and traditional sports, a comparison is made between the two, showing that they follow similar models to reach their audience. The medium of broadcast and communication is different; traditional sports exist in the world of television, while esports are just starting to make their way onto TV networks, currently relying more on live streaming services such as YouTube and Twitch to broadcast to their viewers. This new comparison suggests that esports have taken the methods of attracting audiences from traditional sports and adapted it to fit livestream broadcasting. This shows that the method of promising an experience to consumers is a moldable method to attracting an audience.

The Culture of Drag: Its Influence on the LGBTQ Community

Stephanie Landeros

Drag is the art of female and male impersonation. According to Berkowitz and Belgrave (2010), its culture within the LGBTQ+ community that has helped loosen the restrictions of gender, only in the context of drag performance. Transgender individuals have been able to use drag as a means of survival under the context as a performer. Moreover, this preliminary research suggests that heteronormative society restricts gender performance by enforcing the societal gender construction of men and women. Furthermore, the research doesn't focus on why drag performers are the most visible part of the LGBTQ+ culture, i.e. Logo's television show "RuPaul's Drag Race" (Goldmark, 2015). For this exploratory study, I expand on the limited research done on drag communities in rural areas such as the Central Valley of California. Through observational and in-depth interview data I hope to understand how participants experience, cope with and challenge their social marginality within the larger heteronormative community through drag performance.

Using Herbal Mixtures to Ward off Wax Moths

Jordan Porter

Bees have been a hot topic in the media in recent times. They often take center stage in disputes about pesticide/herbicide usage, globalization and climate change. Indeed, the ailments affecting bees are numerous and deadly, and the list seems to grow as the years

progress. One of the more annoying nuisances are wax moths. Wax moths lay their eggs in wax combs in the dead of night. Once the eggs hatch, the larvae proceed to feast on the hive's wax comb. A healthy hive will be able to detect and cleanse wax moth eggs/larvae, but a diseased or vacated hive has little to no defenses against this silky menace. One of the interesting questions of beekeeping is how to protect unused wax comb in storage from wax moths. Many suggest the usage of moth balls, but certain chemicals in traditional moth balls have been known to have adverse affects on bees and the humans that consume their honey. As with other issues in beekeeping, traditional home-made remedies abound, but little to no scientific research substantiates many of these claims. One such method is the usage of herbal blends to ward off wax moths.

Repositioning Criminal Justice in the American Settler Colony

Elijah Mays

The American criminal justice system intersects with racial injustice, and this intersection has manifested itself most recently with high profile incidences of police brutality and a rising incarceration rate of Black individuals. It is critical to understand the history of criminal justice as it relates to racial injustice in the United States. This article examines the relationship between criminal justice and racial injustice within a frame of understanding that identifies the United States as a settler colony. I situate criminal justice and legislation that has historically promoted racial injustice within Patrick Wolfe's settler colonial theory as and Michael Omi and Howard Winant's theory of racial formation in order to understand criminal justice as it creates racial meaning that marginalizes Black people within the settler colonial population. I argue that criminal justice forms race in a manner that supports and sustains White supremacy as the system on which American settler colonialism depends. I conclude my analysis with an examination of criminality and consciousness.

Smartphone Addiction: The Weight in our Pockets

Mario Muniz

The Economist states that in Great Britain 60% of teenagers and 37% of adults report that they feel that they are highly addicted to smartphones. Although these statistics are limited to one country, it reinforces the fact that smartphones are now seen as a necessity, rather than a technological luxury. Smartphones are making people feel obligated to constantly stay connected, whether for work purposes, personal communication, or as a gateway to popular social media platforms. Smartphones are contributing to one's ability to work and are even impacting the confidence of individuals who use these devices. But all of these benefits have their downsides, as shown by users who report that they are feeling trapped and addicted. Studies demonstrate that even the temporary removal of these devices can cause anxiety in their users. The tension that is caused by this separation indicates an unhealthy dependency on smartphones. This talk is a presentation of research done on current-day

smartphone usage among young adults and on the traits of behavioral addiction. This research was done to find the causes of compulsive smartphone usage, and its correlation with behavioral addiction. Modern day smartphone usage patterns indicate that it has the significant potential to become a behavioral addiction. Based on this conclusion, several options are presented to help control behavioral addictions that center around smartphone usage.

Challenges of S.I.V. Afghan Refugees in Turlock, CA

Nicole Larson

Since October 1, 2011, over 1,800 refugees have found refuge in Turlock, California. Around 35 to 40 percent of those refugees are Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders from Afghanistan. These individual families worked with and aided US Armed Forces in Afghanistan, which causes these families to be in life threatening danger if terrorist forces become aware of this activity. Previous research identifies six dominant themes of resettlement-related challenges: employment, financial insecurities, bureaucracy, English language competency, family separation, and unfulfilled expectations and hope (Habeeb-Silva 2016). The purpose of this research is to identify if these same challenges apply to Afghan refugees in Turlock. When SIV families arrive in Turlock, programs like the International Rescue Center, churches, and other non-profits, offer assistance to help them assimilate into American culture. Because these refugees have to leave Afghanistan at a moment's notice, these families become entirely dependent on the US government and civic programs to provide the means necessary to become self-sufficient. This report's intention is to identify challenges, unique to Afghan SIV refugees in Turlock, California through participant observational methods. Methods include cultivating personal relationships with the group being studied, unstructured interviews, and a narrative of my own experience as a volunteer in a variety of assistance programs over the course of a year.

Digital Piracy: Imminent Change in a Broken Market

Brett Martin

The purpose of this paper is to show how even a forward-thinking implementation of digitally available books can be vulnerable to changing markets and moreover how it has fostered a dangerous environment for book publishers. Physical book sales are suffering in the face of an expanding and robust used book market, powered by online resellers, while the digital textbook has become a goldmine for cost-averse higher education students, who can acquire these digital books illegally, quickly and most importantly, free of charge, from a glut of easily accessible websites. The main aspect explored by this paper is the prevalence of illegal downloads through data gathered via torrent sites that host many thousands of common textbooks along with secondary aspects regarding the sales of digitals and physical books and trends for this data over the past ten years. This research and analysis will provide valuable information regarding the state of digital textbook market and digital textbook piracy while hopefully revealing the precarious condition of the textbook market as a whole.

Learning Disabled and Gifted: Social Emotional Aspects of Inclusion

Aubrey Glidden

This article explores how students with learning disabilities and students with gifted abilities share experiences involving the social and emotional aspects of inclusion. Inclusion refers to the inclusion of students with special needs into a K-12 general education classroom, which is the inclusive classroom. The inclusive classroom is defined in special education as a classroom that includes students with special needs with their average-achieving peers for one hundred percent of instruction throughout the school day. Placement of students with special needs into inclusive classrooms and basing this placement on the students' needs are related to establishing and placing the students in their least restrictive learning environment. This environment is determined by the student's individualized education plan team, which sets and helps the student reach attainable goals in his or her education. Using labels to identify both students with learning disabilities and students with gifted abilities within the inclusive classroom leads to the negative stigma surrounding these students and may contribute to their shared social and emotional experiences. The available literature suggests, but does not specifically compare, the shared experiences these two groups of students face regarding the effects of inclusive classrooms and are as follows: (a) lack or delay in developmentally appropriate social skills, (b) low self-esteem and feelings of loneliness, and (c) a lack in motivation or behavioral problems. Research was conducted in the form of semi-structured interviews of two participants. Two male adults who experienced inclusive classrooms throughout their K-12 education, one a student with a learning disability and the other a student with gifted abilities, were interviewed. These semi-formal interviews displayed two firsthand experiences in K-12 inclusive classrooms, aligning with the available literature's suggestions and establishing a more concrete comparison of these two groups' social and emotional experiences.

Art and Artifact Repatriation or The Elgin Marbles: A Case Study

Rachel Heiss

Art and artifacts have been taken from their countries of origin through wars, conquest, and illicit means for centuries. Many countries are now seeking for ownership of items of historical and/or cultural value to be repatriated. This research will examine current lawsuits, specifically the lawsuit between Greece and the British Museum regarding the Elgin Marbles, also known as the Parthenon Marbles. During the last 40 years, the view toward ownership of art and artifacts in museums and private collections has shifted. One thing that catapulted that debate and set the standards was the 1970 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) convention "on the means of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export, and transfer or ownership of cultural property". This research plans to explore the ownership debate between museums and source countries through the analysis of current museum policies and a case study of the Elgin Marbles or Parthenon Marbles. The objective of this research is to put the two sides of the debate on display and

look at their respective views. Information on the contradicting sides of the debate will be presented and impacts on international laws and diplomacy between source countries and museums will be evaluated. The end or the stall of the legal flow and circulation and transference of objects that benefit the global culture is of great concern. The end goal of this research is to make progress towards understanding possible solution between museums and source countries, so that the flow of objects and culture around the world can continue.

In the Time of the Butterflies: The Murder of the Mirabal Sisters

Jynessa Mendoza

Traditional gender roles prove to be hard barriers to break. They cripple the feminine voice, and when used properly they promote a destruction of that voice. However, there are stories of women breaking through the barrier that gender creates, pushing their voices to be heard for the progression of human rights. It is in the case of the Mirabal sisters that we see this demonstrated. The year was 1960 and it was well into the regime of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. Hundreds of people died and many were in prison for a cause that the Dominican people were struggling with daily. A group of dissatisfied Dominican citizens worked cohesively to end the reign of Trujillo. The Fourteenth of June Movement were amid their plans for a revolution, and at the face of this movement were the Mirabal Sisters. They fought alongside their husbands and comrades to overthrow Rafael Trujillo. However, before they could make legitimate change, the three sisters were murdered by a suspicious act. Although there is extensive research regarding the Trujillo Regime in the Dominican Republic, most historical interpretations of the Mirabal sister's murder focuses on how the deaths influenced the assassination of the dictator Rafael Trujillo. Many scholars see the sisters as the flame that ignited the bomb to the assassination of Trujillo. When the Mirabal sisters are mentioned in historical study, this is the predominant analysis of the murder. However, this research is aimed at broadening the perspective towards the murder of the sisters; looking at cause rather than effect. In doing this, the research suggests that the role of gender was a major contributor to the motivation behind the murders. The article will explore the relationship that Trujillo had with women and how these relationships reflect his thoughts toward females. Because Trujillo displayed characteristics of machismo, the idea that women were such important figures in a resistance concerned Trujillo extensively. By understanding his views of women based on how he treated them, one can comprehend why the Mirabal sisters concerned him. Moreover, the role that the Mirabal sisters had in the rebellion contradicted traditional female roles which further disturbed the machismo that flowed through the dictator's blood. By researching the motive of the murders rather than the effects, the research hopes to expand the historical analysis of the Mirabal sisters' murder.

Extended Copyright Curtails Creativity: How the Copyright Term Extension Act Limits Writers

Tatiana Olivera

This research focuses on the Copyright Term Extension Act (CTEA) of 1998 and argues that the perpetual extension of the copyright term curtails creativity in that it withholds works from entering the public domain even though these works no longer benefit the creator. The *Eldred v. Ashcroft* (2003) court case is analyzed in regard to this problem. The conclusion of the court case maintains that the CTEA is constitutional, and Eldred lost his case. However, the researcher finds the arguments made in the court case significant in our understanding of the current standing of copyright law.

Bias in the Meeting of Depths and Shallows: Search Engine Algorithms and the Untapped Power of the Brain

Emelie Pepito

It is the intention of this research to explore the hope neuroplasticity offers in derailing filter bubbles generated from algorithms and the passive acceptance of an emotional and intellectual status quo. In particular, this research is concerned with how the brain's non-conscious assimilates and develops memories and emotions based on external stimuli: experiences, word associations, search results and news feeds. Utilizing the research of experienced researchers in both algorithms and neuroscience, it draws attention to the emotional formation of memories and this function of our brain and the bias of personalized algorithms are working to make us more biased, sheltered, dogmatic, and emotionally triggered. Personalized algorithms deliver only democratic news to those whose search indicates such a preference, vice versa for Republicans, and hides dissident, unpopular minority views. This enhances and sharpens the lack of well informed, multi-view conversations regarding important issues of the day and limits an individual's ability to grow, change, and experience new ideas. Brain functions store the search results based on memories, emotions, and associations from past experiences. Each new memory enhances an emotional response, such as fear, hate, love, and disgust. Nearly a century after Mussolini in Ethiopia, the Holocaust, and more recently, the Rwandan Genocide, we still are seeing hatred, bias, and emotional, fear-based decisions triumph. The presence of the world-wide web is not eliminating narrow-mindedness and bias. This research will show that the power of non-conscious activity can be utilised to rewire our brains to knowingly process external stimuli. Thus, we can move ourselves out of social/cultural polarization, end filter bubbles of information, and utilize consciousness to make peace in an increasingly globalised world.

Keywords: non-conscious, personalized algorithms, passive viewer, filter bubble

The Myth of Cleopatra VII: Shrewd Sovereign or Wanton Woman

Rebecca Rooker

This project is a chronological study of the adaptation and evolution of myths and their effects on historical accuracy. For a myth to survive it must adapt to each subsequent time period taking on elements of the current society to appeal to its audience. Yet, the factual truth behind these tales is often lost over time. The liberties taken when restructuring the facts often lead to common themes of exaggeration or misconception. Perhaps one of the most misunderstood figures in history is Cleopatra VII. A woman cloaked in mystery, Cleopatra VII has long been a topic of tremendous interest throughout history. Ruling during a tumultuous period, her supposed risqué life-style and alleged epically tragic death have surrounded the queen's life with countless myths and legends. Importantly, literary interpretations have and continue to shape public and mainstream understandings of Cleopatra. To understand this process of the evolution of myths, sources spanning from Cleopatra's lifetime to the twentieth century were analyzed to highlight each subsequent time period that contributed to an origin, shift, or addition to Cleopatra's reputation. Clearly proving her longevity, Cleopatra has endured the test of time by adapting to each new generation. However, due to this adaptability, Cleopatra's real and deserved reputation as a shrewd sovereign has been distorted and undermined by the tale of the exotic enchantress. Each of the various revivals of the Queen's story were not isolated, but built on previous ones in new imaginative ways creating the myth that is Cleopatra. One finds that modern interpretations of Cleopatra's reputation are largely skewed or false, however, her true identity can be found buried underneath years of differing historical interpretations and artistic liberties.

A Contemporary Assessment of Thomas Kuhn: The Detection of Gravitational Waves as a Kuhnian Revolution

David Bishel

What denotes a scientific revolution? What makes an event so groundbreaking that it fundamentally alters the course of science thereafter? These questions inspired Thomas S. Kuhn's 1962 *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Kuhn's work introduces and expounds upon the concepts of paradigms and paradigm shifts, sparking decades of debate and producing a more insightful understanding of the nature of science. Though Kuhn is occasionally understood one-dimensionally as a philosophical intermediary to later theories of scientific revolution, this paper argues that Kuhn's theory can instead be successfully employed as a benchmark of revolutions, inspiring a more robust understanding of specific sciences and the nature of science in general. A brief delineation of Kuhn's framework of paradigms establishes and defines terms that are central to the discourse (e.g. paradigm, theory, and normal science). Kuhn's work is then converted from a way of talking about science to a way of identifying scientific revolutions. The recent detection of gravitational waves is employed as a case study to demonstrate that Kuhn's work can be used specifically to delineate *why* a given event is

revolutionary. As a result, this paper illuminates some of the central elements that comprise the emerging field of gravitational wave astronomy.

The Divinity of Jesus in Early Christian Thought: A Historiographical Approach

Joshua Tanis

Did the early Christians regard Jesus as divine? Against those who would claim that early Christians did not have a divine picture of Jesus, such as James D.G. Dunn, the evidence from the earliest sources of Christianity warrant the claim that they believed that Jesus was divine by placing him within the identity of the one God of Israel. Jewish monotheism is explained and shown to be exclusive. Paul of Tarsus, being the earliest Christian writer, was a Jew who held to this form of monotheism. The paper then examines specific passages from Paul's undisputed letters; Philippians 2:6-11, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Romans 10:9-13, 1 Corinthians 15:24-28. It is argued that Paul addressed Jesus as *Kyrios* (Lord) when alluding to Old Testament monotheistic passages that refer to YHWH God by the same title (*Kyrios*), cementing the claim that Paul identified Jesus with the God of Israel. It is also noted that Paul is neither binitarian (there are only two persons in the Godhead) nor modalist (Jesus as a mode of God or just another manifestation of the God of Israel) in his view of God. The last move in the argument claims that Paul and other Christians were in agreement on this matter. Of course, this argument will probably be of more interest to religious students, or students of religion, or both. However, one should remember how this religion, Christianity, has radically shaped the world around them, and still impacts the lives of numerous people around the world. Despite secularism, this religious idea is still significant to intellectual history.

Sophomore Service Learning Poster Displays

Britiel Bethishou	Chrysta Borba
Sydne Brainard	Sara Buenrostro
Pristine Bui	Jacob Cayabyab
Katie Cedillo	Elizabeth Cole
Scott Contreras	Yuehesi Cuellar
Madeline Deardorff	Lauren Eckerdt
Cassidy Ferrell	Analicia Gonzalez
Gabriella Gonzalez	Claudia Guevara
Amy Hill	Sarah La Rue
Makayla Lawrence	Carter Lawson
Blake Martin	Lauren Martinez
Diana Moya	Avery Myers
Gabriela Palos	Valarie Purvis
Jaquelin Rico	Royal Sandhu
Joseph Silva	Connor Skustad
Erik Sousa	Jordan Sprueill
Daniel Stoffel	Alexandra Williams

Capstone Research Poster Displays Students and Mentors

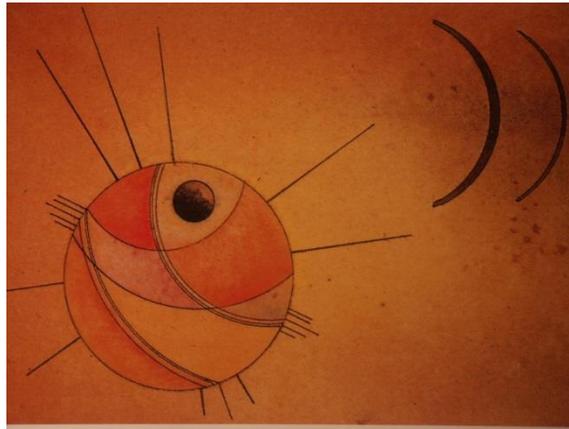
Najiba Afzal, Biology: Dr. Jamila Newton	Margaret Lunt, Art
Alejandra Andrade, Spanish: Dr. Teresa Bargetto	Raymond Mahnke, English
Yannica Baggayan, Business	Wesley Manuel, History
Pristine Bui, Pre-Nursing: Dr. Marla Seacrist	Mariah Nebre, Sociology: Dr. A. Conteh & Tim Held
Livier Camarena, Biology: Scott Russell	Gabriela Palos, Psychology
Victor Cuevas-Elias, Biology	Caprina Pipion, Biology: Dr. Brian Sardella
Karina Enriquez, Computer Science: Dr. Kyu Koh	Jodi Robertson, Chemistry
Branden Escobar, Computer Science: Dr. Patrick Kelly	Christina Robles, Psychology: Deborah Forester
Rebecca Estrada, Anthropology: Dr. Ellen Bell	Maximiliano Rodriguez, Philosophy: Dr. H. Zangeneh
Rebecca Forsman, Anthropology: Dr. Ellen Bell	Isaac Sada, Biology: Dr. Jennifer Cooper
Katherine Heinen, Kinesiology	Sienna Samra, Biology: Dr. Matthew Cover
Jacklyn Heslop, English: Dr. Brett Ashmon	Tyler Schripsema, Business: Phyllis Crittendon
Erik Jimenez, Biology: Dr. M. Thao & Dr. M. Grobner	Tiffany Spencer, Biology, Mentor: Jamila Newton
Alexis Johnson, Anthropology: Dr. Sari Miller-Antonio	Kelly Stahl, Math: Dr. Melanie Martin
Sunpreet Kaur, Biology: Dr. My Lo Thao	Timothy Trammel, Cognitive Studies: Dr. Tom Carter
Angelica Lee, Liberal Studies: Dr. Katie Oliviant	Rosio Trujillo, Business
Courtney Lewis, Psychology: Edward Hernandez	

Congratulations to our graduating Honors seniors

David Bishel, Physics
Griffin Cheek, Communications
Victor Cuevas Elias, Biology
Madeline Deardorff, Music
Aubrey Glidden, Liberal Studies
Rachel Heiss, Anthropology
Joslyn Hillberg, Communications
Astrid Itzep Lopez, Psychology
Stephanie Landeros, Sociology
Nicole Larson, Criminal Justice
Brett Martin, Computer Science
Elijah Mays, Ethnic Studies
Jynessa Mendoza, History
Mario Muniz, Computer Science
Tatiana Olivera, English
Emelie Pepito, Philosophy
Gabriella Peralta, Communications
Jordan Porter, Math
Katherine Rodgers, History
Rebecca Rooker, History
Madeline Runyan, Business
Jacob Sanders, Philosophy
Neal Southern, Math
Joshua Tanis, History

HONORS PROGRAM COMMUNITY STATEMENT

The Honors Program at CSU Stanislaus is a community of scholars bound together by vital principles of academic openness, integrity, and respect. Through focused study and practice involving exploration and discovery across a variety of disciplines, the Honors Program upholds these principles of scholarly engagement and provides students with the necessary foundations for further research and inquiry.



Our interdisciplinary curriculum is integral to this work and is intended to facilitate creative understanding of the irreducible complexities of contemporary life and knowledge. Personal and intellectual honesty and curiosity are essential to this process. So, too, is critical openness to difficult topics and respect for different perspectives, values and disciplines. The Honors Program aims to uphold these virtues in practice, in principle, and in community with one another.