

CSU STANISLAUS

HONORS CAPSTONE CONFERENCE

***John and Mary Stuart Rogers
Faculty Development Center***

Friday May 21, 2004

12:30-7:30pm

12:30-1:00pm

Capstone Research Proposal Poster Displays
(Honors Juniors and Seniors)

1:00-6:30pm

Senior Capstone Research Presentations
(Honors Seniors)

Presentation of Selected Capstone Research Topics
(Honors Juniors)

Presentation on Service Learning Projects
(Honors Freshmen and Sophomores)

6:30-7:30pm

Reception
(Refreshments, Conversation & Poster Displays)

*Sponsored by the University Honors Program
801 W. Monte Vista Ave. • Turlock CA 95382 • (209) 667-3180*

FEATURE PRESENTATIONS (1:00-6:30PM)

1:00-1:10pm

Welcoming Remarks

Jim Tuedio (Director) and Helena Janes (Co-Director)

1:10-1:35pm

**The Dynamic Of Resistance And Repetition As A Unifying Force In
Psychoanalysis, Philosophy And Literary Criticism.**

William Gerardino (English/Philosophy)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Carroll (English)

1:35-2:00pm

Gifted Education: Where Segregation Works

Mary A. Ewart (Liberal Studies)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Helena Janes (Teacher Education)

2:00-2:10pm

**Effects of Interpersonal Compatibility on Social Loafing:
A Bicultural Study**

Martin Lanik (Psychology)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jamie McCreary (Psychology)

2:10-2:35pm

**Diversifying Diversity: Utilizing Learning Styles
To Enhance Student Success**

Thomas Oldham (Liberal Studies)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Helena Janes (Teacher Education)

2:35-2:45pm

**Cartooning in the Elementary Classroom: A Strategy for
Motivating Student Engagement with Core Subjects**

Pamela L. McElhaney (Liberal Studies)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Helena Janes (Teacher Education)

2:45-2:55pm

A Theological Understanding of the Body

Joe Starkweather (Theology)

2:55-3:05pm

Short Break

3:05-3:30pm

The Art Of Persuasion: Propensities Of Propaganda Through The Ages

Rachelle Vande Pol (Business Administration/Accounting)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Roxanne Robbin (Art)

3:30-3:55pm

The Fallacy of Neutrality

Gayle Zive (History)

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Katherine Royer (History) and Dr. Bret Carroll (History)

3:55-4:10pm

Service Learning Project: Surveying Youth Groups for Political Involvement

Ann-Marie Ursini and Matt Andrews

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Helena Janes (Teacher Education)

4:10-4:35pm

No Europe Please, We're British

Jill Tucker (History)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Katherine Royer (History)

4:35-5:00pm

For Better Or For Worse? The Impact Of Divorce On College Students' Stress Levels And Relationship Development

Kristin Miranda (Business Management /Human Resources)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Todd Nelson (Psychology)

5:00-5:10pm

Short Break

5:10-5:35pm

A Role For Cigarette Smoke Exposure In Dysregulation Of The Apoptotic Process In Tissues Of The Spleen, Liver, And Thymus Of Swiss Webster Mice

Alisha Medeiros (Biological Sciences)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Flora Watson (Biological Sciences)

5:35-6:05pm

The Quiet Killer: A Study On *Macrorhabdus ornithogaster*, An Avian Yeast

Bonnie Crafton (Biological Sciences/Microbiology)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jane Bruner, (Biological Sciences)

6:05-6:30pm

Thomas Hobbes And The Deployment Of Specific Sovereignty

Giles Beilby (Philosophy)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Alejandro Vallega (Philosophy)

Additional Capstone Research Proposal Poster Sessions

Sophany Chhim, Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor - TBA

Environmental factors influencing the prevalence of anencephaly in Ireland

Caleb Couchman, Political Science, Faculty Mentor - TBA

The First Amendment and its religious restrictions since the 1970s

Lisa Duong, Business Administration, Faculty Mentor - TBA

The information gap: Tax credits for low-income families

Jennifer Holt, Sociology, Faculty Mentor - Dr. Tamara Sniezek

Gender issues in mass media: A content analysis of the changing perception of women and their gender roles

Cheryl Jacobson, Psychology, Faculty Mentor - Dr. Jim Wakefield

The effects of unresolved child sexual abuse in adults

Natalie Morejohn, Psychology, Faculty Mentor - Dr. Lin Myers

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA): An assessment of current standards, knowledge and practices regarding mandatory reporting of CSA in educational environments

James Morgan, Computer Science, Faculty Mentor - TBA,

Artificial Intelligence: Technology meets the human mind

Brianna Peetz, Criminal Justice, Faculty Mentor - TBA

The evolution of DNA in the Criminal Justice system: An analysis of the uses, ethics, and importance of DNA evidence

Marta Pineda, Nursing, Faculty Mentor - Professor Nancy Clark

Indigenous Remedies: An investigation of medical practices in El Salvador

Aaron Rossie, Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor - Dr. Flora Watson

Medicinal abuse: The ethics of prescribing addictive pharmaceutical drugs

Rebecca Vickers, Business Administration, Faculty Mentor - Dr. Vickie Harvey

Non-verbal communication: An examination of interview Do's and Don'ts

Christina Walley, Biological/Environmental Sciences, Faculty Mentor - Dr. Ida Bowers

Nature and development in the modern world: Working together towards sustainable communities

Oscar Zagazeta, Math, Faculty Mentor - TBA

Correlations before, during, and after, of breaking the sound and light barriers

Mariel Zamora, Liberal Studies, Faculty Mentor - Dr. Helena Janes

Inequities in education: Hispanic students' experiences

Eustolio Calderon, Political Science, Faculty Mentor - Dr. Asa'd Abukhalil

Illegal immigration: The foundation of the past, the taboo of the present

Kelley Littlepage, History, Faculty Mentor - Dr. Katherine Royer

Rex Regnat Sed Non Gubernat: The personal rule of Charles I

Eliza Hyatt, Biological Sciences, Faculty Mentor - Dr. Janey Youngblom

Exploration of a lung cancer cell line: Resistance and sensitivity to taxol

Abstracts of Featured Senior Presentations

THE DYNAMIC OF RESISTANCE AND REPETITION AS A UNIFYING FORCE IN PSYCHOANALYSIS, PHILOSOPHY AND LITERARY CRITICISM.

William Gerardino

Major: English (Literature) and Philosophy

Faculty Mentor: Dr. John Carroll (English)

Language is not merely at-hand, as though it were a tool to be used at will and then set aside. Rather, it has a life of its own. Because language simultaneously reveals and conceals its meaning, language practices are inherently paradoxical. The point of my research has been to study the dynamic of repetition and resistance in language, especially as it pertains to the interpretation of an inter-disciplinary discourse reflecting philosophical, psychoanalytic and literary critical theory. For the purposes of my research, I limit my focus to the philosophical discourses of Hans-Georg Gadamer and Jean-Luc Nancy and to psychoanalytic practices framed according to the theories of Freud and Lacan.

Language is fluid. Since discourse relies on language, it too must be considered fluid. This suggests that authentic interpretive practices are in a constant state of ongoing translation. Underlying this is the recognition that all understanding is simultaneously a *misunderstanding*. By recognizing this innate paradox, especially in areas of formal theory, we reveal the possibility of a communicative space in which to negotiate, yield or correct problematic dimensions of our discourse. At the heart of language expression, we can always find this interplay of resistance and repetition: as such, we are continually caught in a desire to express completely that which is only revealed in part.

The aim of this project is to show how a greater sensitivity to the function and form of language, enacted through an in-depth analysis of resistance and repetition, reveals hidden depths of meaning pertaining to our existence and place in the world.

***GIFTED EDUCATION:
WHERE SEGREGATION WORKS***

Mary A Ewart

Major: Liberal Studies

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Helena Janes (Teacher Education)

In the education arena today there is a push for equal opportunity and equal education for each and every student. This generally means placing students of all ability levels into classrooms together, to be taught by teachers who are not necessarily prepared to teach to all the different abilities present in this classroom situation.

The educational buzzword for this type of tactic is “mainstreaming.” The goal of these practices is to bring as many students as we can into the mainstream of educational instruction and performance. The effect is to mix students of differing learning abilities in a classroom environment geared to “mainstream” educational priorities.

Breaking students up according to their ability level, and placing them in classrooms with teachers who are specially trained to teach to the level and learning styles of the students is called “segregation.” Segregation carries a lot of negative connotations in our society, but my presentation will demonstrate how segregation can actually benefit gifted students. In addition, I will discuss research indicating that segregating or grouping students by ability can actually have positive repercussions for all the students who are involved in this type of educational situation.

My presentation will also introduce a theoretical model for a school designed with the gifted student in mind. Segregation often carries the connotation of unfair treatment, but in the case of gifted education, segregation is what will keep the gifted students of our society in school and learning, receiving the education everyone deserves.

***DIVERSIFYING DIVERSITY:
UTILIZING LEARNING STYLES
TO ENHANCE STUDENT SUCCESS***

Thomas Oldham

Major: Liberal Studies

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Helena Janes (Teacher Education)

My research focuses on “learning styles” theory and its potential application in the classroom. Consistent with developments over the last fifty years, learning styles theory and the related area of psychological typing have been gaining visibility in contemporary educational research. Some of the leading researchers have been Jung, Myers-Briggs, Hanson, and Dunn & Dunn.

For my own research project, I observed a “learning styles” classroom in Cohasset, CA, and have been conducting my own learning styles pilot study with two 5th grade participants. One of these students is tutored with a series of “learning styles” based reading comprehension lessons. The second is tutored using traditional reading comprehension lessons. To measure their growth, an assessment process has been developed to measure aptitudes at the beginning and end of the tutoring intervention.. The two students have already [under]taken a standardized reading comprehension test, and they will repeat this test at the end of the lesson interventions.

The between-subject and across-subject differences between the test scores, pre and post, will help to quantify the success/failure of my study. When many U.S. schools are failing to meet the needs of their students, my research suggests that “learning styles” based programs can be implemented at a relatively low cost while offering the potential for tremendous impact.

***THE ART OF PERSUASION:
PROPENSITIES OF PROPAGANDA
THROUGH THE AGES***

Rachelle Vande Pol

Business Administration (Accounting)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Roxanne Robbin (Art)

Art has been used for many different functions. It has not been made simply for artistic portraiture or the documentation of historical events, but also for the glorification of church doctrine and political ideologies. In this way art has also been used to shape public opinion toward an idea or leader. Propagandistic art can take numerous forms, from paintings to cartoons, and is made for the purpose of swaying an audience towards a certain position.

My thesis shows how different bodies of people in power have used art to serve their own purposes. I explore three principle areas of application in which art has been used to support propaganda agendas: royal and ruling government propaganda, church propaganda, and bourgeois propaganda. I demonstrate how these three forms of propaganda utilize art in remarkably similar ways. My research, which covers a time span ranging from 2332 B.C to the 1950's, reveals striking continuities and similarities in the patterns of use associated with propaganda art through the ages. I will discuss several salient examples in my conference presentation.

NO EUROPE PLEASE, WE'RE BRITISH

Jill Tucker

Major: History

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Katherine Royer (History)

My topic is about British reluctance to integrate in Europe through the European Community and more recently into the European Union. My study provides a synthesis of existing literature and would likely be a jumping off point for further inquiry. I approached the topic from an American/British perspective based on my experience of having lived and studied amongst the British people. I found that British resistance to integration was not uniform and consistent but varied between politicians and decades. I also found that the reluctance was directly related to issues of national sovereignty and American assistance and intervention following WWII. The future implication of my paper is that the British despite their misgivings that the British may eventually be forced to integrate for economic reasons. The future of my paper lies as a jumping off point for further research on the causes of British reluctance from the British perspective with consideration of the American factors involved.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE? THE IMPACT OF DIVORCE ON COLLEGE STUDENTS' STRESS LEVELS AND RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Kristin Miranda

Major: Business Management (Human Resources)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Todd Nelson (Psychology)

Very few studies have been conducted concerning the impact of divorce on college-age students. This topic is of personal interest to me because I have experienced a parental divorce. I am convinced by my own experiences that students and parents experiencing the impact of a divorce situation should have access to information that will help them understand and process their feelings.

My research study surveyed 145 CSU Stanislaus students. I developed a 50-item scale-based questionnaire to measure perceptions regarding stress levels, beliefs about marital and romantic relationships, and perceptions of academic achievement among college-age students from both intact and divorced families. On the basis of a tabulation of the data, I will present my findings and discuss how this type of study contributes to psychological research attempting to determine and measure the affective impact of divorce on college-age individuals.

***A ROLE FOR CIGARETTE SMOKE EXPOSURE IN
DYSREGULATION OF THE APOPTOTIC PROCESS
IN TISSUES OF THE SPLEEN, LIVER, AND THYMUS
OF SWISS WEBSTER MICE***

Alisha Medeiros

Major: Biological Sciences

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Flora Watson (Biological Sciences)

Assisted by Dr. Jane Bruner (Biological Sciences)

The term apoptosis refers to programmed cell death. Apoptosis is a vital component of the developmental process, including that of the immune system. Dysfunction of the apoptotic process can contribute to a variety of disease processes, such as cancer and autoimmune disorders. Our objective is to investigate the effects of cigarette smoke on the dysregulation of the apoptotic process of spleen, liver and thymus cells.

Swiss Webster mice were exposed to first-hand smoke from one cigarette (15 puffs) every day for 3 months. Mice were sacrificed and sections of the spleen, liver and thymus tissues were stained with hematoxylin and eosin (H & E). Apoptotic cells were characterized morphologically using high power light microscopy.

A significant decrease in the number of apoptotic cells was found in liver and spleen tissues of the smoked versus control tissues. Microscopic evaluation of the thymic tissues at 400X magnification indicated no significant differences in the number of apoptotic cells; however, there were some anatomical differences. These anatomical differences included larger medulla compared to cortex areas, less defined trabeculae, and a decreased occurrence of distinct lobes in the smoke-exposed tissues when compared to the control tissues.

The decrease in apoptotic cells in the liver and spleen suggest that exposure to first-hand cigarette smoke points to dysregulation of the apoptotic process in the liver and spleen. Although numbers of apoptotic cells were not significantly different in the thymic tissues, there were remarkable differences in the morphology of the thymus of smoke-exposed mice when compared to control mice. These observed differences suggest that first-hand cigarette smoke contributes to the dysregulation of the thymus, which is a vital component of the immune system. These results indicate an altered immune response in animals exposed to cigarette smoke.

***THE QUIET KILLER: A STUDY ON
Macrorhabdus ornithogaster, AN AVIAN YEAST***

Bonnie Crafton

Major: Biological Sciences (Microbiology)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jane Bruner, (Biological Sciences)

Macrorhabdus ornithogaster is an avian yeast that colonizes the proventricular region of birds' stomachs. This organism infects a wide range of species, including passerines (finches and canaries), psitticines (hook-billed parrots) and several species of poultry birds. It causes a chronic disorder informally called "going light" by many bird enthusiasts due to the symptomatic rapid weight loss exhibited by the bird. Up until recently, our knowledge of this organism was quite limited, and currently there is no known cure for the infection. With *Macrorhabdus ornithogaster* posing a threat to both the pet bird and poultry industry, developing an effective treatment is imperative.

***THOMAS HOBBS AND THE DEPLOYMENT
OF SPECIFIC SOVEREIGNTY***

Giles Beilby

Major: Philosophy

Mentor: Dr. Alejandro Vallega (Philosophy)

Giorgio Agamben claims that sovereign power – the power of decision regarding exception from the law – is to blame for the extent to which human life has become merely another resource at the disposal of the sovereign. I am troubled by this claim. The exemplar of this situation is the sovereign of the Hobbesian Leviathan, which is imbued with a sovereign power conferred by constituent citizens who have relinquished their personal sovereignty to the state.

While I agree the construction of the Leviathan permits the emergence of a sovereign power that reduces human life to a mere resource, I argue this construction also provides for the diminution of such a power through the restoration of specific sovereignty to individuals. This restoration is accomplished by a mechanism of withdrawal implicit in the contract, which simultaneously preserves the continuity of the system and counters the exploitative power of the sovereign.