

Fall 2016 Honors Capstone Abstracts

Heir to the Mountain

Katherine Ledermeier

Sookyung Cho

For my capstone project, I've created an eighteen-page script and 542 panels of storyboard. Originally, it was only supposed to be a five-page script and a shorter storyboard. However, as the story changed and grew, it became something much larger. Although I knew the basics at the beginning of this project, such as script-writing and basic drawing, this project put a whole new spin to my skills by making me putting all of my effort into one large storyboard, which I've never done before. I mostly used what I learned from my honor classes on television writing and other scripting classes to really understand what I was doing. It took a lot of effort, but in the end, it's a project I can be proud of.

The Effect of Brief Advice on the Use of Alcohol Mixed with Energy Drinks in College Students

Jozie Banas

Perilou Goddard

This study tested the hypotheses that a Brief Advice intervention would significantly (a) reduce the use of alcohol and alcohol mixed with energy drinks (AmED) if such substances were already in use, (b) reduce the initiation rates of alcohol and AmED among students who reported abstaining at the initial assessment, (c) reduce negative consequences associated with drinking, and (d) increase the use of protective behavioral strategies. Participants (predominantly White college freshmen; N = 187) completed measures of drinking and related behaviors 4 weeks after the semester began. Half were randomly assigned to immediately hear a lecture containing advice about safer drinking, including specific recommendations about AmED. All participants were reassessed 8 weeks later. The results were nonsignificant, but some were in the predicted direction while others were unexpected. Although brief advice may not be effective for non-mandated college students, additional studies should test whether it may benefit those with existing alcohol-related problems.

The Effects of Labor Force Participation on Income and its Distribution

Benjamin Hovey

Linda Dynan

Much of economics, and a decent portion of societal resources have been devoted to looking at the determinants of income and income distribution. Why do some people make more than others? Why do some areas grow into economic behemoths while others remain small and relatively unsuccessful? Why do some areas have relatively similar incomes among their inhabitants while others have extreme discrepancies? Through the employment of regression analyses on easily accessible data from the United States Census Bureau, this paper attempts to measure the impact of the choice of individuals to participate in the labor force on the median income and the income distribution, as measured by Gini Coefficients of their County in the United States. This paper shows that, on average, an increase in the labor force participation rate of an area is associated with an increase in median household income and a decrease in the income inequality of an area. This implies that local economies could benefit not only from people being employed, but just from people looking to find work.

Happiness is Life

Elizabeth Cryer and Bryan Woods

Teresa Huber

The purpose of this study was to assess happiness ratings of Northern Kentucky University faculty in the College of Health Professions. Our goal was to use the results of our survey to compare each profession.

We assessed other factors that could affect happiness such as stress and employment status. Within healthcare professions there are many factors, such as stress and work load, that are destructive to happiness. Abdollahi, Abu Talib, Yaacob, and Ismail identified stress and hardiness as indicators of individual's level of happiness. Ozkara conducted research to explore the concept of nurses' happiness and consider the impacts of nurses' happiness. Most of the research was specifically directed at the nurses. Our study was intended to see if other healthcare professions also had the same correlations. A nurse's level of happiness is often displayed in how they act in the clinical setting and treat their patients. This research was intended to analyze levels of happiness/stress to see if there is a future need for education. This could be essential in improving the quality of care for patients. A survey was sent out to faculty members in the College of Health Professions. The survey contained two background questions, six happiness related questions and six stress related questions. Overall the results of this study were not enough to prove significant relationship between stress, happiness, and profession. In the sample collected, nursing faculty ranked higher in happiness and stress. It is challenging to absolutely infer that stress and happiness have a strong correlation. The average happiness scores could have been higher and stress levels could have been lowered with stress management exercises.

The Creative Process: An Exploration in the Art and Writing of Animated Film

Emily Marsala

Hans Schellhas

My honors capstone project is a combination of two of my creative passions: writing and illustrating. I wanted to study the process of creating a film, since the honors courses I took all focused on film and television. I wrote a full length (approximately 90minute) animated film based on an original story and characters and designed the look of 8 of the main characters. I began this project with the story, which eventually became a script. I tell the family friendly story of a young female scientist who discovers a source of energy found only on Mars, and the young man from Mars who helps her share her discovery and help the Earth. Following this, I sketched and planned the design of the characters as a study in my own skills in drawing the cartoon human form and expressions. Along the way, I focused on perfecting and analyzing my personal creative process, to better myself for my career.

Gender Identity: Parental Influence vs. Peer Influence

Ellen Yates

Belle Zembrodt

There has been much research on the gender socialization of young children. Variables have included types of toys, colors of toys, types of activities, marketing, movies, and more. My research on the topic of the development of gender identity focused on the influence of parents versus the influence of peers. I studied two different age groups: school age children and preschool/toddler age children using a combination of observations, written questionnaires, and interviews with the parents and the children. I concluded that the older children were more influenced by their peers, while the younger children were more influenced by their parents.

The Transformation of Interdisciplinary Education Through Technology

Valerie Rice

Kristen Schwarz

Interdisciplinary education is a type of education that crosses disciplinary boundaries. It takes an issue or idea and examines it from the perspectives of multiple disciplines to provide a more complex understanding of the subject. Interdisciplinary education has been positively influenced by technology in many ways, including augmented reality, mobile learning and audience response systems. These technologies not only make it easier and quicker for students and educators to collaborate, they are also

very easy to transport and affordable. My Capstone examined interdisciplinary education as a broad spectrum through a literature review, and then narrowed it down to my actual project: an interactive Excel book focusing on Red Wolf Sanctuary and Raptor Rehabilitation Center. My project is intended to provide educators with a mobile tool for their classroom before, during, or after a visit to the Sanctuary.

The Morality Reality of Social Media: How Organizations and Its Audience Respond to Negative Posts

Alison Meineke

Christopher Cole

There are rules that society dictates—whether spoken or not—on everything from how to communicate in a socially correct way to where it’s okay to stand in room full of strangers. Over the years, most humans learn through trial and error to master social interaction—to meet social expectations and to suppress inappropriate behaviors. However, communication has now evolved into a digital age on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. It is even more difficult and complex for not just the average social media user, but for those who are a company or organization trying to befriend its consumers while still remaining professional and socially correct. *The Morality Reality of Social Media: How Organizations & its Audience Respond to Negative Posts* is a project that looks at an organization’s system of communicating and captivating its audience via Facebook, Twitter, and/or YouTube. The project is also a look at a college-student’s perspective of organizations on these social media and gives input as to what they would like to see from organizations on these platforms.

Police Women in Film: An Examination of the Film *The Heat* and *Zootopia*

Danielle Ott

Ali Godel

Within the crime film genre, there is an underrepresentation of female leads as police officers. Despite this underrepresentation, two recent films with female police officers as leads, *The Heat* and *Zootopia*, garnered much attention at the box office, grossing millions. It becomes important to examine the messages and narratives contained wherein, because of the large audiences for both films. What makes these films stand out from the rest of the genre? And how do these films stack up against reality? Because of the possibility of use of deadly force being a unique aspect of police work, it becomes important to see what messages and narratives are being portrayed to the public, especially since a majority of Americans get their information about the criminal justice system through the media. My findings show that both films contain inaccuracies and accuracies alike, and hopefully my analysis of these two films can open up dialogue about how much these messages influence public opinion, whether negatively or positively.

Addiction to Recovery: A Community's Response to the Heroin Epidemic

Tori Lentz

Wes Akers

The inspiration behind “From Addiction to Recovery: A Community’s Response to the Heroin Epidemic” came from a few different places. As a journalist working in local television news, I had been following the heroin issue for the last few years and knew it was having a great impact on communities in the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky region. I had also taken an honors English class involved in the Mayerson Project. The class donated \$1,000 to CCAT, a heroin treatment center.

My advisor, Wes Akers, and I produced “Finding the Fix: Heroin’s Hold on the Heartland,” a documentary about the heroin problem in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana, alongside PBS station WTIU-TV. After that project ended, I used the skills I had learned to produce my own documentary about how

Northern Kentucky specifically is fighting heroin. The process of producing the documentary included doing research into addiction, selecting compelling characters, conducting interviews, choosing soundbites, and writing the script.

This documentary is significant because it is educational and captures the perspective of law enforcement, healthcare officials, and recovering heroin users. It follows the journalism principles of being fair and balanced. This project paints a complete picture of how one community is tackling the heroin issue.

Gender Among Sugarcane Farming Communities in Northern Belize

Emily Fox

Douglas Hume

This thesis explores gender among sugarcane farming communities in Northern Belize. Research was conducted in three sugarcane farming communities in Orange Walk District Belize (San Antonio, San Lazaro, and Yo Creek) in June 2016. Cognitive anthropology was employed to analyze how gender is constructed and understood by women in these communities. Data was collected through participant observation and unstructured and semi-structured interviewing; data was qualitatively analyzed for common themes. This thesis discusses the perception of gender roles, as well as gender equality within education, healthcare, the workplace, domestic duties, politics, childcare, and religion. This research provides an ethnographic basis for further gender studies in Northern Belize.

Ecotherapy as a Clinical Health Treatment: An Evaluation of the Role of Nature and Parks in Health Promotion

Lindsey Snider

David Kime

After participating in a medical mission trip to Panama and the Honors Mammoth Cave class, I wanted to do a capstone project that could combine my love for nature and healthcare. Ecotherapy is the topic that does just that. Author and psychology professor Howard Clinebell describes ecotherapy as: "the healing and the growth that is nurtured by healthy interaction with the earth." As a future physician, I wanted to evaluate the role of ecotherapy in healthcare and the role of the parks in health promotion. This project explores the concept of ecotherapy and evaluates its clinical value while sharing stories of people's personal experiences with nature. Mammoth Cave students, Partners in the Parks students, and park employees provided firsthand experiences with nature in the form of oral histories to evaluate if nature has a therapeutic effect on their lives. I composed creative health narratives to showcase my personal patient interactions, along with stories from the oral histories. Through these oral histories and health narratives, I was able to evaluate ecotherapy as a legitimate clinical treatment, and determine how I can best utilize the principles of ecotherapy in my future practice.

The Geopolitical Influence of the Delphic Oracle

Lauren Tucker

Kathleen Quinn

Delphi is an archaeological site in Greece that is of religious and political significance to the development of the ancient Greek city-states. This project is an in-depth look at how the Delphic oracle directly affected the political growth of the Greek city-states through military strategy, colonization and settlement, and government and leadership. The project includes extensive work with primary sources, a map illustrating the geographical reach of the Delphic oracle, and an extension of the work of Joseph Fontenrose by creating thematic categories for the oracular

responses. The student studied abroad in Greece in 2015 and visited Delphi while studying Greek mythology, which inspired the project.

The Friend of My Friend: A New Test of the Extended Contact Hypothesis

Sarah Krull

Angela Lipsitz

Prejudice and the reduction thereof has long been a subject of interest to psychologists. This study tested an alternate form of the extended contact hypothesis. It specifically examined how cross-group friendships affected perceptions of Middle-Eastern individuals in the United States. Participants read a brief story about a Middle-Eastern student, Mohammed, having lunch with another student, named either Abdullah or Mark. Participants then rated their impressions of Mohammed on 5-point Likert-type scales. Contrary to the hypothesis, extended contact did not make a difference in perceptions of Mohammed's traits. However, extended contact did cause the students to think that Mohammed would like interacting with them more. Women rated Mohammed higher on two positive traits, and, surprisingly, participants who self-identified as Christian were more likely to say that Mohammed was anti-American and involved in a Muslim extremist group. The findings on extended contact and gender fit with previous research on the topic; the results on religion will need further study to ascertain what, if anything, we can conclude from them. Given its applicability to current events, additional study might prove useful.

Downer: A Digital Narrative of Drug Culture and Revenge

Mike Mcglasson

Chris Strobel

"Downer" is a digital motion picture about a drug dealer who tries to turn his life around, only to lose his brother, and haphazardly return to a life of crime. This revenge tragedy includes many unsavory gun-toting profanity-spewing characters and depicts violence in an over-the-top stylized manner. These depictions were made possible due to the employment of visceral practical effects, and an unwavering dedication to the craft. The gruesome story relies on high tension as well as moments of levity to hold the attention of an audience. It's not a cinematic masterpiece, but it's a wild ride for any "ultra-violence" enthusiast.

Sexual Orientation's Influence on Attraction

Brittini Musard

Jeffery Smith