Fall 2017 Capstone Abstracts

Stigmas Relating to Mental Illness and Their Impact on Jury Decision Making
Mary Nedderman (Jeffrey Smith)
My capstone project focused on the impact of mental health stigmas on a jury's decision making in a rampage shooting case. Each participant was assigned at random a condition of a male who committed a rampage shooting with either a brain tumor, Anti-Social Personality Disorder, Depression or Paranoid Schizophrenia. I hypothesized that the participants would be fearful of illnesses such as Anti-Social and Schizophrenia because they have such a negative presence in the media. Also since depression is common, I hypothesized that participants would find them to be most responsible. After each participant read through the assigned case file and psychological evaluation they then answered a seven-question juror questionnaire. These questions were designed to find how responsible for the crime the participant saw the offender to be and how fearful they were of the offender. It was found that participants felt that the person with Anti-Social Personality Disorder should have been imprisoned the longest and that participants also felt that the offender with depression was most responsible for their actions. These findings backed up my hypothesis and belief that there are stigmas surrounding certain mental illnesses and these can have an impact on a jury's decision-making process.

Ancestry in Pages
Cammy Bihl (Belle Zembrodt)
For this project, I created a book about the history of my family. "Ancestry in Pages" was a way for me to take the information I learned about my family and create documentation of who we are and where we came from. I was interested in this field because I grew up on a street with my extended family and next door to the home my father grew up in. I have been so physically close to my family's history but I wanted to learn more. I completed research through many websites and library sources to find out information about each person's individual life. But each person's story really came to life when I did interviews with my family. I realized a lot of the ways my family has influenced the person I am and who I will become. This work is significant because it has tied an even deeper bond that I have with my family and created stronger connections between many generations. This book can continue to be updated and used for countless generations to come. It encourages others to ponder, "What kind of legacy am I leaving?"

Overflow: Designs for an Original Mobile App
Megan Guard (Nick Brummer)
Overflow is a mobile goal/habit-tracking app that I imagined, designed and prototyped. The idea came from a problem I saw in my own life: that goals were easy to set, but hard to accomplish. I found that two things helped keep me on track: having some type of visual representation of my progress and having someone to hold me accountable. I decided to combine these two elements and design an easy to use mobile app that gamifies goal tracking to hopefully help others in accomplishing tasks. I defined a brand that represented the objectives of the app through colors, fonts, a name and a logo design. I then created the app interface around this brand, creating each screen digitally. The end result is a working prototype of an innovative app that allows users to set goals, track their progress, connect with others, and see their aspiration reached, one jar at a time.

The Influence of Praise Based on Fear of Failure
Neha Srivatsa (Kalif Vaughn)
In certain situations, failure may induce a feeling of academic inability or helplessness in students, which may lead to students dropping out of college (a noticeable problem in the United States). According to

the quadripolar model of achievement motivation (De Castella, Byrne, & Covington, 2013), students can be grouped according to their fear of failure. Presumably, students in certain failure orientations are susceptible to negative outcomes associated with failure (e.g., those with high fear of failure may inherently be more negatively affected than those with low fear of failure). One known method of alleviating feelings of failure is by increasing self-worth and motivation by providing students with praise. I examined the effects of two forms of praise, ability praise (e.g., "You must be naturally gifted at these kinds of problems!") and effort praise (e.g., "You must have worked really hard on these problems!"), on students as it relates to their fear of failure. Results showed no significant interaction between type of praise and fear of failure. However, there was a noticeable trend of effort praise being slightly more effective than ability or no praise for students with low fear of failure.

How are Beauty Ideals Viewed through Social Media and Across Generations?
Krischa Barangan (Tracy Songer)
This capstone project is a research paper that analyzes the interviews of adolescent girls and their parents regarding their social media use and their perspective of beauty. There were 12 participants in the study and all were interviewed individually. This project required a small crew to film the interviews. The interviews were analyzed and coded for results. The most profound result out of the study is that all of the participants had similar personal definitions of beauty as well as society's definition of beauty. This project essentially encapsulates what I've learned in communication courses and production management. Furthermore, it gave me the opportunity to understand how influential social media can be and the possibilities of how it could affect young girls and their perspective on themselves and the world around them.

Adopt Don't Shop - SAAP
Aubrey Zettler (Tracy Songer)
My Honors Capstone is a mini documentary promoting the Stray Animal Adoption Program and the importance of adopting animals. It highlights the importance of 3 major topics: First of adopting animals over purchasing from breeders, next of a strong POSITIVE message, and last the importance of groups like the Stray Animal Adoption Program (aka SAAP). The idea and motivation for this project come from my deep love and passion for animals, the need for more awareness of groups like SAAP, and a motivation to stray away from the stereotypical Sarah McLachlan ASPCA depressing commercials. I wanted to make sure I was showing the personality of the animals throughout the video. I didn't want to show them in cages looking sad to draw in adopters who pity the animals, I wanted to draw in people like myself who see a friend and family member in the eyes of those animals. I am hoping my mini documentary will bring light to the 3 major topics I discussed and helps to save animal's lives.

Caricaturized, Dying, or Actually Straight
Loranna Cox (Ali Godel)
Caricaturizations, stereotypes, and other tropes used to depict the LBGTQ+ community on film and television have contributed to a strictly and uniquely American brand of heteronormative thinking in regards to sex and sexuality. The entertainment industry has made changes, striving for representational equality but still falls short, with harmful depictions of LGBTQ+ characters and their relationships far outweighing positive ones. The following pages will contain in-depth analyses of sexual representation in the media, including a detailed history and a detailed look at the way sex and sexuality have been used to further the heteronormative mindset that is typical of the American media and American public. Finally, I will provide examples of the Queer Revolution in action, highlighting its ability to push the boundaries of representations on screen.

Nostalgia and Other Factors Related to the 2016 Election
Ethan W. Puckett (Robin Bartlett)
My project is an empirical study which examines factors; namely nostalgia, and their relationship with voting behavior in the 2016 presidential election. This study was inspired by Donald Trump's campaign slogan "Make America Great Again", which I thought could have played on the nostalgia of Donald Trump voters. It was through this line of thinking that I crafted my hypothesis: Donald Trump voters would have higher levels of nostalgia than Hillary Clinton voters. I also decided to look at other factors that could have affected voter decisions, including economic and social conservatism, need for cognition, and personality. This study consisted of providing participants an online survey which measured all of the previously mentioned factors, as well as voting behavior and political party. There was a total of 231 participants which were collected anonymously. The study did not find a relationship between voting behavior and nostalgia, but did find a positive correlation between social conservatism and nostalgia scores. Several other relationships were found between the measured factors, voting behavior, and political party.

A Look into the 1924 Case of Leopold and Loeb through and Exploration in Directing
Alisha Nelson (Brian Robertson)
This project is an exploration in directing the play *Never the Sinner* by John Logan. *Never the Sinner* is a play based on the real life crime case of Leopold and Loeb, who murdered a boy in 1924. This exploration in directing included a background research paper, a playscript analysis, an audition process, a rehearsal process, a show process, a presentation, and a final documentation of a reflection paper and a portfolio. Upon completion of the project, I learned that directing was a lot about having confidence in your work and problem solving. I also found out a lot about the culture and history of Leopold and Loeb.

An Investigation on the Contamination of a Closed Marine Ecosystem by Toxic Algae Prymnesium parvum
Ellen McPhillips (Charles Acosta)
Prymnesium parvum is a toxic algae that has been known to cause massive damage to freshwater and marine ecosystems. The research has mainly focused on strains isolated from lakes, rivers, and reservoirs, but none have studied the biology of the algae within a closed ecosystem. Recent studies have found the number one water quality parameter that effects growth to be salinity. Optimal growth has been recorded at 22 practical salinity units (psu) and 27 degrees Celsius. This study was an investigation on a closed ecosystem, represented by a saltwater aquarium from which presumed *P. parvum* was cultured. To observe if the algae had the same growth patterns of previous studies it was grown in different salinity environments representing freshwater, brackish water, and marine habitats. Upon evaluation, a significant difference was observed between the freshwater and marine salinity levels, with no difference observed between marine and brackish waters. The findings of this study, along with the observations agree with other research findings on the optimal growth rates and morphology of *P. parvum*.

Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury and Alcohol Use on Cognitive Function
Clare Mearns (Cecile Marczinski)
Traumatic brain injury has been shown to lead to declines in cognitive function and an increased risk of developing alcohol use disorder. Heavy alcohol use has also been shown to cause cognitive deficits such as impaired inhibitory control. The purpose of this study was to assess the effects of traumatic brain injury and heavy drinking on several cognitive tasks in order to determine if there is an additive or over-additive effect of combining the two factors. The study used a two by two between subjects design with participants (N = 58, Males = 25, Females 33) self-selecting group assignment based on TBI status (TBI or

no TBI) and their drinking habits (heavy or light). The participants were assessed on several tasks to compare cognitive function between groups. Results showed various differences in performance on the tasks including a significant interaction for TBI and drinking status on cued go reaction times $F(1, 57) = 9.67$, $p = .003$ and cued no-go reaction times $F(1, 57) = 11.40$, $p = .001$. This demonstrates that both heavy drinking and having a past TBI could lead to a decline in overall cognitive functioning.

NKU Sexual Assault Awareness Symposium
Kaylee Jackson (Caroline Macke)
My journey as a social work major at NKU has given me the opportunity to give back to my community. I have learned that it is my duty to recognize and address any disparities I notice within the community. I knew that I wanted to make some sort of contribution to my fellow students on this campus, and my capstone project gave me the perfect opportunity to do this. Sexual assault has become a major topic of discussion since I first began as a student at NKU. I decided to host a symposium to raise awareness about sexual assault, as well as give my peers information about what resources are available to them on campus. The event was held on April 20, 2017 in Griffin Hall Digitorium and there were a total of four presentations and a Q&A portion at the end.

in their field
Emily Ulrich (Kevin Muente)
I grew up wanting a horse. I ended up with two mules and a donkey. Like most people, I did not know much about mules, except that they are a cross between a horse and a donkey with a reputation for stubbornness. Nine years later, I know a lot more. I quickly discovered that they are very intelligent creatures with distinct personalities. I have built a relationship with each of them over the years, particularly with my first mule, Manzo. All three, Manzo, Samson, and Willy, have unique relationships with each other and interact with the world in a unique way. Through *in their field,* a series of paintings and ceramic pieces, I explore the personalities and relationships of my mules and donkey and invite the viewer into their field.