

NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE



April 11, 2014

**St. Vincent's Hall
&
Castellani Art Museum**

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

EDUCATION: Dr. Vince Rinaldo, Moderator
10:10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. St. Vincent's Hall 212

Sarah Page: "The Null Curriculum: Teaching Through Ignorance"

ENGLISH: Dr. Jamie Carr, Moderator
9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. St. Vincent's Hall 311

Allison Radley: "The Contemporary History, Controversy, and Effectiveness of Literary Theory"

Michaela George: "How Inappropriate Relationships Can Affect the Psyche"

Joelle Battaglia: "Silence Portrayed in Contemporary Fiction"

Kirsten Cole: "Advertising Through Feminist Theory"

GERONTOLOGY: Dr. Susan Mason, Moderator
11:20 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. St Vincent's Hall 215

Ashley Ta: "*Up*: A Critical Analysis"

Dana DiMatteo: "*Las Vegas*: A Critical Analysis"

Toni Macri: "*Grumpy Old Men*: A Critical Analysis"

Brittany Nichols: "*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*: A Critical Analysis"

Alyssa Hollingshead: "Age as a Factor in Physical Therapy Treatment and Rehabilitation"

MATH: Dr. Jonathan Lopez, Moderator
10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. St. Vincent's Hall 312

Nicole Pusateri: "Credibility Theory"

MATH: Dr. Marlo Brown, Moderator
10:20 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. St. Vincent's Hall 312

Paige Houston: "Comparison of Power of Various Statistical Tests"

MATH: Dr. Michael Barg, Moderator
11:45 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. St. Vincent's Hall 212

Cameron Fitch: "Approval Ratings Response to Political Campaigns"

MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES: Dr. James McCutcheon, Moderator
9:40 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. St. Vincent's Hall 215

Kathryn Dickie: "The Talking Cure: Healing Through Testimony of the Guatemalan Civil War"

Emily Bork: "The Dual Presence of Hunger and Homosexual Desire in Carmen Laforet's Novel, *Nada: A Literary Case Study of Franco's Post Civil War Spain*"

PSYCHOLOGY: Dr. Timothy Osberg, Moderator
9:00 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. St. Vincent's Hall 305

Claire Elling: "The Role of Cognitive Factors in Bipolar Disorder Symptoms and Bulimia Nervosa"

PSYCHOLOGY: (continued)

Carly Lapp: "Autism Folklore: Common Stereotypes Held by the Lay Public"

SOCIAL WORK: Dr. Clementine Laverman, Moderator
9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. St. Vincent's Hall 212

Daniel Penque, Patricia McCalister: "Career Choice Factors for BSW Students: A Longitudinal Study"

Michael Cain, Kathryn Newhouse, Stephanie Stenner: "Communities That Care Survey"

SOCIOLOGY: Dr. Todd Schoepflin, Moderator
11:20 a.m. 11:40 a.m. St. Vincent's Hall 212

Cory Lawler: "Examining the Media's Treatment of Interracial Violence"

THEATRE: Professor Ralph Andropolis, Moderator
9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. St. Vincent's Hall 312

Ashley DeMar: "Scottish Music and Heritage"

THEATRE: Professor Katie Mallinson, Moderator
9:20 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. St Vincent's Hall 312

Kendyl Litwiller: "Shaw Against the Nineteenth Century"

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

BIOLOGY: Dr. William Edwards

Madeline Hare: "Plastic Microdebris in the Lower Great Lakes"

BIOLOGY: Dr. Mark Gallo

Janine Cubello: "You Can Even Say It Glows: Isolation, Identification and the Characterization of Fluorescent Bacteria from the Niagara River"

James Lioi: "Genomic Analysis of Staphylococcus Bacteriophage"

Sonja Oppen: "Characterization of Staphylococcus Aureus in White-Tailed Deer"

Matthew Lanning, Philip Crane: "Phylogenetic Characterization of Bacterial Biofilms from the Niagara River"

Kyle Nugent: "Analysis of Strain Variability and Antibiotic-Resistance Profiles of Staphylococci from an Organic Dairy Farm"

BIOLOGY: Dr. Robert Greene

Lynnea Felton: "Apoptotic Effects of Curcumin Treatment on Confluent HeLe Cells"

Alexandra House: "Induction of Apoptosis in HeLa Cells Using Photodynamic Agents"

BIOLOGY: (continued)

Lauren Kapus: "Induction of Oxidative DNA Strand Breaks and the Potential Scavenging Effects of Aspirin"

BIOLOGY: Dr. Walter Steiner

Chelsea Recor, Bethany Zakrzewski: "Study of Recombination Hotspots in *Schizosaccharomyces Pombe*"

BIOCHEMISTRY & CHEMISTRY: Dr. Luis Sanchez

Steven Dempsey: "Studies Towards Novel Chemical Transformations of Vinylglycine"

Erik Boldt: "Preparation of Complex Synthetic Building Blocks via Modification of L-Tryptophan"

BIOCHEMISTRY & CHEMISTRY: Dr. Robyn Goacher

Erick Braham: "Investigation into the Synergy of Xylanase and Laccase in Wood Decomposition"

BIOCHEMISTRY & CHEMISTRY: Dr. Christopher Stoj

Ashley Jarkowski, Zachary Mariani, Brendan Doyle: "Niagara University Science Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program (NU-SURF)"

COMMUNICATION STUDIES: Dr. Kalen Churcher

Courtney Corbetta: "Attitudes Toward Parents and Their 'Celebrity' Children"

COMMUNICATION STUDIES: (continued)

Clare Lewis: "Coming Out of the Locker: An Analysis of Attitudes in Hockey Regarding Gay and Lesbian Athletes"

Michael Hanton: "Lawyers and Media"

Amanda Medole: "The Stereotypical Image of Turks in American and Turkish Film"

Victoria Pascuzzi: "Cradle Beach Dance Marathon"

Maria Skrobacz: Social Media and the Hospitality Industry"

COMMUNICATION STUDIES: Dr. Doug Tewksbury

Kathleen Brown: "Does the Physical Attractiveness of Political Candidates Affect Voting Behavior?"

Amanda Hurst: "Bullying and the Media: Is There Such a Thing as Too Much Media Exposure?"

Conor Madden: "9/11 Conspiracy 'Truthers' and Their Use of Media to Develop and Share Ideas"

Taylor Mortellaro: "Gendered Gestures Shown in the TV Show *Modern Family*"

Jessica Rowan: "Male Hegemony on the *Jersey Shore* as a Marketable Concept"

COMPUTER INFORMATION SCIENCE: Dr. Yonghong Tong

Kurt Beehler: "NU Traffic"

Heather Burley: "Periodic Notekeeper"

Joseph Grenga: "Calculating Costs"

Karl Hinterberger: "NU Vet Trakker"

Sam Lebold: "Schedule Planner"

Jack Lenkiewicz: "NU Alerts"

Freddie Liederbach: "4 in a Row"

Colin Monroe: "The Commuter's Friend"

Chelsea Watson: "POCKiTBOOK"

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Dr. Diana Falco

Julie Goodliff: "Examining the Administration of Methadone and Buprenorphine: Are They Effective Replacement Therapy Options?"

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Dr. Craig Rivera

Erika Bowe: "Prison Reform"

ENGLISH: Dr. Jamie Carr

Caitlin Allaire: "Us Versus Them Mentality Post 9/11"

Sara Cochran: "Trauma Effects in Modern Literature"

ENGLISH: (continued)

Jacob Pandolfi: "Literature Into Film: Steven Daldry & Trauma Studies"

Kristin Rivers: "Trauma Post 9/11"

Allison Schultz: "Challenging Heteronormativity Through Non-Binary Sexuality"

Nicole Slipko: "Trauma: Then, Now and in Fiction"

FINANCE: Professor Christopher Aquino

Michael Federspiel: "The Student Loan Crisis: Shaping Our Nation One Block at a Time"

FINANCE: Professor Edward Hutton

Paige Reitmeier: "CFA Institute Research: Transcat Inc. Valuation"

GERONTOLOGY: Dr. Susan Mason

Margot Hickey: "Memory Self-assessments in Older Adults"

Kimberly Kennedy: "Active Learning Projects in Gerontology"

Ashley Paddock: "Age and Sex Differences in Ratings of Lifestyle Effects on Mental and Physical Health"

HISTORY: Dr. Robert Kane

Steven Randall: "How Reagan Truly Ended the Cold War"

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT:

Dr. Youngsoo Choi

Taylor Combs: "Tourist Satisfaction and Perceived Destination Image of Niagara Falls"

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: Dr. David Reilly

Laura Hoehn: "Microfinance and the Social Development of Women"

Alyssa Jewell: "Marx and Motherhood: Socialist States and Paid Parental Leave Policy"

Tesha Parker: "Democratic Nations Depicting Gun Control Laws"

MARKETING: Dr. Peggy Choong

Alyssa Fazio: "Mobile Apps: The Trend of the Future"

MATH: Dr. Michael Barg

Lauren DiFonzo, Phillip Galbo: "Computing Buoyant Vesicles"

MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES: Dr. Henrik Borgstrom

Bethany Zakrzewski: "Symbolisme d'Haiti Incarné dans les Personnages de Marie-Célie Agnant"

"Haiti, as Symbolized Through the Fictional Characters in the Works of Marie-Célie Agnant"

POLITICAL SCIENCE: Dr. Peter Baxter

James Bova: "Affirmative Action in the Supreme Court"

POLITICAL SCIENCE: Dr. David Reilly

Connor Anthony: "Getting Something for Nothing:
Redistribution's Effect on the Incentive to Work"

Michael Crist: "The Interpretation of the Affordable Care
Act Through Ideology"

Anthony DelMonte: "The Splintering of the Republican
Party"

William Kodeski: "Black Affirmative Action"

Nicole Merritt: "Relationship Between Gay Marriage
and Education"

Alexandra Novak: "Is Spending Too Much on Military
Spending Having an Effect on the Unemployment
Rate?"

Kelly Pare: "The Impact of Foreign Direct Investment on
Economic Growth and Development"

Claire Sukiennik: "Today and Tomorrow: The Carbon
Impact of Yesterday"

Daniel Wirth: "Religions Hidden Hand in
Demonstrations"

PSYCHOLOGY: Dr. Susan Mason

Amanda Smith: Self-evaluations of Statistic Students: A Tool to Predict Success?"

PSYCHOLOGY: Dr. Timothy Osberg

Amber Boyer: "College Alcohol Beliefs and Trait Urgency in Relation to Drinking and Consequences"

Nicole Dunkelberger: "Disentangling College Alcohol Beliefs from Social Integration in Accounting for College Drinking"

Claire Elling: "The Role of Cognitive Factors in Bipolar Disorder Symptoms and Bulimia Nervosa"

Haley Keeley: "Cultural Variations in Disordered Eating, Body Image, and Irrational Food Beliefs"

Carly Lapp: "Autism Folklore: Common Stereotypes Held by the Lay Public"

Melissa Leone, Nicholas Albano: "Perceptions of Middle School and the Big Five"

Amber Markham: "Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and Emotional Buffers"

RELIGIOUS STUDIES: Dr. Sherri Brown

Nathaniel Resila: "The Case for Abraham"

RELIGIOUS STUDIES: Dr. Robert St. Hilaire

Bethany Leggett: "Is Hell Obsolete? A Thomistic Defense of Eternal Damnation"

SOCIAL WORK: Dr. Clementine Laverman

Cathleen Barteck, Rachael Campbell, Allyssa Jones:
"Social Work as a Career Choice"

Dominick Busco: "Examining the Effectiveness of Disability Awareness Training for First Responders"

Jessica Constancio: "Exploring the Effectiveness of an Adolescent Outreach Program for Teen Mothers: Are These Young Mothers Optimistic About Living a Fulfilling Life?"

Tashia Daley, Michelle Wirth: "Examining Social Work Students' Attitudes Toward Volunteering with an Older Population"

Rachel DeBurgh-Thomas, Cristina Teixeira: "College Students' Attitudes Towards Seeking Professional Help"

Briana Dorsey, Casandra Foley: "Women Who Have Pre-existing Mental-health Conditions Transition into Domestic Violence Shelters"

Vanessa Dunn: "Effects of Conflict Resolution Program Designed for 6th Grade Students"

Michelle Heemskerk: "Emotional Readiness of Children Entering Kindergarten"

SOCIAL WORK: (continued)

Stephanie Rahal: "Are Social Work Students Prepared for Working with Victims of Bullying Practices and Are They Prepared for Working with Individuals that Bully?"

Rebecca Plugers: "Self-perceived Awareness of Human Trafficking Among Undergraduate Students"

Theresa Schmidt: "Discovering the Homeless of Niagara Falls"

TOURISM: Dr. Jan van Harsseel

Kristin Delia: "Community Events as Experience Attractions A Case Study: Dutchess County"

