

SIXTH ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2017

BRENAU DOWNTOWN CENTER | GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA

HISTORY AND VISION FOR THE BRENAU UNIVERSITY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Brenau University Research Symposium has its roots in both the College of Health Sciences and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society research celebrations. In 2009, the College of Health Sciences began to host a research poster presentation after its graduate hooding event each April. The events were held in the John S. Burd Center or Trustee Library. Phi Kappa Phi continued its focus on supporting both undergraduate and graduate research by hosting research poster events near graduation. In 2012, the College of Health Sciences hosted the first Brenau University Research Symposium, which was open to all but focused primarily on undergraduate and graduate research within the college. With the advent of the Sidney O. Smith Jr. Graduate School, it seemed the appropriate time to combined all the research events being held in April into a university-wide research event. The inaugural Research Symposium was held in 2013. The keynote address was shared by all colleges and featured a faculty presenter from each. The topic was novel approaches to problems in healthcare. More than 60 papers were presented representing disciplines from across the university.

The sixth annual Brenau University Research Symposium features undergraduate, graduate and faculty papers from all four colleges and spans disciplines as diverse as education, clinical psychology, art history and international trends. This year, the theme of the symposium is “Conversations in the Global Community” and will open with a roundtable discussion featuring professors from each college talking about the concept of “Free Speech vs. Safe Space” on college campuses. The 114 participants submitted 43 abstracts, which were divided into concurrent sessions based upon overarching themes that span the various disciplines. The symposium is co-sponsored by the honor societies from across the university.

PLENARY SESSION

FREE SPEECH VS. SAFE SPACE

THEATRE ON THE SQUARE, 12:30 – 1:25 P.M.

This year, the symposium opens with a roundtable discussion focusing on the debate of free speech versus safe space on college campuses. Four professors representing each of the colleges at Brenau will discuss this issue from their unique viewpoints, drawing on their experiences and research.

SPEAKERS



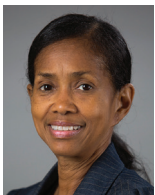
Dr. M. Irma Alvarado, *Professor, School of Occupational Therapy, College of Health Sciences*

Irma Alvarado is a licensed occupational therapist and professor in the School of Occupational Therapy. She has been at Brenau University for 21 years and is currently part-time faculty in the School of OT. She is the owner of pediatric out-patient services clinics in Cumming and Lula, Georgia. Alvarado's interests include working with children and families, applied research and international fieldwork. She has taught and co-taught Global Health Perspectives, a survey course of health and well-being practices in Yucatan, Mexico, for 10 years and is currently a clinical instructor of students from the three School of OT programs in Gainesville and Norcross.



Dr. Kenneth Frank, *Professor of Conflict Resolution and Legal Studies, Director of Conflict Resolution and Legal Studies, College of Fine Arts & Humanities*

Ken Frank holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado and a master's degree in conflict resolution from Columbia College. He coordinates the Conflict Resolution and Legal Studies undergraduate degree program at Brenau. He has received the Ann Austin Johnston Outstanding Faculty Award and is a registered neutral with the state of Georgia. He is chair of the International Intercollegiate Mediation Tournament Board and serves on the Board of Directors of the InterNational Academy for Dispute Resolution, where he is also vice president for Education USA. Frank has also been a trainer/consultant for organizations such as the Atlanta History Center and the United Methodist Church.



Dr. Janet Grier, *Assistant Professor of Education, South Atlanta Campus, College of Education*

Janet Grier is an assistant professor in the College of Education. She holds doctorate (Ed.D.) and specialist degrees from Argosy University, a master's (M.A.) from Troy University and a bachelor's from Georgia State University. She also holds multiple certificates in education, including T-7 in Educational Leadership (P-12) and P-5 in Elementary Education, and is certified in Gifted Education. Grier has a passion for teaching college students, both undergraduate and graduate, including on-ground and online courses in the Education Department. She has taught at Anhui Normal University in China as part

of Brenau's 2+2 College of Education program and has traveled with faculty and students from the college to San Miguel, Mexico. Grier continues to embrace the interest of taking a "global" approach in collaborating with others to help educate students abroad.



Dr. James F. Sennett, *Professor of Business Ethics and Coordinator of Business Programs, South Atlanta Campus, College of Business & Mass Communication*

James Sennett is a professor of business ethics and the coordinator of business programs on Brenau's South Atlanta Campus. He has five academic degrees – B.A., M.A., M.Div., MBA, Ph.D. – plus postdoctoral work at the University of California-Berkeley and Calvin College. He is in his 25th year of academic teaching and scholarship and his 10th year at Brenau. Sennett has written one book, edited two others and published over three dozen articles and chapters in peer-reviewed sources. His current research interests include moral decision making theory in business and professional settings, corporate social responsibility, and the implications of globalization for business ethics.

MODERATORS



Dr. Gnimbin A. Ouattara, *Associate Professor of History and International Studies, College of Fine Arts & Humanities*

Gnimbin Ouattara is a Fulbright scholar from Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), West Africa. He has a Ph.D. in African political history from Georgia State University and is also a graduate of the Georgia State University film school, specializing in historical documentary filmmaking. His work compares the Cherokee and West African civilizing processes within the context of the Western civilizing missions of the 19th century Atlantic. Ouattara won the Hall County Master Teacher of the Year Award in 2013 and the National Society of Leadership and Success Excellence in Teaching Award in 2010. He has presented his research in the U.S. and abroad and is the author of "In Response to the Booses of Kenya: Constance Yai and the Politics of Women in Ivory Coast" in *Feminist Conversations: Women, Trauma, and Empowerment in Post-Transitional Societies*.



Dr. James Taylor, *Assistant Professor of Management, College of Business & Mass Communication*

James Taylor earned his Ph.D. in technology management (quality systems) from Indiana State University, an MBA from The University of Chicago and a BSME (honors) from Tri-State University, Angola, Indiana. He is a certified Six Sigma Master Black Belt. His research interests include quantitative methods and process improvement, especially Six Sigma. He has been a member of the American Society for Quality since 1997 and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers since 1984. He worked for 30 years in industry, including such areas as engineering, account management, project management, quality management and process improvement. He continues a process-improvement training and consulting practice, with clients that include Bosch, IMS Gear, Kubota and ZF.

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AT A GLANCE

PLENARY SESSION

12:30 – 1:25 p.m.

Theatre on the Square

Professors from each of Brenua's four colleges will discuss the issue of Free Speech Versus Safe Space from their unique viewpoints, drawing on their experiences and research.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1:30 – 4:30 P.M.

1:30 – 2:25 p.m.

ASSESSMENTS I

Meeting Room A

INTERVENTIONS I

Meeting Room B

TRENDS AND TRANSFORMATIONS I

Meeting Room C

GENDER

Physical Therapy 122

INNOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Physical Therapy 127

2:30 – 3:25 p.m.

ASSESSMENTS II

Meeting Room A

INTERVENTIONS II

Meeting Room B

TRENDS AND TRANSFORMATIONS II

Meeting Room C

DISCOVERIES AND INQUIRIES

Physical Therapy 122

HONORS PANEL

Physical Therapy 127

2:30 – 4 p.m.

3:30 – 4:25 p.m.

ASSESSMENTS III

Meeting Room A

INTERVENTIONS III

Meeting Room B

COMMUNITY

Meeting Room C

JUSTICE AND ETHICS

Physical Therapy 122

GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS

Physical Therapy 127

4 – 4:30 p.m.

SESSIONS

ASSESSMENTS I

1:30 – 2:25 p.m.
Conference Room A

ASSESSMENTS II

2:30 – 3:25 p.m.
Conference Room A

ASSESSMENTS III

3:30 – 4:25 p.m.
Conference Room A

COMMUNITY

3:30 – 4:25 p.m.
Conference Room C

DISCOVERIES AND INQUIRIES

2:30 – 3:25 p.m.
Physical Therapy 122

GENDER

1:30 – 2:25 p.m.
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GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS

4 – 4:30 p.m.
Physical Therapy 127

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2:30 – 4 p.m.
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INNOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

1:30 – 2:25 p.m.
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INTERVENTIONS I

1:30 – 2:25 p.m.
Conference Room B

INTERVENTIONS II

2:30 – 3:25 p.m.
Conference Room B

INTERVENTIONS III

3:30 – 4:25 p.m.
Conference Room B

JUSTICE AND ETHICS

3:30 – 4:25 p.m.
Physical Therapy 122

TRENDS AND TRANSFORMATIONS I

1:30 – 2:25 p.m.
Conference Room C

TRENDS AND TRANSFORMATIONS II

2:30 – 3:25 p.m.
Conference Room C

ASSESSMENTS

Literature Reviews, Measurements, Comparisons

ASSESSMENTS I *1:30-1:45 p.m., Conference Room A*

TITLE: Everyday Creativity, Resilience, Self-Regulation and Students' Ability to Cope with Academic, Work and Life Stressors

AUTHORS: Rupal Patel, Stephanie Beard, Ashley Lingerfelt

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. John Christopher

ABSTRACT:

Stress affects almost every profession. However, levels and sources of stress are higher among health professionals, especially nurses, with negative consequences for their health (Pulido-Martos, Augusto-Landa & Lopez-Zafra, 2011). May & Casazza (2012) found that students who experienced high levels of stress also experienced negative impacts in their social relationships, personal relationships, employment hours and personal coping skills. Everyday creativity is defined as the understanding that humans have innate creative potential that serves to better their interaction and engagement with the world (Richards, 1988). Everyday creativity can influence how an individual copes with stress (Silvia et al., 2014). The Transactional Model of Stress and Coping by Lazarus and Folkman (1984) was used as the theoretical framework. The researchers will use an everyday creativity scale to examine everyday creativity from all different domains, such as: crafts, arts, creative writing and social creativity; a general stress scale to examine how participants feel at work and to examine the level of stress the individual is going through; a nursing student stress scale to measure sources of stress for nursing students, including academic load, clinical concerns, personal problems and interface worries; a work-life balance scale to measure an individual's level of work-life balance; a resilience scale to rate an individual's level of resilience; and a self-regulation scale to measure individual differences in inclinations toward self-regulation.

ASSESSMENTS I *1:50-2:05 p.m., Conference Room A*

TITLE: Comparing the Academic Success of African-American Students at a Historically Black University with Those at a Predominantly White Institution

AUTHORS: Alton Honors II, Martina Callaway, Ngozika Nnaka

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. John Christopher

ABSTRACT:

A common trend in education is that women attend college more than men. A current trend in education reveals that African-American females are the most educated demographic group in America (U.S. Department of Education 2016). African-American males are the only demographic group in which the males have not caught up or surpassed their female counterparts in education. Education research has sought to explore various factors that contribute to the gender gap in education from college climate to student engagement (Tinto 1993; Drew and Work 1998). This research explores how social support and psychological student engagement affect the academic success of male and female students at a historically black university compared to those at a predominantly white institution. The researchers compare African-American students from a historically black university and two predominantly white institutions in the Southeastern United States. This research looks to add to previous research on the academic success of African-American college students and provide insights on developing programs and services for these students.

ASSESSMENTS I 2:10-2:25 p.m., Conference Room A

TITLE: The Impact of Cognitive Appraisal of Stress on Motivation of Undergraduate College Students

AUTHORS: Saphenixx Hunter, Daja Jones, Natalie Rennie, Kalneque Fears

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. John Christopher

ABSTRACT:

Among undergraduate students, stress can be a factor that impacts success in college. Undergraduates may perceive a range of experience as sources of stress. These may include difficulties with academic work, meeting financial obligations and maintaining social relationships with other students. The aim of this literature review is to explore the relationship between students' cognitive appraisal of stress and their academic performance. Also, consideration will be given to the students' intrinsic and extrinsic motives for academic work. Stress is defined as "a perceptual abnormality deriving from a contrast between the demands placed on a person and their ability to cope" (Cox, 1978). Lazarus' stress model (Lazarus & Folkman, 1984) emphasized that the interpretation of stressful events being more significant than the event itself, revealing how coping assists in differentiating stress from perceived stress.

Motivation is critical to setting and attaining goals and stress on college students has a direct impact on their level of motivation. It is important to understand how a student is motivated, whether it is for their own personal desire or for some type of reward, such as earning their degree. Motivation is a natural tendency and is critical when factoring in cognitive, social, and physical development (Deci & Ryan, 2000). The findings from this literature will be important in understanding how stress directly impacts college students' motivation.

ASSESSMENTS II *2:30-2:45 p.m., Conference Room A*

TITLE: An Examination of the Relationships Between Self-Regulation, Trauma and Substance Use Disorder

AUTHORS: Ashley Piegore, Montana Keig

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Maria Zayas

ABSTRACT:

The 2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimated that 21.5 million persons aged 12 or older were classified with Substance Use Disorder (SUD). One of the primary intervention methods for people with SUD is a court-mandated rehabilitation program (Sussman, Skara, & Ames, 2008).

Despite the myriad of treatment options available, the relapse rate for SUD remains between 40 percent and 60 percent (NIDA, 2014). The high percentage of individuals diagnosed with SUD in the United States suggests that attention should be allocated to improving clinical understanding of SUD and improving rehabilitative treatment. Recent studies suggest that past trauma exposure negatively impacts the course and severity of SUD. Individuals with SUD who report a trauma history have more severe patterns of substance use, are less likely to complete treatment, are more likely to relapse and are more likely to become injured or die because of substance use (Back et al., 2000; Tull et al., 2014).

Early trauma exposure has been shown to negatively impact the development of the prefrontal cortex. Symptoms of impaired prefrontal cortex development include dysregulation of the neurocircuitry related to executive functioning such as threat appraisal, low distress tolerance, reward processing and self-regulation, all of which impact the effectiveness of traditional SUD interventions (Camchong et al., 2014).

The proposed study is intended to explore the relationship between self-regulation, trauma and SUD in a court-mandated population. Through a correlational study, researchers expect to increase knowledge about the interaction between trauma and self-regulation with respect to SUD.

ASSESSMENTS II *2:50-3:05 p.m., Conference Room A*

TITLE: Counselor Education and Traumatic Brain Injury

AUTHORS: Joan Coles, Christina Bombelyn

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Josh Hall

ABSTRACT:

Approximately 1.7 million individuals sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) each year in the United States alone (CDC, 2006). These numbers have increased drastically over the past several years, as evidenced by a 29.1 percent increase in emergency department visits for TBI observed in the United States from 2006 to 2010 (Marin, Weaver, Yealy, and Mannix, 2014). With increasingly large numbers of individuals sustaining TBIs each year, it is vital that health-care professionals be adequately educated to meet these needs. Licensed professional counselors are likely to serve clients with a history of TBI and require training to provide the ideal standard of care. However, the vast majority of counselors receive no training on this topic. In order to assess licensed professional counselors' training and knowledge of TBI, researchers developed and will administer a brief survey assessing the following topics: previous training received on traumatic brain injuries, knowledge of risk factors, symptoms, treatments for TBI and use of knowledge of traumatic brain injury in working with clients. Surveys will be administered at conferences, professional association meetings and continuing-education events to approximately 150 licensed professional counselors in Georgia. This research will evaluate counselors' awareness and knowledge of TBI, training received by counselors regarding aspects of TBI, counselors' use of knowledge of TBI in working with clients and the need for curriculum modifications in the university training programs of licensed professional counselors.

ASSESSMENTS II *3:10-3:25 p.m., Conference Room A*

TITLE: Descriptive Epidemiology of Softball-related Knee Injuries at Brenau University (2007-2017): A Comparison to National Norms

AUTHORS: Mason Garland, Lauren Sanders

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Professor Jessi Shrout

ABSTRACT:

INTRODUCTION: Participation in athletics is an important part of college life for many university women. Despite the numerous health benefits, college athletes are at risk for injury. Softball players in particular are at a risk of knee injuries.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study is to compare injury surveillance data collected by the Brenau University softball team (2007-2017) to data compiled in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Injury Surveillance System – with specific focus placed on knee injuries. Conclusions drawn from this study will help assess current injury prevention approaches and can guide future interventions.

METHODOLOGY: Descriptive epidemiology. Data was available for the past 10 softball seasons at Brenau University (2007-2017).

RESULTS/EXPECTED OUTCOMES: Preliminary data suggests that during the time interval specified, there were a total of 13 knee injuries: five anterior cruciate ligament tears, four meniscus tears, two bursitis injuries and one knee sprain injury. Five of these injuries were classified as major and resulted in surgical repair. Two additional injuries may warrant surgical repair in the future. The study is still in progress, but we expect to see a higher number of knee injuries in the Brenau University softball program compared to national norms.

CONCLUSIONS: Unknown at this time, but if in fact players on the Brenau softball team are more susceptible to knee injury than the national average, then future studies will be needed to implement and assess injury-preventive efforts.

ASSESSMENTS III *3:30-3:45 p.m., Conference Room A*

TITLE: Initial Validation of a Self-Report Measure to Assess Executive Functioning in Children in the U.S.

AUTHOR: Dr. M. Louise Dunn

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this BUPOG-funded study was to examine the usefulness, reliability and validity of the Pictorial Interview of Children's Meta-Cognition & Executive Function (PIC-ME), a new self-report measure of executive functioning for school-aged children with and without ADHD or high-functioning autism. This measure was developed by researchers in Israel (Maeir et al., 2017). Presentation will include findings on validation of the PIC-ME in the United States, including its cultural validity and psychometric properties.

Executive dysfunction is a common problem among children with ADHD (Holmes et al., 2010) and children with autism (Chan, Shum, Touloupoulou, & Chan, 2009). These deficits impede the children's performance in everyday activities at school, at home and in the community.

Ecological tests, such as the Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function (BRIEF) (Gioia, Isquith, Guy, & Kenworthy, 2000), examine executive functioning in everyday tasks. These questionnaires are completed by a proxy, usually a parent. The parent's report offers information to assist with developing goals and interventions related to the child's performance at home, at school and in the community. Children's buy-in with goal development and intervention depends on their understanding of their problems with executive functioning in their daily activities. Obtaining children's input through a self-report measure would provide a way to get their perspectives on their abilities and performance in everyday activities.

ASSESSMENTS III *3:50-4:05 p.m., Conference Room A*

TITLE: Differences in Childhood Neurocognitive Disorders Evaluated Utilizing Static Memory Assessment

AUTHORS: Ariel Beasley, Chrishanna Reed, Anissa McIntosh, Marija Lacmanovic

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Lawrence J. Hall

ABSTRACT:

Research involving neuropsychological assessment of children with developmental disorders suggests these individuals are often being misdiagnosed or are neglected a diagnosis (Spiro, 2013). The current study is designed to utilize measures to identify information processing profile differences that can assist psychological professionals in their diagnosis of three neurodevelopmental disorders (dysphonetic dyslexia, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and autism spectrum disorder-high functioning). An assessment battery was administered to children ages 10-16 in a moderately sized, multicultural school district in Northeast Georgia. Existing data from 2006-2016 will be utilized comprising assessment results for four verbal memory assessments and will be coded by age, gender, race/ethnicity, assessment scores and diagnoses. Group differences the researchers hypothesize are as follows:

- Children experiencing ADHD symptoms will demonstrate statistically significant differences between more advanced immediate auditory memory and limited delayed auditory memory. There also will be statistically significant differences in recall between five trials of the same word list memory task.
- Children experiencing ASD-high functioning symptoms will demonstrate statistically significant deficits in semantic and working memory performance, on both an immediate and delayed memory basis. There will be no statistically significant differences between five recall trials of the word list memory task.
- Children experiencing dysphonetic dyslexia symptoms will show statistically significant differences between average working memory findings and limited semantic memory scores.

ASSESSMENTS III 4:10-4:25 p.m., Conference Room A

TITLE: The Effect of Emotional Self-Regulation Training Using Heart Rate Variability Biofeedback on Symptoms of ADHD in Elementary-Age Children – Pilot Study

AUTHORS: Haley Collins, Ally Martin, Amber Price, Marylynn Wade

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Kristen Green

ABSTRACT:

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder involves significant impairment in attention, hyperactivity, impulsivity, executive functioning deficits and low emotional self-regulation (American Psychiatric Association [APA], 2013; Hughes & Graham, 2002; Koole, 2009). Various existing treatments can be utilized in managing symptoms of ADHD including medications, psychotherapy, biofeedback or a combination of these (Hopkins, Sharma, Evans, & Bucci, 2009; National Institute of Mental Health, 2016). Previous researchers suggest that combining heart rate variability biofeedback with emotional self-regulation training may be another nontraditional treatment for those with ADHD (Knox, Lentini, & Aiton, 2011; Lloyd, Brett, & Wesnes, 2010). While some researchers have explored ways to incorporate emotional self-regulation training into treatment for children who have ADHD through the use of emWave® biofeedback, collectively they agree that additional studies are required to provide evidence for the effectiveness of this treatment (Knox, Lentini, & Aiton, 2011; Lloyd, Brett, & Wesnes, 2010). The current study aims to investigate the effectiveness of emotional self-regulation training in a group setting for elementary-age children. The researchers hypothesize that there will be an improvement from pretest to posttest in attention, hyperactivity, impulsivity, emotional regulation, cognitive regulation and resting HRV.

COMMUNITY
Service, Learning, Engagement

COMMUNITY 3:30-3:45 p.m., Conference Room C

TITLE: Health Literacy and Written Communication in Skilled Nursing and Subacute Facilities

AUTHORS: Christopher Galati, Julia Tabler-Zametin, Dr. Kay Graham

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Kay Graham

ABSTRACT:

BACKGROUND: Health literacy is a concern for older adults. Low health literacy can lead to adverse health outcomes. Therefore, practitioners should address health literacy with clients. There is limited research addressing occupational therapy (OT) practitioners' knowledge of health literacy and its implementation in written communication in SNF/subacute settings.

OBJECTIVES: Researchers explored practitioners' knowledge and current practices when using written communication with older adult clients in skilled nursing and subacute settings.

METHODOLOGY: This was a non-experimental, descriptive study of OT practitioners using an online survey.

RESULTS: OT practitioners reported having knowledge of and addressing health literacy with clients. Although knowledge and practice scores were higher for occupational therapy assistants than for occupational therapists, no reliable differences were noted between practitioners. Survey measures yielded good internal consistencies (Cronbach's $\alpha = 0.8$).

CONCLUSION: While the participants reported having knowledge and practice of health literacy, participants reported limited resources and training in this area.

COMMUNITY 3:50-4:05 p.m., Conference Room C

TITLE: The Relationships Between Psychosocial Stress, Self-regulation, Mindfulness, Empathy and Yoga: An Exploratory Study

AUTHORS: Tanya Acosta, Ivie Hall, Dr. Maria Zayas

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Maria Zayas

ABSTRACT:

A current widespread review of undergraduate college students revealed that a majority experienced substantial amounts of stress in the past year. Psychosocial stress, specifically, is rampant in our modern society. Research supports that one's ability to self-regulate and respond empathically serves to mitigate the negative effects of said psychosocial stress. Moreover, it is believed that yoga-based mindfulness can further assist in effectively managing stress and in yielding positive effects on one's ability to self-regulate.

The purpose of this project is two-fold: to garner a greater understanding of yoga's role in facilitating self-regulation and to explore this approach's effectiveness on reducing the levels of psychosocial stress in college students. Following an experimental study in which participants engaged in one of two types of personal-growth activities – a group doing psychoeducational personal-growth activities and a second group practicing yoga-based, mindfulness personal growth – the relationships between psychosocial stress, self-regulation, mindfulness and empathy will be examined.

It is expected that the yoga-based mindfulness personal-growth group will show a greater increase in self-regulation and a greater decrease in psychosocial stress than the group doing psychoeducational personal-growth activities. Both groups occurred on-ground in an undergraduate class in personal and social awareness. Researchers administered self-report measures before, during and after a four-week study. Data is being analyzed.

COMMUNITY 4:10-4:25 p.m., Conference Room C

TITLE: Running for Political Office: Ruminations and Reflections

AUTHOR: Dr. David Miller

COLLEGE: College of Business & Mass Communication

ABSTRACT:

Running for local political office takes time, commitment and money. A Brenau University business professor successfully ran for a North Georgia county commission position in the 2016 election.

Challenges include community preconceived notions about the candidate and the lack of political experience. Strategies for overcoming these challenges will be discussed and include the selection of a campaign committee, mapping out a six-month countywide get-out-the-vote campaign, fundraising and compliance with regulatory reporting requirements. Services provided by the county and revenue strategies required for the provision of those services will be discussed.

DISCOVERIES & INQUIRIES

Finding, Surprises, Illuminations, Formulating Queries Not Yet Answered,
Processes Leading to Investigations

DISCOVERIES & INQUIRIES 2:30-2:45 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 122*

TITLE: Managerial Risk-taking Behavior and Social Capital

AUTHOR: Dr. Humnath Panta

COLLEGE: College of Business & Mass Communication

ABSTRACT:

I investigate the impact of social capital on managerial risk-taking behavior using a large sample of publicly traded U.S. firms. I find a negative relation between managerial risk-taking and social capital. This study shows that social environment transmits valuable capital to individuals and thereby influences their decision-making process. The paper contributes to the finance literature by demonstrating social capital as an important determinant in the corporate decision-making process.

DISCOVERIES & INQUIRIES 2:50-3:05 *p.m., Physical Therapy Room 122*

TITLE: Natural vs. Pharmaceutical Antibiotics: A Test of the Inhibitory Effectiveness of Commonly Found Antibacterial Agents Against Select Microbial Species

AUTHOR: Samiro Mohamed

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Professor Jessi Shrout

ABSTRACT:

Alternative medicine and homeopathic health advocates often tout the advantages of “natural” remedies for bacterial infections. While it is true that certain herbs, spices, oils and plant extracts exhibit antibacterial properties, we wish to determine how these natural alternatives hold up against proven pharmaceutical antibiotics. We will isolate antibacterial extracts from several natural substances, then measure the inhibitory effectiveness of these extracts on selected bacteria.

Concurrently and independently, we will expose the same bacterial species to selected manufactured antibiotics and will measure the inhibitory effectiveness. Results of the two tests will be collected, analyzed and compared. Once initial conclusions are drawn, we will initiate a second round of tests comparing a cocktail of the most effective natural extracts against the manufactured antibiotics. We hypothesize that the mixture of multiple extracts will cause more bacterial inhibition than individual extracts; however, we surmise that extracts will not be as effective as commercially available antibiotics.

DISCOVERIES & INQUIRIES 3:10-3:25 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 122*

TITLE: Peripherally Induced Movement Disorder

AUTHOR: Dr. Mary Thigpen

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

ABSTRACT:

PATIENT HISTORY: Patient is a 69-year-old white male with a two-and-a-half-year history of right upper extremity (RUE) dysfunction after an accidental fall while ascending steps. Within a month, he developed uncontrollable tremors in his right arm and hand that were triggered by particular movements. He received traditional physical therapy resulting in mild improvement in RUE function.

PRIMARY CONCERN/CHIEF COMPLAINT: When first evaluated, he stated that his RUE was not painful, but that it was essentially useless. He demonstrated an RUE involuntary, rhythmical, oscillatory movement pattern that he can knowingly trigger with particular arm movements. Once the tremor initiated, he was unable to voluntarily stop it; he stopped the tremor by bringing his involved arm to his chest using his uninvolved arm and holding it there 10-20 seconds. A secondary complaint is a dystonic hand clenching without release that occurs during activities requiring a moderate to strong grip.

ASSESSMENT: This patient presented with an atypical motor dysfunction following a fall and resultant orthopedic injury. Peripheral neuropathies and radiculopathies have been documented. The diagnosis for his tremor had not been established. Clinical approaches have been described that address potential faulty neuroplasticity following traumatic injuries in those with trauma-induced dystonia, musician focal dystonia and chronic pain syndromes. The use of a behavior “shaping” approach, imagery and the use of a mirror box has been documented to have positive results in improving movement behaviors in these individuals. This approach requires an intense dosage of at least two hours a day to promote relearning in the nervous system.

G E N D E R
Biology, Sociology, Politics, Etc.

GENDER 1:30-1:45 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 122*

TITLE: The Effects of Presidential Politics on CEO Compensation

AUTHOR: Dr. Humnath Panta

COLLEGE: College of Business & Mass Communication

ABSTRACT:

This paper provides evidence for the effects of presidential politics on chief executive officer (CEO) compensation. We hypothesize that CEOs in publicly traded U.S. companies earn more compensation during Republican regimes because of the expectation of affirmative government policies. Consistent with our prediction, we find that CEO compensation is significantly higher during Republican presidencies than during Democratic presidencies, even after controlling for income-tax effect. Finally, incorporating the Senate and House of Representatives impact on CEO compensation in addition to presidencies validates our main proposition that CEO compensation is higher during Republican presidencies than during Democratic presidencies. We also examine the effects of presidential politics on non-CEO executive compensation and find that all components of non-CEO executive commendation are significantly higher during Republican presidencies than during Democratic presidencies.

GENDER 1:50-2:05 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 122*

TITLE: Power Punching the Glass Ceiling: A Role of the Women's College

AUTHORS: Emily Burgess, Katherine Fuller

COLLEGE: College of Business & Mass Communication

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Laura Morrow

ABSTRACT:

Traditionally, when the term “women’s college” is heard, one makes the assumption of a finishing school or a place to earn a “Mrs.” degree. However, women’s colleges today have adapted to provide opportunities for their alumnae that exceed even their coeducational counterparts. Even though many women’s colleges value their traditions created in the early 1900s, they have also been successful in not only adapting to the new role of preparing women for the workforce but also becoming an integral part of the growth of women’s leadership. After thorough analysis of available data and interviews with successful women’s college alumnae, it is easy to see the correlation between women’s college alumnae and the ability to “power punch the glass ceiling” among fields such as business, education and politics. These historical institutions offer unique experiences to encourage women to step up and lead as they face male-saturated leadership in the workplace. Through the use of unique opportunities and connections with women’s college alumnae, personal experiences create a platform for women to surpass the expectations set before them. This focus is not only what keeps women’s colleges alive, but it can also provide women with the tools they need to power punch the glass ceiling. This study provides an overview of the benefits of a women’s college and the opportunity for its significant impact on workforce trends.

TITLE: Relationship of Physical Limitation Perception and IADLS in Older Men

AUTHOR: Dr. Kathye Light

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

ABSTRACT:

Little is known about the relationship between the perception of health and the actual performance of instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) tasks in elderly people. IADL questionnaires are used frequently to assess older people's function, but many physical therapists find the questionnaires biased toward traditionally female role function. The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between the perception of the physical function component of the SF36 and the IADLs reported on the Frenchay IADL in a group of elderly men referred to a geriatric gait and balance clinic.

Data was collected on 120 males clients (age range 63-88 years, mean age 76 years). These clients were referred to the gait and balance clinic because of a history of falls and gait instability. A Pearson correlation was first calculated for the relationship between Frenchay variables and the total physical function SF-36 score. The 10 items that were moderately correlated were then entered into a forward stepwise linear regression model to identify IADL variables that account for most of the variation in the PF-SF 36 score.

The items that account for most of the variation were the following: household maintenance, social outings, walking outside more than 15 minutes, heavy housework and washing clothes. An interesting perspective is that the tasks of washing clothes, heavy housework and social outings are perceived as traditionally female tasks.

In the current study, we found the men that had assumed some of the more traditionally female duties within their homes perceived themselves as more physically capable than those men who had not.

GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS
Interactions Between Different Cultures

GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS 4-4:15 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 127*

TITLE: Christian Missionaries in Japan: A Story of Persecution?

AUTHOR: Laura Burke

COLLEGE: College of Fine Arts & Humanities

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Gnimbin Ouattara

ABSTRACT:

In the 19th century, the Japanese government persecuted Christian missionaries by imprisoning Japanese citizens who helped them. The government introduced an edict ordering that any of their citizens who aided Christian priests, derisively called *bateren*, would be imprisoned in the city of Omura on the coast of Japan near Nagasaki. The same edict labeled missionaries as criminals and reserved the same fate for them along with “other criminal foreigners” at Omura. Scholars such as J.A.B. Jongeneel noticed in 2011 that Dutch ships and Chinese junks could make annual visits to Dejima Island off Nagasaki only if they did not carry any missionaries. Some Japanese citizens also independently attacked missionaries. Kevin Michael Doak published an article, also in 2011, which documented instances of violence against missionaries, including Japanese protesters throwing stones at Catholic sisters on the road or breaking windows of school buildings. Still, this portrayal of the Japanese reception of Christian missionaries seems incomplete. How did Christian missionaries and the Japanese people interact in the 19th century? This paper will explain how each group encountered the other and the hopes and fears that resulted from this encounter.

GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS 4:15-4:30 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 127*

TITLE: Black Minorities and Majorities in the Mediterranean: A Paradox of Encounter

AUTHOR: Dr. Gnimbin Ouattara

COLLEGE: College of Fine Arts & Humanities

ABSTRACT:

There is no definitive number of blacks who lived in the Mediterranean world from antiquity to the early modern period. But most scholars agree that these blacks consistently lived as minorities among the dominant races of the Mediterranean. How did this black Mediterranean diaspora relate to these dominant races? A few travelers of the Mediterranean such as Ibn Battuta or the Portuguese explorers sent by Prince Henry the Navigator lived briefly in Africa among black majorities in the early modern period. How did these black majorities interact with them? How do these two sets of relationships of black minorities and black majorities with the Mediterranean people compare? These are questions that this paper investigates. Using a multidisciplinary approach to these interactions, the paper will attempt to overcome the problem of “African sources,” as it reconstructs the story of these encounters from the perspective of the black Africans rather than the Mediterranean writers.

HONORS PANEL
Research of Junior and Senior Honors Students

HONORS PANEL 2:30-4 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 127*

TITLE: Processing Samples for the Study of Diet-tissue Discrimination Factors in Arctic Marine Mammals with the Georgia Aquarium

AUTHOR: Erin Henderson

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Carolyn Giberson

ABSTRACT:

Brenau University has the amazing opportunity to work with the Georgia Aquarium and aid in the processing of samples for estimating diet-tissue discrimination factors in arctic marine mammals. This research involves stable isotope analysis (SIA), which is a well-established tool in ecological studies. It assesses trophic interactions and energy flow through ecosystems and can quantify animal movements and habitat-use and provide time-integrated information of assimilated foods for diet reconstruction. This is an important study because to further advance the application of stable isotopes to ecology research, it is imperative to determine the diet-tissue discrimination factors of numerous tissues from multiple marine mammals (specifically beluga whales and harbor seals in this case). For my part in this project, in working with BY370, I will be processing multiple samples in preparation for SIA and outlining this process and possible implications of the overall study for the spring research symposium.

HONORS PANEL 2:30-4 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 127*

TITLE: Blurred Gender Lines, Clear Pay Gap

AUTHOR: Ashley Childs

COLLEGE: College of Fine Arts & Humanities

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Winter Elliott

ABSTRACT:

I will be presenting on the topic of gender in the political aspect. Women have been pushing for equal rights for more than 100 years. Although we have come a long way, women are still not treated as equal to men. My presentation will be focusing on the wage gap between working men and women. Studies show that men are still paid more to the dollar than women for the same amount of work. In my presentation I will talk about studies done in the last five years that show how the wage gap happens and why it keeps happening. I will also show how resumes are looked at differently just because of the name at the top. We are living in a world where the gender lines are starting to blur, but I believe for this to fully happen, genders have to be treated equally. We can continue this equality by filling in the wage gap.

HONORS PANEL 2:30-4 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 127*

TITLE: Dance, Monkey, Dance: Artists and Politics

AUTHOR: Daniela Santiago

COLLEGE: College of Fine Arts & Humanities

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Winter Elliott

ABSTRACT:

Due to the recent election, people of all walks of life are becoming more and more vocal about our current political climate. Artists, musicians and actors are using their voices to make bold political statements through their art or through social media. This has been met with many Americans saying that artists have no place to be speaking about politics, following up with the old, “We pay you to perform, not talk about politics.” However, audiences may not be aware that the job of a performer is to comment on the human condition through their work. Aided by the use of testimonies and anecdotes from performers, the presentation will guide the audience into a greater appreciation of what it means to be a performer whose career is based off communicating empathy to audiences. And in this moment in history, empathy on the political platform is crucial to unifying our nation.

HONORS PANEL 2:30-4 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 127*

TITLE: The Benefits of Co-Teaching

AUTHOR: Amanda Smith

COLLEGE: College of Fine Arts & Humanities

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Winter Elliott

ABSTRACT:

Most elementary classrooms are still the “teaching ground” for a single educator who is charged with teaching the curriculum, managing the classroom and attending to any special needs for their students. What happens when a classroom has two teachers? Co-teaching, the use of two teachers in a classroom, is a concept that has gained support from both general and special educators in recent years. However, when there are two teachers with different teaching strategies and strengths, how do you create a co-teaching experience that provides academic diversity for the students in the classroom? Co-teaching is not a classroom experience embraced by the majority of educators because they want classrooms for themselves, yet research has shown co-teaching can not only positively benefit the teachers but also benefit the students and the parents in many different ways. The use of this teamwork approach within the classroom can help IEP, 504 and nondisabled students, as well as provide parents with daily information on how their students are performing in the classroom.

HONORS PANEL 2:30-4 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 127*

TITLE: The Maasai Tribe: Gender and Peace

AUTHOR: Bridgett Tiller

COLLEGE: College of Fine Arts & Humanities

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Winter Elliott

ABSTRACT:

In my research paper, I will provide a broad discussion of eastern Africa and its general conflicts. I will then focus on the Maasai tribe that resides in parts of east Africa including Uganda and Tanzania and one of the many ways in which they encounter conflict. Specifically, I will discuss the abuse, rape and silent voices of the women in their community. I will look at two case studies that explain how women in their community try to promote peace, whether through religion or by taking in escaped victims. I will then discuss how the Maasai people have historically found ways to earn income, both directly and indirectly.

Finally, I will touch on current and future projects the Maasai people are pursuing to keep peace in the community, such as making peace agreements and by women having their voices heard.

INNOVATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS
Genius, “The New,” Change for the Better

INNOVATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS 1:30-1:45 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 127*

TITLE: Down Syndrome in the Workplace: Exploring Benefits, Challenges and Training Opportunities

AUTHORS: Alyssa Eblen, Abby Cape, Bridgett Tiller

COLLEGE: College of Business & Mass Communication

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Laura Morrow

ABSTRACT:

Down syndrome affects one in 700 babies per year. With modern medicines, therapy and an increased public awareness, people with Down syndrome are now entering the workplace and living their lives to the fullest. Many with Down syndrome have excellent social skills, making them great candidates for jobs requiring social interaction. Their love for people opens many opportunities for the workplace, given the proper training and respect. They are also often very knowledgeable and have advanced literacy, learning best through visuals (Development and Learning).

There are also developmental challenges associated with Down syndrome. For example, children with Down syndrome have delayed motor skills that can affect their cognitive and oral development and they tend to have problems with short-term memory (Development and Learning). In order to cater to individuals with Down syndrome in the workplace, they should be given training in a format they can understand and one that will give them the same opportunities as other employees. By increasing the knowledge and awareness of these needs and creating training programs for businesses, people with Down syndrome will be given more opportunities to enter and succeed in the workplace. This will, in turn, increase the positivity and general mood of a workplace because of their beautiful personalities and love for life. In this study, we will focus on the strengths, challenges and tangible ways to address the challenges that Down syndrome individuals may have in the workplace.

INNOVATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS 1:50-2:05 *p.m., Physical Therapy Room 127*

TITLE: Factors that Affect Group Work: Therapeutic Alliance and Group Cohesion in Substance Abuse Treatment and Personal Growth Groups

AUTHORS: Nadya Clontz, Alexandria Gibbs

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Gary Bauman

ABSTRACT:

Elevated levels of therapeutic alliance and group cohesion have been linked to positive treatment outcome in both individual and group psychotherapy (Connors et al., 2000; Gaston, Marmar, Thompson, & Gallagher 1988; Meirer et al., 2005; Ogrodniczuk & Piper, 2003; Taube-Schiff et al., 2007; Urbanoski et al., 2012; Zilcha-Mano et al., 2016). Factors such as personality and perceived social support outside of therapy may have an impact on the development and maintenance of both therapeutic alliance and group cohesion. Research has demonstrated the impact of positive and negative personality factors on the development of therapeutic alliance and group cohesion (Kushner, Quilty, Uliaszek, McBride, & Bagby, 2016; Ogrodniczuk & Piper, 2003; Spek et al., 2008). High levels of perceived social support outside of therapeutic settings have also been found to influence the development of therapeutic alliance and group cohesion (Fraser, 2000; Keller et al., 2010). While all of these factors are associated with positive treatment outcome, there appears to be a gap in the literature incorporating therapeutic alliance, group cohesion, personality and perceived social support into one consolidated study. This study seeks to examine variables such as personality and perceived social support to determine their relationship with the development of therapeutic alliance and group cohesion. Understanding the influence of these factors may aid clinicians to be better equipped to establish therapeutic alliance and cohesion within groups to help facilitate positive treatment outcomes for clients.

INNOVATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS 2:10-2:25 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 127*

TITLE: The Effects of Simulated End-of-Life Scenario on Nursing Students' Perception on Death and Dying

AUTHORS: Professor Jane Buffington, Professor Melissa McDowell, Dr. Sandra Allen

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

ABSTRACT:

The concepts of death and dying are integrated into the NCLEX test undergraduate nursing students must pass to obtain a registered nurse license. In April 2016, the NCSBN adjusted test questions to include a heightened focus on spirituality. An interprofessional simulated end-of-life scenario was performed using high-fidelity mannequins. Two research questions were:

- “Will a simulated end-of-life scenario using high-fidelity mannequins change nursing students’ perceptions and care of a dying patient?”
- “Will a simulated end-of-life scenario using high-fidelity mannequins promote respectful patient care following death?”

Two adult high-fidelity simulators were used to run the end-of-life scenario. Junior and senior undergraduate nursing students participated in the simulation exercise. Graduate psychology students from Brenau University assisted with the debriefing. Brenau students from the drama department were assigned supporting roles. All groups were coordinated with Brenau professors as part of the students’ learning experiences. Three different tools were used to understand the impact of the simulation experience on students:

- A pre-test was given on educational content to ensure each student was prepared from an educational requirement for the end-of-life experience.
- Gather-analyze-summarize (GAS) debriefing model.
- Post-test end-of-life tool to capture qualitative impact with demographic data and overall simulation experience impact on perception of caring for a dying patient.

The research adhered to International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning (INACSL) standards.

INTERVENTIONS

Impose Upon, Interfere, Alter a Course of Action

INTERVENTIONS I *2:30-2:45 p.m., Conference Room B*

**TITLE: Using Art Integration: “If One Can Anyone Can. All You Gotta Do Is Try.”
– Faith Ringgold**

AUTHOR: Mary Erna Scovel

COLLEGE: College of Education

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Karen Henman

ABSTRACT:

I will share the results of teaching a lesson to fifth-grade Spanish-speaking students in San Miguel de Allende during a Brenau University globalization experience. The objective of the lesson was to have students be self-expressed in describing through the art medium of collage who they want to become. I achieved this objective by sharing the art and art process of Faith Ringgold, using both posters and technology. I provided a brief discussion of collage technique, including process, symbolism and telling one’s own story, which in this case was the students’ wishes for their futures. Students then produced a piece of art using the supplies I provided. After everyone’s “quilt square” was assembled into one large piece of art, several students shared, talking about their art, the symbolism and how it related to who they wanted to become.

The process in which students engage by creating art and sharing themselves in art and discussion during our class was a metaphor for a potential relationship that exists for each of them within a world community. Learning to communicate and share within the world community broadened their individual world, making it richer and full of possibility. Learning to speak English is one way San Miguel students can expand their relationship with their world community and open doors for dialogue, understanding and lifelong learning.

INTERVENTIONS I *2:50-3:05 p.m., Conference Room B*

TITLE: Exploring Older Adult Self-Efficacy Following Participation in a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program

AUTHOR: Dr. Kay Graham

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

ABSTRACT:

OBJECTIVES: The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) has a short segment on fall prevention, but its impact on fall-related self-efficacy (SE) has been minimally investigated. This study explored the perceived impact of CDSMP participation on fall-related SE as compared to self-efficacy to manage chronic conditions (SEMCD) and older adults' understanding of relationships between these types of self-efficacy.

METHODS: A sequential, mixed-method study explored perceptions (n=36) regarding SE using the SEMCD scale and the Fall Efficacy Scale (Falle Scale) at baseline and post-CDSMP participation and 15 semistructured interviews with participants 65 and older.

RESULTS: Scale data and interviews indicated that SEMCD and fall-related SE were related-but-distinct concepts. However, following CDSMP, participants perceived a broader sense of SE, that of SE to manage health that influenced both types of SE.

DISCUSSION: Participants perceived CDSMP SE benefits that were broader than SECMD or fall-related SE. It is recommended that these relationships be further explored.

INTERVENTIONS I 3:10-3:25 p.m., Conference Room B

TITLE: 2016 Pediatric Health Indicators in the Real Interactive Summer Experience (RISE) Program, Gainesville, Georgia

AUTHORS: Dr. Gale Hansen Starich, Professor Sandra Davis, Professor Sheral Page

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

ABSTRACT:

The RISE program in Gainesville, Georgia, is designed to limit learning loss for low-income children through interactive educational experiences. College of Education students design, conduct and evaluate the program under the supervision of the education faculty. The 2016 RISE program included an evaluation of pediatric health indicators through measurements of waist circumference and calculation of the body mass index (BMI). When calculating BMI distributions, five BMI classifications were utilized: (1) Underweight, (2) Normal, (3) Overweight, (4) Obese and (5) Overweight or Obese. The results of the waist circumference and BMI evaluation were:

BMI Category	All children	%	Females	%	Males	%
Number of children assessed	107		51	47.7%*	56	52.3%*
Age (years)	7.9		7.7	-2.5%*	8.0	+1.3%*
Weight (pounds)	77.6		70.9	-8.6%*	83.7	+7.9%*
Waist circumference (inches)	26.7		25.4	-4.9%*	27.9	+4.5%*
BMI (mean)	21.0		19.7	-6.2%*	22.1	+5.2%*
Underweight BMI (< 5th %ile)	2	1.9%	2	3.9%**	0	0**
Normal BMI (5th - 85th %ile)	44	41.1%	25	49.0%**	19	33.9%**
Overweight (86th - 95th %ile)	22	20.6%	12	23.5%**	26	46.4%**
Obese BMI (≥ 95th %ile)	39	36.5%	12	23.5%**	10	17.9%**
Overweight or Obese BMI (≥ 85th %ile)	61	57.1%	24	47.0%**	36	64.3%**

* = percentage within whole group

** = percentage within gender group

When female and male students were compared, the males were older, weighed more, had larger waist circumferences and higher BMIs. BMI was examined within gender groups. There was a higher percentage of Underweight and Normal BMI female students then compared to male students. There was a lower percentage of Overweight female students and a higher percentage of Obese female students when compared to the male group. Using the federally mandated Overweight or Obese category, the male gender group had a 17.3 percent higher incidence in this category than female students. Regardless of gender group, there was a very high percentage in this study group who were in unhealthy weight groups. These results are consistent with pediatric data collected in Hall County, Georgia, and public health data reported for the state of Georgia. Further research will include more controlled intake/exercise monitoring and supplemental nutritional education, which is slated for the summer 2017 RISE program.

INTERVENTIONS II *1:30-2:25 p.m., Conference Room B*

TITLE: Who Are The Real Animals: Us or Them?

AUTHORS: Gloria Clark, Katherine Fuller, Jessica Jarrett, Emma Johnson,
Kyle Leineweber, Kirstin Ray, Jasmine Rolle, Elizabeth Summerall

COLLEGE: College of Fine Arts & Humanities

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Ken Frank

ABSTRACT:

Students enrolled in PO 340 Environmental Law and Policy will examine current environmental issues and solutions. The impact of human activity on biodiversity, invasive species, ocean pollution and waste disposal will be discussed. The impact of current laws and proposed changes in the law are evaluated.

We will also analyze potential obstacles to solutions for these problems. These issues were chosen because other environmental issues such as global warming and the Keystone Pipeline dominate the headlines and these additional issues need to be researched and examined.

INTERVENTIONS III *3:30-3:45 p.m., Conference Room B*

TITLE: University Collaboration with a Middle School Academy: Activity Based Learning's Role in the Development of Critical Thinking and Stress Management Skills

AUTHORS: Krista Laren Mumpower, Wyatt George

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Julie Battle

ABSTRACT:

This project, based on the scientist-practitioner model and the ideal of integration of education with community outreach, involves a partnership with a Hall County school-of-choice middle school academy (Earhart-Edison [E2] Exploration Academy) that focuses on the STEM core concepts. The E2 Academy is housed at North Hall Middle School. The rationale for the project is that the integration of social science activities focused on various topics (empathy development, stress reduction, cultural diversity, career exploration and the dangers of drinking or texting and driving) will benefit the middle school students in several ways. The goal of the intervention is to increase critical-thinking skills and decrease test anxiety in middle school students. Eighteen middle school participants (55.6 percent [n=10] female) engaged in 15 psychoeducational activities three times per week over the course of a seven-week period. Following each seven-week period, a set of new participants was rotated into the program. The Westside Test Anxiety Scale and the California Measure of Mental Motivation were administered both pre-treatment and post-treatment in order to measure whether there were changes in critical thinking and test anxiety from pre-test to post-test. Data will be analyzed, and results will be discussed.

INTERVENTIONS III *3:50-4:05 p.m., Conference Room B*

TITLE: The Relation of Social and Emotional Learning to Empathy and Critical Thinking Development

AUTHORS: Amy Jacques, Olivia Wiesmayer, Joshua Ferguson

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Julie Battle

ABSTRACT:

The study involved an intervention with 18 seventh-grade students (ages 12-13) intended to increase critical-thinking and empathy skills. Researchers met with students three mornings each week (for a total of about two hours each week) for seven weeks to conduct interactive psychology-based activities. Students completed pre- and post-tests on empathy and critical thinking. It was hypothesized that students would demonstrate an increase in empathy and critical-thinking skills (including mental focus, creative problem solving, learning orientation, cognitive integrity and scholarly rigor). It was further hypothesized that there would be a correlation between the change in the levels of empathy and critical thinking (five scales). Results indicated there was not a significant change in empathy ($t(17) = -.107, p = .916$). The only critical-thinking scale that demonstrated a significant change was scholarly rigor ($t(17) = -2.294, p = <.05$). There were no significant correlations between the change in empathy and the change in critical thinking on any of the five subscales. Despite the small sample size and lack of control group, this study points to a possible connection between a school intervention in psychology-based activities in social and emotional learning (SEL) and one aspect of critical thinking. This study points to the value of exploring this further. The researchers believe that it would also be worth exploring the connection between empathy and an SEL intervention, as well as using a different empathy measure.

INTERVENTIONS III *4:10-4:25 p.m., Conference Room B*

TITLE: The Comparison of Curriculum Systems in Early-childhood Education Major Area
Between Chinese University and American University

AUTHOR: Xin Yan Qiu

COLLEGE: College of Education

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Tommye Thomas

ABSTRACT:

The researcher will compare two universities' curriculum systems based on different scientific research methods, including the critical review of literature, comprehensive study of curriculum systems from two sample universities, interviews with educators and students, and effective questionnaires. In addition, the researcher will write a weekly journal as personal material to enhance the subjective aspects of research. After collecting all of the information, the researcher will find the common points and differences of both curriculum systems. Eventually, the researcher will put forward reasonable recommendations of curriculum systems in early childhood education majors for both universities.

JUSTICE & ETHICS

Right and Wrong, Legality and the Law, Correction

JUSTICE & ETHICS 3:30-3:45 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 122*

TITLE: Factors Related to Recantation in Child Sexual Abuse Interviews

AUTHORS: Amelia Hays, Stephanie Moniz, Maria Perdomo Medina

COLLEGE: College of Health Sciences

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Julie Battle

ABSTRACT:

This study aimed to investigate the factors related to recantation in child sexual abuse. The participants in this study included approximately 800 children ages 3-18 with different ethnicities. Archival forensic interview files from 2011 to 2014 placed at the Edmondson-Telford Center were reviewed in order to establish characteristics of the victims and perpetrators in these cases. Child sexual abuse was assessed using the Forensic Interview Chart Review Protocol (FICRP). The relationship between victim and perpetrator, the type of abuse and the length of time between the onset of abuse and disclosure was also assessed.

JUSTICE & ETHICS 3:50-4:05 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 122*

TITLE: Where in the World Does Business Ethics Fit In? Globalization and Corporate Social Responsibility

AUTHOR: Dr. James Sennett

COLLEGE: College of Business & Mass Communication

ABSTRACT:

Globalization is one of the three pervasive issues that have changed the shape of business ethics over the past two generations (along with high technology and workplace diversity). With the growth of multinational corporations, international trade, etc., many issues of social morality seldom considered in business ethics a half century ago are now front-and-center and highly controversial.

This presentation will describe and analyze several of the keystone issues in this development. These include: moral relativism and the exportation of ethical norms; home country vs. host country expectations and behaviors; and identical vs. comparable conditions in evaluating host country manufacturing. Each of these issues (and possibly one or two more) will include at least an overview of the issue, an introduction to the primary alternative positions on dealing with the issue and a preliminary assessment of the proper approach to the issue.

Although the presentation is geared specifically to global ethics in the realm of business, most of the issues raised, principles applied and conclusions reached have more general or cross-disciplinary applications as well. Whenever possible, these expansive applications will be pointed out.

JUSTICE & ETHICS 4:10-4:25 p.m., *Physical Therapy Room 122*

TITLE: Academic Honesty Challenges in Online Graduate Education

AUTHORS: Dr. William Laing, Dr. Gale Starich

COLLEGE: College of Business & Mass Communication and College of Health Sciences

ABSTRACT:

As more schools enter online education, there is a need to address some concerns. Chief among these concerns is the quality of the online education, specifically academic honesty. Academic honesty is a foundational principle of our education system. Likewise, academic honesty is no different in an online educational environment. Among the questions faculty have are:

- How do we know if the student receiving the degree is the person that earned the degree?
- Was the work completed by the student in question or was it plagiarized?
- Was the academic honesty issue intentional or not?

The list of concerns can go on from there.

So, what will you get out of this session? First, we will look at the challenges with academic honesty. We will identify worrisome assignments. Specifically, we will target graduate work. Second, we will determine how faculty can recognize the student behaviors that tip off faculty. Third, we will present some methods that can be used to uphold academic honesty standards. The use of policies, teaching and technology can be used to hold students accountable. Finally, we will wrap up with an open discussion among session participants about what steps are being taken to ensure academic honesty in their departments.

TRENDS & TRANSFORMATIONS

What Is / Was Happening, Group Considerations and Beliefs,
Dramatic or Protracted Changes, Metamorphoses

TRENDS & TRANSFORMATIONS I *1:30-1:45 p.m., Conference Room C*

TITLE: Does Globalization Pose a Threat to Economic Prosperity?

AUTHORS: Razia Hussaini, Anazjah Mayes, Mayes Sanford

COLLEGE: College of Business & Mass Communication

FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. Fassil Fanta

ABSTRACT:

This research investigates whether globalization promotes economic growth in the U.S., Mexico and Canada using panel data from 1970-2013. We use an index of globalization constructed by Dreher (2006) to capture the extent of globalization. The index consists of three main dimensions: economic integration, social integration and political integration. We also use real gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate as a measure of economic performance. To analyze the impact of globalization on economic growth, we use an ordinary least square (OLS) regression model. Our preliminary results indicate that globalization positively affects economic growth, which is one of the key macroeconomic indicators of economic performance. Our results contribute to the ongoing public dialogue on globalization.

TRENDS & TRANSFORMATIONS I *1:50-2:05 p.m., Conference Room C*

TITLE: U.S. Healthcare in a Post-ACA World

AUTHOR: Dr. David Miller

COLLEGE: College of Business & Mass Communication

ABSTRACT:

The Democrat-controlled Congress passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA or “Obamacare”), which then-President Barack Obama signed into law on March 23, 2010. The new Republican-controlled Congress and President Donald Trump have pledged to “repeal and replace” the ACA, but the GOP has not settled on a single replacement strategy that would cover those newly insured primarily through Medicaid expansion. There are four primary GOP plans to replace the ACA, and this presentation will briefly review those plans. Most share similar provisions, including tax credits to consumers, expansion of health savings accounts and the reform of Medicaid. However, differences exist in the details of whether tax credits are based on age or income, where to cap the tax exclusion on employer-sponsored plans and whether to turn Medicaid into a block-grant program or per capita allotment.

TRENDS & TRANSFORMATIONS I 2:10-2:25 p.m., Conference Room C

TITLE: *Southern Hospitality: A Concise History of a Southern Institution*

AUTHOR: Professor Claudia Wilburn

COLLEGE: College of Fine Arts & Humanities

ABSTRACT:

In spring 2017, Brenau University is presenting *Southern Hospitality*, a gallery exhibition to showcase works in the permanent collection purchased from the Rolling Stone Press of Atlanta, Georgia. This presentation will be a concise history of the Rolling Stone Press. The sources include interviews and recollections of the artists whose visions were brought to life by the press and the artisans who worked alongside Wayne Kline to help create the works in the exhibit. This presentation will also place Rolling Stone Press within the greater scope of arts and culture of the American arts and, specifically, the Southeastern art world during 1984-2005.

TRENDS & TRANSFORMATIONS II 2:30-2:45 p.m., *Conference Room C*

TITLE: The Future of Curatorial Practice in Art Museums

AUTHOR: Ashley Motes

COLLEGE: College of Fine Arts & Humanities

FACULTY ADVISOR: Professor Lori Gann-Smith

ABSTRACT:

The role of the art museum curator has developed from an academic and custodial occupation at the beginning of the Restoration to a more community and service-based position as we progress into the 21st century. Developments in museum practice, technology, programming and the variety of media being used by artists suggest that changes are continuing to happen in regard to curatorial practice. However, there has been little exploration into where these changes may lead. This paper summarizes the history of the role of the art curator, identifies recent trends and disruptors in the evolution of curatorial practice and uses this research to predict the future of art museum curators and curatorial practice.

TRENDS & TRANSFORMATIONS II 2:50-3:05 p.m., *Conference Room C*

TITLE: U.S and Global Economic Prospects in Uncertain Times

AUTHORS: DeMichia Gandy, Professor Fassil Fanta

COLLEGE: College of Business & Mass Communication

ABSTRACT:

This paper presents the U.S. and global economic outlooks for 2017 and beyond. The economic forecasts include economic growth and other key macroeconomic indicators. It also discusses major new political, social and economic policy developments that shape the world economy and its forecast. Finally, it examines effective business strategies in the face of all-time high economic policy uncertainty.

TRENDS & TRANSFORMATIONS II 3:10-3:25 p.m., Conference Room C

TITLE: Post-9/11 Cold War Nostalgia: *The Americans*, *Deutschland 83* and the International Humanization of Conflict

AUTHOR: Dr. Ian Peters

COLLEGE: College of Business & Mass Communication

ABSTRACT:

Since 9/11, the media landscape has revived the iconic Cold War narrative that the “enemy” can be anyone – including your neighbors. In recent years, we have seen an increasing number of original programs and films, in the U.S. and abroad, that explore Cold War themes while recreating that era. While films like the critically acclaimed *Bridge of Spies* revisit an early period during the conflict, shows like AMC’s *The Americans* and RTL’s *Deutschland 83* (D83) instead focus on the Cold War’s final years in the 1980s. Several reviewers have noted thematic similarities between these shows: their era and focus on the infiltration of the West by an Eastern agent. However, these two texts present us with a distinctly unique parallel that has not been fully explored: how a fully Western nation (the U.S.) and a divided country (Germany) use this era to reflect their own distinct visions of the Cold War as contemporary commentary. Both shows attempt to humanize the other side in ways that are not only synonymous with their political history but also their distinct cultural history. Building upon existing scholarship within media, material culture and Cold War studies, this paper discusses how these shows embody a current trend in the media landscape it identifies as post-9/11 Cold War nostalgia. This trend revisits one of the most terrifying moments of our recent past as a way of coping with the current global war on terror. Looking back on these times helps us to realize that we will make it through this current conflict. These shows allow us to humanize our enemies and remind us that we are all people with similar hopes, dreams and fears.

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