

NINTH ANNUAL

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM



Ninth Annual Research Symposium

History and Vision for the Brenau University Research Symposium

The Brenau University Research Symposium has its roots in both the Ivester College of Health Sciences and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Research celebrations. In 2009, the Ivester College of Health Sciences began to host a research poster presentation after its graduate hooding event each April. The events were held in the 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 Ivester College of Health Sciences hosted the first Brenau University Research Symposium, which was open to all but focused primarily on both under-graduate and graduate research within the college. With the advent of the Sidney O. Smith Jr. Graduate School, it seemed time appropriate to pull all the research events being held in April into a university-wide research event. In 2013, the Research Symposium held its inaugural university-wide event. The keynote address was shared by all colleges and featured a faculty presenter from each. The topic was novel approaches to problems in health care. Over 60 papers were presented representing disciplines from across the university.

While we were unable to hold the ninth annual Brenau University Research Symposium to the Covid-19 outbreak, we want to share the abstracts submitted by our faculty and students in an effort to showcase the research being done at Brenau. These abstracts highlight the work of our students and faculty and we received submissions for 74 presentations from 124 individuals representing three colleges and the library. Research on a varied range of topics was submitted, including literature and the power of the written word, the history and development of fashion, student inventions, clinical psychology, physical therapy and community outreach. Please take a moment to read the following abstracts for a taste of the fascinating work being done by our students and faculty.

PANELS

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2. Dehumanization in Cinema: Universal Pictures' 1931 Frankenstein
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6. The Misrepresentation of Women's Athletics in Mainstream Media
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STAND ALONE PRESENTATIONS

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2. Personal Growth Groups and College Adjustment
3. The Role of Coping Strategies in Perceived Stress and Life Satisfaction in College Students

Behavioral Intervention Studies

4. Attitudes and Behaviors Towards Drinking and Driving and Texting while Driving
5. Fitness, Health and Nutrition in Suburban Police Officers
6. The Effects of Inhaled Lavender on the Sleep of Night Shift Workers

Community Outreach

7. A Look into Public Outreach and Intervention to Create Dementia Friendly Communities
8. Festival de Bombas de Agua: Community Partnership Health Screening in Rural Georgia
9. IGNITE: Engaging Children in Health and Wellness

Evolution of Female Fashion

10. Blooming into the 19th Century
11. The Evolution Process and Reason of Female Clothing Before the 19th Century
12. The First and Last Tubular Cycle

Historic Period Inspired Fashion

13. How We Made Up History: Following Cosmetics Across the Decades
14. Italian Renaissance Takes on the Runway
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Perspectives in Literature

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17. Four Different Perspectives in The Sound and the Fury
18. The Dystopian Society Under Capitalism and Socialism- the Contrast between 1984 and Snow Crash

Reclaiming Entertainment

19. Banana Dance: Body Politics and Black Feminist Identity Through the Lens of Josephine Baker
20. Octavia Butler's Xenogenesis Series: Sexual and Reproductive Oppression from Science Fiction to The Real World
21. Space Barbie, the Final Frontier: Avatar Cosmetics and Virtual 'Dress-up' as Play in MMORPGs

Studying Brenau

22. Assessment of the Perceptions of Advanced Practice Nursing Students on the Importance of Breast Health Screening
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24. The Effect of Personality Traits, Resilience, and Spirituality on the Attitude and Performance Towards Caregiving in a Child-Death Simulation Among Nursing Students

The Asian-American Immigrant Voice in Literature

25. Fragmented Narrative and Visual Elements in Asian American Literature
26. The Healing and Community-building Power of Storytelling in The Bonesetter's Daughter
27. The Unconscious Impact of Mother Tongue on Chinese-American Writers

The Basis of Behavior

28. Parenting Practices and Internalizing and Externalizing Behaviors in Children and Adolescents
29. Pornographic Consumption, Emotional Intelligence, and Traditional Masculine Behaviors: A Study of Potential Predictor Variables of Male Sexual Attitudes Towards Women
30. The Role of Mentalizing and Shame-proneness in Disordered Eating among College Students: An Exploratory Study

The Power of the Written Word

31. Activating Transnational Advocacy Networks: Ida B. Wells and Mainstreaming Antilynching
32. Africa in the Declarations of Independence of America, Liberia, Congo, and Cote D'Ivoire
33. American Literature and Journalism

Improving the College Experience

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36. The Perceived Professional and Personal Value of Physical Therapy Students Participation in an Interdisciplinary Service Trip: A Focus Group Pilot Analysis

What Fashion Says about Society

37. A Man's World: How Men's Clothing Created a Fashionable Caste System that Signified Socioeconomic Status and Political Power in Ancient Rome Years 44BCE-395CE
38. Children's Fashion During the Civil War Era

ADHD

39. An Epidemiological Study of Undergraduate Students at Brenau University Experiencing Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
40. Social Functioning in Adolescents with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder- Inattentive presentation (ADHD-I) and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder - Combined presentation (ADHD-C)

Inclusion

41. Experiences and Echoes in Inclusion: The Lived Experience
42. Intellectual Hospitality in the Academy Through the Approach of C. S. Lewis

Influencing the Economy

43. Presidential Tweets, Stock Returns and Sectoral Performance
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POSTERS

1. A Comparative Phenotypic Analysis of Bacteria Collected from Paper Currency and Bank Cards at The Women's College of Brenau University
2. Analyzing the Participation of a Recreational Athlete with an Intellectual Disability
3. Can Music Effect Activity, Eating Habits, and Behavior of Betta Fish?
4. Changes in Perceived Self-Efficacy in Physical Therapy Students During Early Clinical Experiences
5. Chronic Pain: PT's Beliefs and Attitudes
6. Functional Movement Screen, the Athlete Sleep Screening Questionnaire and Nutrition as a Predictor of Injury Rate in Female Collegiate Athletes
7. Getting it off My Chest: Benefit of the Research Interview for Caregivers
8. Increasing Walking Distance Through Participation in a Community Running Program: A Case Study
9. Individuals' Reported Misophonia Symptoms after Use of Electronic Auditory Stimulation Effect (EASe) Guided Application
10. Infection Control in the Medical Educational Setting
11. Locomotor Training and Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury: A Case Study
12. Prehab in a Wellness Setting: Improving results in TKR

Panels

Honors Panel

Honors Panel

Presentation Title: A Woman's Work: Inspiring The Next Generation of Women Leaders

Presenters: Katie Watkins, Marideth Read

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Art and Design

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Prof. Madia Cooper-Ashirifi

Abstract:

The Women in Dance Conference, a weekend long event dedicated to supporting female leaders in the dance world, promotes both innovation and inclusion, and celebrates the achievements of women at the forefront of their field. Panel discussions, choreography and movement workshops, dance film screenings, featured keynote speakers and concerts featuring exemplary new works provide conference participants with a unique look at the future of dance. In spite of the obstacles faced by successful women at the forefront of every field, female dance leaders are increasingly determined to reclaim their seat at the table as choreographers, artistic directors, film makers and other industry decision makers.

As two young women beginning our careers in dance, the conference provided us with a look at various dance career possibilities. Gone are the days of glorifying the starving artist or supporting companies that marginalize minorities. Today's dance professionals must be multifaceted intellectuals ready for the myriad of changes in culture, dance and everything happening around us. Leaders in dance today must be heavily involved in every aspect of the creative process, for this art form addresses a range of cultural, socioeconomic and personal issues. The Women in Dance Conference taught us the importance of advocating for our own work and reclaiming our space both at Brenau University and in our future careers. This experience has had a lasting effect on our confidence, drive and passion as future female leaders in the dance world.

Honors Panel

Presentation Title: Dehumanization in Cinema: Universal Pictures' 1931 Frankenstein

Presenter: Mel Reily

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Art and Design

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Debra Dobkins

Abstract:

Film adaptations of novels often leave out major themes and messages from the original source material. This is exactly what happened in the 1931 Universal Pictures film Frankenstein, based on Mary Shelley's novel of the same name. In this film, Frankenstein's monster was portrayed as inhuman, both in appearance and manner. Because of this, the monster's character was almost entirely lost and it was difficult for the audience to sympathize with him, which was a crucial element of the original novel. In taking away the creature's determination and desire for human connection, the filmmakers of the motion picture dehumanize Frankenstein's monster, and regress him into nothing more than a frightened animal. Unfortunately, this is the version of Frankenstein's monster that is often presented in popular culture. This is a shame, because the once-complex character of the creature is simplified into a mindless movie-monster, which is what most people know him to be. This is a huge problem with the movie industry as a whole. If people normalize the dehumanization of characters, they will subconsciously do it to people and groups that are different from them. Dehumanization works against us both in fiction and in life because it divides and excludes certain groups based purely on aspects of themselves that they cannot control. The Frankenstein film is an example of alienating "the other" and in today's society, that is the last thing we need.

Honors Panel

Presentation Title: Exploring Reflections of Reality through Theatre

Presenter: Erin Graham

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Theater

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Debra Dobkins

Abstract:

Theatre is an art form which facilitates the expression of ideas and emotions through various experiences that differ in circumstance and presentation. This medium of artistic expression allows for connection with the audience through intimacy, comedy, tragedy, and creativity. Theatre is essential in aiding the growth and development of young and old minds alike, as it promotes and teaches problem solving, communication, and empathy. Regarded as the purest form of entertainment and artistic skill, theatre shares universal messages and themes that can have a lasting impact on a person and even influence his or her perspective.

Theatre can also expose and help confront the uglier side of humanity. Sometimes themes or events are difficult to face and talk about, but productions such as *Come From Away*, or *The Laramie Project* allow for more accessible means of discussion. Accordingly, the audience may leave with an increased sense of awareness or appreciation for themes touched upon in these productions. Theatre also embodies socio-cultural values because of its diverse representation and the fact that people can often see themselves in certain characters. Inclusivity through theatre provides a real-life reflection of reality for people who lack representation in art and media. The reflection may be blurred; however, a glimpse of similarity can bring solace to someone who has endured or overcome difficult situations. Someone may have felt isolated before, but seeing a character on stage that is like them in some respect can instill a much-needed sense of confidence and hope.

Honors Panel

Presentation Title: George Balanchine: Ballet's Diversity and Inclusion Pseudo-Leader

Presenter: Shania McAmis

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Dance

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Prof. Madia Cooper-Ashirifi

Abstract:

George Balanchine is one of ballet's foremost choreographers. This research project dives into Balanchine's early years of studying black dance artistry in both dance and music, and how that training inspired him to diversify his company. Balanchine's contributions left a lasting impact on classical ballet. He cast a black male dancer, Arthur Mitchell, in his productions, who in turn founded the Dance Theatre of Harlem for black ballet dancers. As Balanchine studied black dance forms to generate his vocabulary, he also created works with Katherine Dunham that inspired of what we currently call "neo-classical ballet." This project will showcase how Balanchine was much more than a creative genius of ballet. He was a leader in the early stages of diversity and inclusion by casting black dancers and bringing them to the forefront of the art.

Mass Communication Senior Thesis Panel

Mass Communication senior thesis panel to discuss ongoing projects and ideas.

Mass Communication Senior Thesis Panel

Presentation Title: Celebrity Influences Through Social Media on Consumer Buying Habits

Presenter: Cairistiona Barron

College of Business & Communication

Department of Communication

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Anna Deeb

Abstract:

Bill Murray recently starred in a Jeep commercial that was originally shown during the 2020 Super Bowl and then re-posted to Instagram. As of this submission, the original post and re-posts had reached over 300,000 views. This is just one example of how celebrities play a large role in what many people in society choose to purchase. Their interactions with fans on social media are one way the advertising industry is gaining a foothold in the lives of consumers. Current studies look at celebrity influence but fail to focus on their impact through all social media platforms, including Instagram. Through a qualitative analysis of three case studies, I plan to look at how celebrity endorsements through social media have helped to increase product sales, while also having an effect on the social status of those who purchase the goods. The cases to be reviewed are Selena Gomez with Puma, Cara Delevingne with Samsung, and Shawn Mendez with Tim Hortons. This project seeks to find the connection between the popularity of a celebrity and the increase in product purchases. This project will help to contribute to our understanding of the buying patterns of consumers.

Mass Communication Senior Thesis Panel

Presentation Title: The Misrepresentation of Women's Athletics in Mainstream Media

Presenter: Celine Vega

College of Business & Communication

Department of Communication

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Anna Deeb

Abstract:

Media outlets have failed to equally publicize women's athletics due to an assumed lack of interest in women's sports. When women athletes do get media coverage, it is more likely to be about their domestic lives or to use sex to sell their sport. This type of coverage is likely the result of a male-dominated field of sports journalism and editing. When women report on women's sports, they are more likely to report on their athletics. The idea of hegemonic masculinity helps explain the phenomenon of gender stereotyping in the coverage of women's athletics. Hegemonic masculinity shows when the perspective of masculinity in athletics is centered around masculine traits like competitiveness and aggression. Through qualitative research, I analyze multiple case studies and research articles to better understand why women's athletics are underrepresented. This article seeks to contribute to the previous scholarship and to better understand how and why women are marginalized in mainstream media. It contributes to the conversation of equalizing women's athletics in media.

Mass Communication Senior Thesis Panel

Presentation Title: Women in Contemporary Hollywood

Presenter: Adrianna Rivera-Velazquez

College of Business & Communication

Department of Communication

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Anna Deeb

Abstract:

This paper examines how the current wave of female-driven projects in Hollywood is transforming the industry. Patty Jenkins' Wonder Woman stands out for its focus on a female superhero and its female director. The critical acclaim and box office success of 2017's Wonder Woman highlighted a lack of non-romance based material that female audiences could identify with, and indicated a call for the increase in female-lead projects. Since its release, Hollywood has scrambled to develop female-centered blockbusters directed by women. With controversies like #METOO dominating the news, Wonder Woman and subsequent female-lead projects provide the impetus for a change in the industry. It is important to examine the impact that women have in the entertainment industry as they move from the margins of power to the center. This thesis uses a qualitative analysis in order to uncover the treatment of women in Hollywood through a case study of the Wonder Woman film.

Mass Communication Senior Thesis Panel

Presentation Title: What Strategies Do Nonprofit Organizations Use to Promote Mental Health Through Music?

Presenter: Haley Pearl MacAfee

College of Business & Communication

Department of Communication

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Anna Deeb

Abstract:

Mental health is becoming an increasing issue in the United States. According to the CDC in 2016, 50% of adults aged 20 and over suffer from depression. For my thesis paper, I will be answering the question: what communication strategies do nonprofit organizations use to promote mental health through (or with) music? Through research, it has been discovered that music provides a special benefit through the advertising aspect of nonprofits. Music allows for emotions to flow, and memories can come to life. If an advertisement is good at compelling the target audience, it will provide a long-lasting benefit to the nonprofit organization. Through a qualitative analysis of selected case studies in the form of nonprofit websites, I will be looking at how heavier music can help mental health NPOs in their advertising strategies. In doing this, I hope to bring to light how powerful music can make a strong impact in a community, and how NPOs should continue using this method.

Student Innovations of BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation Panel

Students in the School of Business' BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation present their new business innovations (either product or service) as well as either a prototype or business plan. New and exciting innovations often come from problems that people experience. Whether these problems are personal, community, national, or global, new ideas that try to solve these problems can result in products or services that have the potential of changing the world. Innovations can be incremental or disruptive and can happen when the right critical thinking relationships and connections are made in the minds of creative people. Students in the School of Business' BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation class bring these ideas to life by actually creating and building new innovations they hope can solve problems, ease suffering, make life easier, and of course bring fame and fortune. Dr. Bill Haney (Faculty) will briefly explain the process of new innovation creation. Then, each student will present his/her new innovation (either product or service), explain the problem it solves, how the solution to that problem was researched, and how it can benefit lives. Individual poster sessions will also be given following the presentation so students can answer questions and field comments from symposium attendees.

Student Innovations of BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation Panel

Presentation Title: Charging Pillow

Presenter: Emilie Cox

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisors: Dr. Bill Haney and Ms. Mary Johnson

Abstract:

I will be presenting a pillow that will help people who are tired of their phones not staying in their designated place. Let the world welcome, pocket pillow! This pillowcase has a specific pocket for one's phone and a special slot for a charging cord so that it can stay in one spot all night long. In the morning, it is fresh and charged. For the people that are tired of losing their phone under their bed, tired of it being ripped away from the charger, or not able to access it easily when their alarm goes off, this helpful pillowcase allows their troubles to go away. I am confident this will be a helpful device.

Student Innovations of BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation Panel

Presentation Title: Tooties

Presenter: Simone Gordon

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisors: Dr. Bill Haney and Ms. Mary Johnson

Abstract:

Breakfast is a commonly missed meal for children and adults, largely due to the inconvenience and time required to prepare it. Sausage and pancakes on a stick is one of the top selling breakfast items consumed by customers. Unfortunately, there are no healthy alternatives for this tasty meal. A new form of pancake sausages on a stick will be created for those seeking a better version of this breakfast treat. This product will be made deliciously from fresh organic ingredients, with gluten free options and a more convenient with no stick option.

Student Innovations of BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation Panel

Presentation Title: Combo Condiment Bottle

Presenter: Macie Hurst

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisors: Dr. Bill Haney and Ms. Mary Johnson

Abstract:

The Combo Condiment Bottle is designed to help the user apply multiple condiments to their meal in one quick and easy motion. This bottle has three compartments that can be filled with condiments of choice and the squeezable design of the bottle acts as an applicator for all types of food. This three-way bottle can carry any type of condiment; jelly, mustard, BBQ sauce, salad dressings, ketchup, hot sauce, and really anything viscous! The Combo Condiment Container also saves refrigerator storage. The container also features a blocking feature allowing users to mix and match at will.

Student Innovations of BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation Panel

Presentation Title: Comfort

Presenter: Caroline Moeller

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisors: Dr. Bill Haney and Ms. Mary Johnson

Abstract:

Knee injuries are common and have far-reaching impacts on a sufferer's life. One of the most detrimental of on-going symptoms is disturbed sleep since most sleeping positions will irritate a wounded knee. Products on the market designed to aid knee-pain and injury sufferers focus on specific sleeping positions, oftentimes requiring the user to wake up during the night to adjust positioning. Our product aims to end the disordered sleep for those with knee injuries. This prototype is made to support the knee throughout the night. It ensures that the knee does not twist or over-stretch no matter sleep positioning. Our knee support is made from comfortable, lightweight and breathable material that surrounds the knee without pressure.

Student Innovations of BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation Panel

Presentation Title: Define My Journey

Presenter: Sylvia Thrower Thrower

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisors: Dr. Bill Haney and Ms. Mary Johnson

Abstract:

Black natural hair products can be very expensive. Because of this, people in low-income areas, girls in group homes, foster care, orphanages, or juvenile detention centers cannot afford good products for their hair and suffer due to this lack. Many black females resort to perms or hair relaxers because it is a more affordable option. I want young black girls to know that they have beautiful hair, and they can see that with just the right products. As someone who has struggled trying to afford good products for my own hair, I want to be a catalyst for improving the self image of young black girls by developing and providing inexpensive hair care products designed especially for them.

Student Innovations of BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation Panel

Presentation Title: FlatSpat

Presenter: Alyssa Eblen

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisors: Dr. Bill Haney and Ms. Mary Johnson

Abstract:

Commercial packaging for products, especially lotions, is designed in such a way that oftentimes the product is left in hard-to-reach corners. This results in a waste of valuable products, time, and money. The FlatSpat is the solution to these problems. Our flexible silicone spatula is the perfect size and shape to reach product left behind in the nooks and crannies of bottles. No longer will you spend valuable time whacking bottles in an effort to release valuable product trapped in a bottle. Your wallet will feel the effects of the FlatSpat as you save money by using every last bit of product allowing you to recycle a completely empty bottle. Easy to use and quick to wash; it will change to your daily routine.

Student Innovations of BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation Panel

Presentation Title: Heated Menstrual Underwear

Presenter: Emily Campbell-Brock

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisors: Dr. Bill Haney and Ms. Mary Johnson

Abstract:

Every day women across the world are experiencing their periods. It is an uncomfortable, sometimes painful, fact of female life. In fact, for some, cramping can be so severe that it impeded everyday activities. Our mothers, and their mothers before them, have passed down the knowledge that heat is of the best tools to fight the effects of cramping. Currently, a means of battling cramps whilst remaining mobile are limited. Our prototype for Heated Menstrual Underwear is designed with mobility in mind. Our underwear features a front pocket located on the lower abdomen area where a heated element can be placed. This helps people with period cramps feel comfortable all day and will help relieve some pain associated with monthly cycle symptoms.

Student Innovations of BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation Panel

Presentation Title: Mix-a-Lot Craft

Presenter: Najae Coleman

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisors: Dr. Bill Haney and Ms. Mary Johnson

Abstract:

The presentation will represent a new business called Mix-a-Lot Craft. This business was designed to provide quality wigs, accessories, and outfits for the LGTBQ community or folks with health issues that cause their hair to fall out. Customers can come in and pick colors to mix and match, invoking a creative and fun experience. The shop will dye, cut, and style the wigs and make outfits or accessories to match the colors. The shop will use multiple methods of dyeing wigs that can be delivered to your door when done or picked up. It will be a place that everyone can feel like they are welcome, dress up, and become a new person with every decision!

Student Innovations of BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation Panel

Presentation Title: Toastie Bag

Presenter: Ms. Tatiana Rojas

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisors: Dr. Bill Haney and Ms. Mary Johnson

Abstract:

The Toastie Bag is a product designed to prevent toasted sandwich bread from losing its crunch while keeping the food as fresh as possible. The newest technology determine the moment at which the food is placed inside the bag and maintains the bag environment to keep the food fresh and crisp. The target audience for this product is students, teachers, secretaries, and other employees who carry food from home to work, who would like it to retain its freshness.

Student Innovations of BA340 Strategic Thinking and Innovation Panel

Presentation Title: Velcro Board

Presenter: Ms. Claire Fendig

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisors: Dr. Bill Haney and Ms. Mary Johnson

Abstract:

This innovation is designed to help keep those easy to lose items organized and visible. This customizable, unique design can be used for keys, pens, remotes, or anything else that needs to find a home. These easy to lose items will be mounted to a board that is mounted to the wall via the choice of the consumer, and the attachable pieces will be affixed by double-sided, double Velcro strips. This product is designed to enhance organization and never lose your keys or television remote again.

Stand Alone Presentations

Session: Adjusting to College

Presentation Title: Acculturative Stress and Coping Skills in International Students

Presenters: Christina Wright, Ashley Kimble

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Melanie Covert

Abstract:

This study will contain qualitative research using grounded theory to focus on international students and their levels of acculturation and acculturative stress. This study is largely an exploratory study using a semi-structured interview guide to interview international students studying at Brenau which focuses on coping skills and academic performance in these students. With the steady increase of matriculating international students in the United States, many of them being female, it becomes ever-important to understand how acculturative stress plays a role in their educational success as well as their ability to cope.

Session: Adjusting to College

Presentation Title: Personal Growth Groups and College Adjustment

Presenters: Crystal Ball, Michelle McGowan, Daphney Predvil

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gary Bauman

Abstract:

College students' ability to adjust to the collegiate environment, new social demands, and rigorous academic requirements are all constructs often evaluated for college students in research studies. First-year female college students experience greater emotional stress that impacts their ability to adjust to college. Few studies have evaluated the benefits of personal-growth groups and their effect, if any, on college adjustment. The present study aims to examine the possible role of personal growth groups regarding adjustment to college in the collegiate setting and to uncover the relationship between personal growth groups for female freshmen students and their unique challenges in adjustment. Methods include administering pretest and posttest measures with one control group consisting of 25 female students participating in the Introduction to Psychology class without Lab, one treatment group consisting of 25 female students participating in the Psychology Lab which will contain a personal-growth group component and one comparison group consisting of 25 female students participating in the First Year Experience course. The study will utilize the Student Adaptation to College Questionnaire, SACQ measurement that contains four subscales measuring academic adjustment, social adjustment, personal-emotional adjustment, and attachment; the General Self-Efficacy Scale that measures the construct of self-efficacy; and the Social Connectedness Scale that measures the construct of connectedness.

Session: Adjusting to College

Presentation Title: The Role of Coping Strategies in Perceived Stress and Life Satisfaction in College Students

Presenters: Megan Berounsky, Sydney Saylor

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. John Christopher

Abstract:

Academic stress leads to coping strategies in college students. These coping strategies are the result of appraisal. Appraisal of academic stress may be correlated with the coping strategies of poor eating and inadequate sleep; and coping strategies may be directly correlated with subjective well-being. When an individual perceives a stressor as being greater than his or her own ability, he or she may choose a maladaptive way to cope with that stressor. Being stressed may prevent a student from maintaining a healthy diet and getting the appropriate amount and quality of sleep. If an individual is feeling stressed, he or she is more likely to have negative affect and less life satisfaction when compared with individuals who do not feel stressed. Poor diet and poor sleep may also lead an individual to have negative affect and lower life satisfaction because these factors may cause the individual to feel bad overall.

Session: Behavioral Intervention Studies

Presentation Title: Attitudes and Behaviors Towards Drinking and Driving and Texting while Driving

Presenters: Lauren Spencer, Lashea Kersh, Darius Washington, Sarah Candelaria

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Julie Battle

Abstract:

Car accidents are common in the U.S., contributing to numerous injuries/deaths (National Safety Council, n.d.). Car accidents are the fourth highest cause of deaths in the U.S. (Insurance Information Institute, 2017). Teens often engage in risky behavior while driving, increasing the chances of accidents and death. Programs designed to decrease risky driving behaviors generally have limited success. The current study aims to determine whether a pilot intervention with 8th-grade students has had long-term effects on attitudes towards drinking and driving and texting while driving. Participants in the current study will include original participants (now seniors) as well as additional seniors who did not previously participate. At the time of the original study, most parents provided permission to be contacted for a follow-up study. Potential groups of seniors will be identified by high school administrators with a focus on students from the same general academic programs (e.g., IB, STEM) as those in the original group. It is hypothesized that high school students who participated in a Fatal Vision Goggle (FVG)/texting simulation program while in middle school will have less favorable attitudes towards drinking and driving and towards texting while driving than those who did not participate in the study previously. It is hypothesized that the participants of the current study who previously completed the program will have less favorable attitudes towards drinking and driving and texting while driving than they did before participating in the program in 8th-grade.

Session: Behavioral Intervention Studies

Presentation Title: Fitness, Health and Nutrition in Suburban Police Officers

Presenters: William Calhoun, Zach Rambo

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jeananne Elkins

Abstract:

Purpose of study

Physical fitness is an essential element to the safety and protection of law enforcement officers. From 2009 to 2014, more than 30 thousand non-fatal injuries involving days off work were reported for police and sheriff's personnel in the U.S. One of the largest categories of these injuries, musculoskeletal, accounts for 29-35% of all occupational injuries. Recent research has demonstrated promising results for decreasing musculoskeletal injuries by increasing officer physical activity levels. The City of Gainesville Police Department (GPD) and Brenau University Department of Physical Therapy formed a collaborative partnership to examine the current state of overall health, nutrition, and exercise habits of officers of the Gainesville Police Department.

Research questions

- 1) What are the exercise and nutritional habits of GPD officers?
- 2) What types of exercise and exercise locations do GPD officers prefer?
- 3) What are the self-reported health and fitness levels of GPD officers?
- 4) What is the relationship of self-reported health and fitness to exercise and nutrition in GPD officers?

Participants

Fifty-one GPD officers were consented into the study.

Materials and Methods

With input from fitness experts and the CPD Chief of Police, a survey was created to examine the variables of interest. The project was approved by the Brenau University IRB (1410619-2). The anonymous survey, delivered by an email to GPD officers only, was conducted to encourage GPD officers to respond honestly to the questions. No raw data was shared with the GPD Chief of Police or city officials.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics, correlation analysis and regression analysis were conducted using STATA13.

Results

Sixty-seven percent of officers believe an exercise program would be beneficial to them with forty-five percent reporting exercising less than 3 times per week. No GPD officers indicated Excellent health while only 29% reported fitness levels of 7 or above. Self-reported health and self-reported fitness correlate at 0.54 with a p-value of 0.00 indicating a strong correlation between the two variables. When examining the connection between self-reported health, self-reported fitness and exercise in a regression analysis, a significant relationship between self-reported health and self-reported fitness was found. The odds of an officer having good self-reported health if they have good fitness was more than 17 times greater than those who did not report good fitness when holding all other variables constant with a p-value of 0.0001.

Conclusion

While we focus on the positive relationship, we must acknowledge the negative relationship also exists. If the GPD officer reported Fair health then he/she is likely to have low levels of fitness and associated poor nutritional habits while at work.

Session: Behavioral Intervention Studies

Presentation Title: The Effects of Inhaled Lavender on the Sleep of Night Shift Workers

Presenter: Amanda Buono

Ivester College of Health Sciences

School of Occupational Therapy

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Leigh Lehman

Abstract:

Sleep disturbance is a public health crisis impacting the nation's health and occupational participation (CDC, 2018). Night shift workers make up 15% of the nation's workforce and are at increased risk for sleep disturbance and associated health concerns due to alternate sleep and work schedules (National Sleep Foundation, 2018). However, they are often excluded from sleep intervention studies. Clinical aromatherapy has shown promise as a sleep aide in other populations, but little research is available pertaining to its use with night-shift workers (Fismer & Pilkington, 2012). This study examined the effect of inhaled lavender on the sleep time, sleep quality and sleep performance of night-shift workers. A single-case removal (ABAB) design was selected due to small sample size and need to monitor participants' sleep patterns closely. Measures included sleep time (Fitbit watch), sleep performance (sleep diary) and sleep quality (Pittsburg Sleep Quality Index). These measures were taken daily during four phases of the study (baseline, aromatherapy use, second baseline, aromatherapy use). Phase stability was calculated using a stability envelope (Lane & Gast, 2014). Change between phases was calculated using the Conservative Dual Criterion (CDC) method. The significance of change between phases was calculated using Tau U. Results indicated no significant difference in sleep time or sleep performance for any of the participants with use of inhaled lavender (all $p > .05$). Further research is needed to investigate different aromas and application methods. Additionally, the use of aromatherapy, in conjunction with other treatment methods, like sleep hygiene education, should be evaluated.

Session: Community Outreach

Presentation Title: A Look into Public Outreach and Intervention to Create Dementia Friendly Communities

Presenters: Hanna Cespedes, Alexandra Denault, Rhiannon Langham, Janice Milligan

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Bonnie Kin

Abstract:

The complications associated with dementia are among the leading causes of death for older adults, impacting over 5.8 million people in the United States. It is on the incline and is expected to double, affecting 13.9 million people by 2060. This has a severe impact on older adults, their families, and the overall community. Increasing awareness and education for dementia can aid in furthering community support while increasing empathy towards individuals with dementia. Community programs and interventions have been utilized in the past to assist in increasing awareness for other mental health disorders, diseases, and for marginalized/ vulnerable groups of people. One method is through utilizing these means of community outreach and awareness interventions. Implementing interventions such as virtual reality simulations of dementia symptoms as well as educational/ empathy building techniques like Feil Validation theory have been used in the past to assist in increasing health professional's awareness and empathy for dementia. However, these forms of interventions have not been used significantly with community members outside of those in the health profession whom interact with individuals with dementia more consistently in cafes, restaurants, and other common community settings. The purpose of this study is to examine pretest attitudes towards dementia with community employee participants, provide an intervention through a virtual reality experience of dementia accompanied with Validation training to participants, to allow participants an opportunity to implement/ interact with caregivers and those diagnosed with dementia, and to measure posttest attitudes about ADRD (Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia).

Session: Community Outreach

Presentation Title: Festival de Bombas de Agua: Community Partnership Health Screening in Rural Georgia

Presenters: Khari Waithe-Alexander, Sameul Rego, Dr. Jeananne Elkins, Dr. Stacey Hoffman

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Graduate and Faculty Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jeananne Elkins and Dr. Stacey Hoffman

Abstract:

Purpose of study

Thirteen million people are undiagnosed with hypertension while 7.2 million people have undiagnosed diabetes. Poor diet, physical inactivity, excessive alcohol use, smoking and obesity contribute to hypertension and diabetes risk. A 0.01 increase in waist to hip ratio increases the relative risk of cardiovascular disease by 5%.

Little is known about the cardiovascular health of immigrants in northeast Georgia. Fear of deportation, lack of insurance, and work make access to care difficult in rural Georgia. Local immigrant communities celebrate many festivals, including a Summer Festival. A festival offers an opportunity to access screening for cardiovascular disease. The purpose of this study is to understand the health of an immigrant community in northeast Georgia.

Research questions

- 1) What are predictors of higher waist to hip ratios?
- 2) Can person's attending a festival be effectively screened for cardiovascular risks?
- 3) At what disease stage is an intervention most effective for diabetes and hypertension in this community?

Methods

37 participants at the Summer Festival were consented and tested in a private cubicle. Spanish-speaking consenters and testers were available. We measured blood pressure, blood sugar and waist to hip ratio. In addition, participants completed a health form, a demographic form, the GAD-7, the PHQ-9 and a nutrition questionnaire.

Statistical Tests

The mean age of the participants was 33 years of age with 40% reporting Fair or Poor health and 35% reporting fitness levels of 7/10 or higher. Nearly 90% did not take any medications. Ninety-five percent did not smoke. Fourteen percent reported alcohol use in the past 30 days. Waist to hip ratios ranged from .75 to 1.18 with a mean of .892. GAD-7 scores were generally low with a mean of 4. PHQ-9 scores ranged from 0-16 with a mean near 5. The nutrition assessment mean score was 16 with a range of 7-21 (higher score indicates poor nutritional intake). In the bivariate regression, age (0.010), blood sugar (0.017), nutritional status (0.016) and number of health conditions (.004) were all significant; however, coefficients were very small. Pareto analysis revealed the impact of an intervention would be most impactful if we focused on the participants with pre-hypertension or only slightly increased blood pressures and pre-diabetes or only slightly increased blood sugars.

Conclusion

Participants with increased age, poorer nutrition, higher blood sugars and more health conditions had higher waist to hip ratios; thus, indicating they were at higher risk of cardiovascular disease even while appearing healthy.

Session: Community Outreach

Presentation Title: IGNITE: Engaging Children in Health and Wellness

Presenters: Khari Waithe-Alexander, Sameul Rego, Dr. Jeananne Elkins, Dr. Stacey Hoffman

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Graduate and Faculty Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jeananne Elkins and Dr. Stacey Hoffman

Abstract:

Issues:

A local community advocate approached the University about the exercise/activity programs for children in the "Park Hill" community - 3 large apartment complexes along a busy street. This community lacks sidewalks to access the nearest city park (1.5 miles) and lacks outdoor play spaces for children. In addition, most children do not attend local after school programs due to cost and transportation issues.

Description:

The challenges identified were finding an activity appropriate for the age ranges and the continuously changing population, finding a space to do the activity, seeking permission from the apartment complex, and overcoming distrust in a University-led program because of the experiences of the community. Two students met with the community advocate and the apartment manager and to develop IGNITE - inspire, grit, neighbors, integrity, trust, empathy - a program using soccer to deliver a short age appropriate health and wellness module.

Lessons Learned:

Participation was immediate. The first day of IGNITE 15 children participated. Participation remained high throughout the 2-semester program with 53 individual children participating continuously or intermittently. Gross observation demonstrated a high number of children with gross motor skill delays.

Session: Evolution of Female Fashion

Presentation Title: Blooming into the 19th Century

Presenter: Alexandra Echols

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Art and Design

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Charity Armstead

Abstract:

For this project, I intend on constructing a modern-day version of bloomers. The term and garment were coined in the early 19th century and became a household name to describe pants that were thick and flowy down to the ankle where they tightened and tapered. Bloomers were the introduction of pants into female fashion, as it was socially unacceptable for women to wear such masculine garments. The research shows that as women's positions grew over the years, so did their involvement in society, which in turn lead them wanting more freedom and independence. This venture was their notice to the world, allowing women to release themselves from their societal constraints through clothing. In fashioning modern-day bloomers, I will show how experimental their construction was and how crucial they were to advance the feminist movement. The bloomers themselves showcase the obstacles women had to overcome to be considered equals in society, while the modern-day version of it illustrates where women are in today's times and how that same fight that was initiated in the late 1900s is still being fought today. The point of constructing the modern-day bloomers is to demonstrate its history, show appreciation for its conception and purpose, and to present how they have developed over the years.

Session: Evolution of Female Fashion

Presentation Title: The Evolution Process and Reason of Female Clothing Before the 19th Century

Presenter: Ruojun Kang

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Art and Design

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Charity Armstead

Abstract:

Clothing is an essential material condition created by human beings to survive and an essential spiritual expression element that human beings depend on social survival activities. The role of clothing has evolved over thousands of years from simply shielding the body and keeping out the cold to a decorative position that helps convey information. At the same time, the form of clothing has also undergone a significant change. This presentation will show how women's clothing changed before the 19th century and why. Women's clothes went from loose to tight and the cutting techniques from simple to complex. The type of female clothing also gradually became more comprehensive and the design more luxuriant. This is not only the case in the west, but also China, so for this project I will compare the evolution of female clothing from both to find common ground between the two. As for the causes of this phenomenon, I will combine the social background from the perspective of the social environment and people's concepts.

Session: Evolution of Female Fashion

Presentation Title: The First and Last Tubular Cycle

Presenter: Tori Johnson

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Art and Design

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Charity Armstead

Abstract:

Throughout years, decades, and centuries fashion has always repeated itself. This research examines the tubular dress trend, a recurring trend first seen in the late 18th and early 19th century and then repeated in the early 20th century. This concept and recurring cycle was identified by Agnes Brooks Young in 1937. The tubular dress trend, characterized by the tubular cycle first occurred in 1796-1829, and the recurring cycle was set to be from 1900-1937. The tubular style dress is a straight silhouette dress with a tubular shape bottom typically made with either long or quarter length sleeves. I will discuss the similarities and differences between the two trends, three classifications Agnes Young has developed regarding fashion changes, and theories that have affected cycles themselves. I will further my research by examining the late 20th century and the 21st century where the tubular cycle presents itself again. This project is meant to show the importance and analysis of dress, particularly a dress style, and how fashion is just a pendulum that moves back and forth in the same direction. The pendulum theory is a visual interpretation on how fashion repeats itself. It represents how even today we see the tubular dress style, just in a different way, which is all just another part of the fashion life cycle that the tubular cycle has partaken in.

Session: Historic Period Inspired Fashion

Presentation Title: How We Made Up History: Following Cosmetics Across the Decades

Presenter: Morgan Kioski

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Art and Design

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Charity Armstead

Abstract:

This research explores the different visual aesthetics of cosmetics from some of the earliest recorded centuries. Different eras had distinctive visual preferences, as well as preferences for the cosmetics they used. Makeup has been around since the beginning of recorded time, however this research focuses primarily on the cosmetics of Egypt, the seventeenth-century Baroque period, and the Renaissance. While makeup in these centuries may seem unrelated, they contain similar enhancements such as exaggerated features or saturated hues that are demonstrated in this research. Some paintings and artifacts show how makeup was applied during the period they were created. However, there still remains a lack of visuals of what the makeup would look like on a person, and this research aims to show what the cosmetic enhancements would look like in real life. Through visuals and recreations of the makeup as historically recreated as it can be, it becomes apparent what this makeup would look like with cosmetics available today. Additionally, two-dimensional recreations have been done on a facial cosmetic chart for inspiration.

Session: Historic Period Inspired Fashion

Presentation Title: Italian Renaissance Takes on the Runway

Presenter: Jordyn De La Rosa

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Art and Design

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Charity Armstead

Abstract:

This project researches dress between the 1400s and 1600s, specifically the Italian Renaissance, while applying the historic dress construction to current trends. Thus, this project shows runway worthy construction and dress features for a 2020 target market while maintaining an Italian Renaissance aesthetic. In this presentation I will walk through my entire process when designing a collection, from gathering research, forming inspiration and material sourcing, to collaging a mood board, sketching, and selecting final looks, and finally presenting them in a portfolio style. Materials chosen for this collection are based on textiles that are more prevalent in today's society, and I have analyzed and curated a color palette that is both representative of the Italian Renaissance and conscious of a modern customer. My research utilizes several pieces from the Metropolitan Museum of Art combined with secondary resources that outline Renaissance art and pattern construction.

Session: Historic Period Inspired Fashion

Presentation Title: The Golden Giver

Presenter: Domonique Harris

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Art and Design

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Charity Armstead

Abstract:

This presentation addresses the research, techniques, and personal process used to create an Egyptian inspired jewelry collection based upon one of Egypt's great goddesses, Isis. Isis is known to be the goddess of magic, love, fertility, rebirth, healing, medicine, motherhood, and wisdom. Based on the description of Isis and ancient Egyptian traditions in jewelry making, I created a beaded wide collar necklace, a beaded pair of arm cuffed wings, and a headdress. To create the collar I braided together two elastic strings to help support the beading. The beads and charms consist of gold circular metal blanks, red, green, blue, black, and gold beads in the shapes of spheres, scarab beetles, and rectangles. They were strung onto an elastic string while still keeping the shape of the collar used in ancient jewelry. This same process was used for making the arm cuffed wings as well, although in making the arm cuffs I softened gold-colored metal until bendable and polished it for a reflective shine. I used sandpaper for rough edges and attached the strings. I used my own personal process in creating the headdress. To start I used plastic horns, and jewelry adhesive to attach the circular metal blanks to make a solar disk. Afterward, I spray painted the horns gold and the solar disk red. I continued with the beading technique to complete the rest of the headdress that draped down the neck. From this project, I created a jewelry collection using ancient Egyptian techniques, and influence from the Goddess Isis.

Session: Perspectives in Literature

Presentation Title: Borderless Love in *The English Patient*

Presenter: Yuxi Liu

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Humanities

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rebekah Taylor-Wiseman

Abstract:

Through an examination of Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient*, this presentation examines the trade-off between national benefits and human natures, reflecting the novel's idea that love should not have borders. Set during WWII, the novel's protagonist, Almásy, is a desert explorer from Hungary. As a person who detests that the world beyond the desert is "shaped by financial and military despots" (250) and full of "the jingoistic call to arms" (242), Almásy holds a rejection of nationalistic identity, which encourages him to switch political positions according to certain situations. The desert expedition belongs to England, and Almásy also has English friends and an English lover; but he trades the desert map with the Germans in return for aircraft fuel to save his lover trapped in the desert, even though he's later shot in the air by them because of his English-made airplane. Finally, Almásy is found unrecognisably burned by the Bedouin and presumed to be English. It's traditionally immoral for a person to change his political alignment at will. But is the war moral? What's wrong with protecting our loved ones? It's normal for there to be competition and diversity between countries. However, I argue that we should not stabilize power or obtain a monopoly position via wars and the suppression of differences. Through narrations about Almásy's memories before the air crash and his current life in the care of a Canadian Army nurse, Ondaatje reminds his readers that love and inclusivity are stronger than the arbitrary boundaries drawn on maps by powerful men.

Session: Perspectives in Literature

Presentation Title: Four Different Perspectives in The Sound and the Fury

Presenter: Lei Wu

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Humanities

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rebekah Taylor-Wiseman

Abstract:

In The Sound and the Fury, William Faulkner illustrates "the destruction of the Old South," (Baker 79) as symbolized by the decline of the Compson family through three main events: the loss of Caddy's virginity, Quentin's suicide, and the theft of Jason's money by the female Quentin. These events combine to make the Compson family shamed, forlorn, and lose the core values of the whole family. Faulkner tells this story from four different character perspectives in order to show the difficulty of obtaining mental and physical freedom in the old Southern society. These four main characters, Benjy, Quentin, Jason, and Dilsey, are all damaged by institutionalized racism and can only overcome the harm of the old South if they possess these three capabilities: skillful language ability, the understanding of time, and moral values. Yet each Compson is deficient in at least one area. While Dilsey has the purest soul in the story, being "stoic as some immemorial carving of heroism," (Inge 41) her racial identity means that she cannot leave the old South tradition.

The traditions and thoughts of the old South are deeply rooted in the hearts of the characters because of the influence of the old South: language confusion, illogical concepts of time, moral decay, and black identity. Faulkner reveals the hardships of the lives of the people of the Old South, who could not escape the persecution of post-colonialism.

Session: Perspectives in Literature

Presentation Title: The Dystopian Society Under Capitalism and Socialism- the Contrast between 1984 and Snow Crash

Presenter: Yaru Liu

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Humanities

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rebekah Taylor-Wiseman

Abstract:

Broadly speaking, dystopia is a community or society that is undesirable or frightening, which is the opposite of utopia. However, Raffaella Baccolini and Tom Moylan once argued, "this distopianism is not anti-utopian, and its critical potential depends on the presence or absence of a route out" (Levitas and Sargisson 14). That is to say, dystopia is just one possible outcome of utopian ideals. Thus, I suggest that in 1984 and Snow Crash, the two different dystopian societies are not just fictional but possible outcomes of humanity's desire for the world. In Snow Crash, Neal Stephenson describes a dystopian America, in which the government and authorities have collapsed, and the capitalist enterprises led by a pizza company have become the dominant force in society. In 1984, George Orwell depicts a suffocating dystopian socialist society, in which the dictator pursues power as the ultimate goal; humanity is killed by the Party, freedom is completely deprived, and thoughts are severely restrained.

This presentation compares these two extremely different dystopian societies to explore four important topics: independent thinking ability, human nature, law, and administrative power. Finally, Orwell and Stephenson teach us that maintaining social stability requires power and freedom at the same time, but neither of them can be excessive.

Session: Reclaiming Entertainment

Presentation Title: Banana Dance: Body Politics and Black Feminist Identity Through the Lens of Josephine Baker

Presenter: Madison Freeman

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Dance

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Prof. Madia Cooper-Ashirifi

Abstract:

In the 1920's and 30's, Josephine Baker emerged as a shining star in the world of dance. Baker made her dancing debut on the American Vaudeville stage. In 1920, she journeyed to France as a cast member of the all black traveling review show Revue Negre. Once in France, Baker captured the hearts of the Europeans, enrapturing them with her exotic movements and alluring voice. Through her famous performances, such as the "Banana Dance", Baker disrupted the patriarchal and societal norms of her time. She took the stereotypical images that were thrust upon her as an African American woman and made a mockery of them. Baker challenged the way her audiences viewed a woman's role on the stage and put the power back into the hands of the women. In addition to her impact on body identity, Baker was also a prominent civil rights activist and French World War II hero. She promoted the importance of freedom, equality, and world peace in everything she did. This drive to prove that all people could live together in harmony is what led her to the adoption of the rainbow tribe. Through the analysis of several films and written works, the gathered research explores the life, legacy, and impact of Josephine Baker on female empowerment and body politics, inclusivity, and the lasting influence of her work during her time and in the present.

Session: Reclaiming Entertainment

Presentation Title: Octavia Butler's Xenogenesis Series: Sexual and Reproductive Oppression from Science Fiction to The Real World

Presenter: Tianxing Zhang

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Humanities

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rebekah Taylor-Wiseman

Abstract:

Traditionally, sexual and reproductive oppression has been considered a women's issue, but postmodern science fiction writer Octavia Butler expanded victims of sexual and reproductive oppression to all humanity, bringing more attention to her cause. To achieve this, Octavia Butler introduced an alien species, more powerful than humans, to create an unavoidable inter-species oppression, which can be compared with oppressive sexual relationships between males and females in human history and society. Whether it is the pregnant man story in "Bloodchild" or the mandatory gene trade with alien species in Xenogenesis, Butler invited a broad readership to start thinking about their own bodily controls.

As women's rights required more and more support from men, Octavia Butler used her works to call on both males and females to come together as a community of interests. Butler used the innovative social relationship between human beings and alien species in her Xenogenesis series to break the traditional binary gender concept. She created a pregnant man story in "Bloodchild" by exchanging the roles of traditional men and women in sexuality and reproduction. She also created a new gender, which is not male or female, in Oankali society to show human males' attitudes in a forced sexual and reproductive behavior. Whether in "Bloodchild" or Xenogenesis, Butler successfully built her own world of science fiction to find more male supporters for women victims by letting males experience being the victims of sexual and reproductive persecution.

Session: Reclaiming Entertainment

Presentation Title: Space Barbie, the Final Frontier: Avatar Cosmetics and Virtual 'Dress-up' as Play in MMORPGs

Presenter: Dr. Ian Peters

College of Business & Communication

Department of Communication

Faculty Project

Abstract:

MMORPGs continue to remain a major staple of the gaming industry, drawing in players from around the world into virtual communities. As scholars like Jonathan Gray and T.L. Taylor have extensively discussed, the sandbox aspect of these games is a large part of their appeal. Significant focus has been paid to the communities that emerge from these interactions, as well as the practices that they engage in. While scholars have examined the role that avatar construction has on, or reflects, aspects of player identity, less focus has been paid to the actual act of engaging in "dress up" in the virtual space from a play standpoint that can be separate from identity discourse. In some play styles, avatar dress up is the ultimate focus of these games, seeing how iconic characters from separate franchises can be recreated using the available templates, endeavoring to produce the ugliest/sexiest/plainest avatar possible to contrast those that surround it, or developing an entire collection of thematically-similar "dolls" or "figures" that exist solely in an intangible state. In the gaming community, this act of play is referred to as "Space Barbie," which is a reference to the real-world equivalent of playing dress-up with your dolls/figures. Players who focus on "Space Barbie" engage with cosmetic avatar-based play as a primary focus of the game, where collecting rare appearance-based items (either through purchase or through gameplay) is the ultimate focus. Frequently, this circumvents established missions, combat, and similar gameplay choices that tend to be primary aspects of the game world.

This paper explores this phenomenon, placing it into context using existing media/new media/game studies, material culture studies, and audience/reception studies discourse. This approach to gaming is another example of where real-world activities translate into virtual spaces in un-planned ways. "Space Barbie" is a complex phenomenon in the gaming world, one that encourages us to complicate existing approaches to game-based avatar analysis and further connects virtual-world behavior to established practices in the real world.

Session: Studying Brenau

Presentation Title: Assessment of the Perceptions of Advanced Practice Nursing Students on the Importance of Breast Health Screening

Presenter: Rita Alema-Mensah

Ivester College of Health Sciences

School of Nursing

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jill Hayes

Abstract:

Background: Women in the United States have a 13% chance of developing breast cancer and 1 in 39 (2.6%) will die from breast cancer. Awareness creation, early screening and detection have been proven to have benefits that include reducing the spread of the disease, increasing long term survival rates and decreasing the level of breast cancer mortality

Aim: The aim of the study is to assess the perceptions of Advanced Practice Nursing students on the importance of breast health screening.

Method: This quantitative descriptive study used the Champion Health Belief Model Scale (CHBMS) in a survey to collect data from 28 nurses enrolled in an educational program. The instrument has eight sub-scales: susceptibility, seriousness, benefits-breast self-examination (BSE), barriers (BSE), confidence, health motivation, benefits-mammogram and barriers-mammogram. 54 items were measured using the 5-point Likert scale.

Results: Results indicated that health motivation (30.36 ± 3.38), confidence (BSE) (43.25 ± 7.65), benefits (BSE) (23.61 ± 3.62) and benefits -mammogram (25.18 ± 5.67) showed the highest average scores. Bivariate analysis revealed statistically significant value ($p = 0.002$) between sub-dimension susceptibility and race.

Conclusion: If individuals are motivated and confident, they are more likely to understand the benefits of BSE and mammography and perform BSE personally.

Session: Studying Brenau

Presentation Title: Breathe Easy Brenau: Tobacco, Smoking and Vaping

Presenters: Dr. Betty Daniels, Mr. Stefan Schultz, Dr. Jeananne Elkins, Ms. Stephanie Reyes, Ms. Madison Romeo

Ivester College of Health Sciences

School of Nursing

Faculty and Undergraduate Student Project

Abstract:

Background

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease, disability and death in the United States. Nearly 34 million Americans smoke cigarettes. Perhaps more worrisome than smoking in high school and college students is vaping. The reported number of college students vaping nicotine more than doubled from 6% in 2017 to 16% in 2018. This number may be low because 28 percent of high school students reported using nicotine e-cigarettes in the past 30 days, up from just over 20 percent in 2018. The long-term consequences of vaping are unknown.

While vaping has grown significantly in popularity among young people, universities and colleges across the country have been slow to address the issue. Nation-wide initiatives led by organizations including The American Cancer Society, and Truth have resulted in the adoption of smoke/tobacco free campus policies, but guidelines for vaping are less common. Students attending universities with comprehensive smoke/tobacco free policies take pride in and support those rules. Brenau University has a policy addressing smoking on campus but few students, staff or faculty members are aware of the policy. Little is understood about how Brenau students, faculty and staff view a no smoking/tobacco vaping policy.

Methods

An anonymous survey (IRB #1411067-6) was distributed and completed by 153 participants.

Results

More than 80% of responses were from full time students. Eighty-four percent of participants were female with 64% of responses identifying their class location as the Historical Campus. Fourteen percent (14%) of respondents used tobacco/smoked/vaped in the past 30 days. Bivariate and multivariate regression analysis were conducted for the dependent variable "Stance on Tobacco/Smoking/Vaping policy". "Graduate vs undergraduate status" was significant with a p-value of 0.023. Undergraduates were 0.3692 more likely to be opposed to a no smoking/tobacco/vaping policy. Similarly, but not statistically significant (p=0.266), if the respondent reported using tobacco/smoked/vaped in the last 30 days then the odds of opposing a no tobacco/smoking/vaping policy was increased by 1.7611.

Discussion/Conclusion

The Brenau Breathe Easy survey is ongoing. Staff members and graduate students from satellite campuses are under-represented in the survey. This is being addressed with education and examining the method in which the survey is presented. More than 67% of current respondents support a no smoking/tobacco/vaping policy on campus.

Session: Studying Brenau

Presentation Title: The Effect of Personality Traits, Resilience, and Spirituality on the Attitude and Performance Towards Caregiving in a Child-Death Simulation Among Nursing Students

Presenters: Helena Manssuer, Fabby Philips, Ellie Tuck

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gary Bauman

Abstract:

Pediatric nurses play a central role in overseeing their young patients' needs as well as facilitating care and treatment. The 2017 Survey of Registered Nurses conducted by AMN healthcare discovered that 60% found the demanding nature of their job "overwhelming" (AMN Healthcare, 2017). In critical care, good job performance is imperative, and nurses' attitudes are essential in providing care and support to their patients and their patients' loved ones through dire circumstances (McKerrow, 2014).

It can be argued that certain characteristics, such as resiliency, spirituality and individual personality traits, particularly extraversion and neuroticism, may help nurses cope with these demanding and dire circumstances of pediatric care. To date, there are large gaps in literature when looking at how individual personality traits, resilience and spirituality may affect job performance and attitudes in a death and dying scenario. Additionally, there is a lack of evidence in past studies on how these factors affect job performance and attitudes among pediatric nurses in a child-death and dying environment.

In this present study, the researchers surmise that the death and dying simulation will influence the performance and attitudes towards caregiving. The researchers hypothesized a significant difference in the pretest/posttest design measures of the Frommelt Attitudes Toward Care of the Dying Scale (FATCOD) and the Attitudes and Performance Evaluation Caregiving Scale (APEC). It was further anticipated that a significant correlation between personality, resilience, and spirituality would exist with the post-test measures of the FATCOD and the APEC. Moreover, it was also hypothesized that a significant correlation exists between personality, resilience, and spirituality factors among nursing students.

Session: The Asian-American Immigrant Voice in Literature

Presentation Title: Fragmented Narrative and Visual Elements in Asian American Literature

Presenter: Jiaxue Li

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Humanities

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rebekah Taylor-Wiseman

Abstract:

Asian-American literature has its own "atmosphere," since writers' personal traumatic experience deeply influence their literary works, with some of them focusing on the immigrant experience and using a fragmented writing style. Vietnamese-American writer Le Thi Diem Thuy and Korean-American writer Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, both immigrants from Asia, integrate their trauma and memories into the narratives and form of their works-The Gangster We Are All Looking For and Dictee. Le and Cha write long narratives with fragmentation and visualized elements such as photographs and film script. They use the pieces of memories and stories as the content of their books, and fragmented storytelling style as the form, in order to show characters' emotions and to help the readers understand and discover the circumstances of immigrants.

Focusing on these Asian-American writers' works, Liu introduced the concept "geopolitics" to point out the importance of switching different locations in a traumatic background. Also, Galu argued that the visual elements are used to attract readers' attention and make the readers get deeply into the stories, as they can see the scenes on their own. In this presentation, I want to suggest that with the immigrant experience, Le and Cha as Asian-American writers, create literary works with fragmented characteristics and a visualized "voice". They use both the broken emotions and pieces of memories as content, and the fragmented form of a book to show the totality of literary works from inside out. In addition, vivid language and in-detail description help Le and Cha encourage their readers to better understand the context. All of these writing techniques effectively convey these writers' intentions of introducing their traumatic immigrant memories and living conditions.

Session: The Asian-American Immigrant Voice in Literature

Presentation Title: The Healing and Community-building Power of Storytelling in The Bonesetter's Daughter

Presenter: Yue Teng

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Art and Design

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rebekah Taylor-Wiseman

Abstract:

By examining Amy Tan's *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, this presentation suggests that storytelling helps immigrants to establish their unique identities in a new environment by promoting communication and building community. In this story, women of three generations in an immigrant family have to deal with the pain and trauma brought by suffering the war, losing their families, and the repression from a traditional culture of silence. As immigrants, these women not only travel from their hometown to a new country but also move forward to disclose their traumatic past and learn to face it. Due to cultural, psychological, and physical limits, the women find it is hard for them to tell the painful truth, which distances these family members gradually. Out of compassion and love, the mother and the daughter seek means to communicate with each other effectively again. Tan demonstrates that silence, spoken language and written language can sometimes hinder our understanding, especially across generations and cultures, but her characters' impulse to communicate only grows stronger. The tangled relationship between mother and daughter in a Chinese immigrant family, and the desire to eliminate misunderstanding, lead these women to tell their stories. As the mother and the daughter reconnect, they gradually find their voices again and the family inheritance can continue. Speaking or writing the stories helps the family member to remember where they are from, understand each other, and integrate into a bigger community as well.

Session: The Asian-American Immigrant Voice in Literature

Presentation Title: The Unconscious Impact of Mother Tongue on Chinese-American Writers

Presenter: Liang Yuan

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Humanities

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rebekah Taylor-Wiseman

Abstract:

Language, as a bridge for human communication, helps the spread of different cultures. Immigrants, as bilingual speakers, have two cultural experiences in their minds, and sometimes the native language subconsciously influences their perception and expression. Though the Chinese-American writer Yiyun Li declares that "[her] brain has banished Chinese," readers can still trace some fragments from her Chinese memory in *Dear Friend, from My Life I Write to You in Your Life*. The purpose of the present study is to examine whether Chinese immigrants can completely replace their mother language with English and to illustrate the complexity of the way bilingual persons express themselves. For non-native speakers, it is difficult to immerse in a native language environment if they only learn the literal meaning of words from an English dictionary. Because there is a close connection between mother tongue and the way people think and express themselves, the connotation of words helps writers express richer meaning with fewer words. Through an examination of the works of some Chinese-American writers, this presentation suggests that pieces of their mother tongue unconsciously reflect in their creative works, which can help us to learn about the "linguistic structures" of the mother tongue. The creative works of Asian-American writers epitomize the daily life of immigrant families, bringing more textures and richness to American literature. Therefore, to fully understand language use in Chinese-American literary works, it requires us to further explore the connotations of words in their literary works.

Session: The Basis of Behavior

Presentation Title: Parenting Practices and Internalizing and Externalizing Behaviors in Children and Adolescents

Presenters: Dr. Kristen Green, Cortney Fountain, Kaleigh Knight, Cayman Smith

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

Faculty and Graduate Student Project

Abstract:

Internalizing and externalizing behaviors, often associated with disorders such as anxiety, depression, oppositional defiant disorder (ODD) and conduct disorder (CD), can have significant negative impacts on children and adolescents. Factors such as socioeconomic status (SES), peer relationships, and child stress have been found to have relationships with internalizing behaviors in children and adolescents. SES and peer relationships have also been found to have relationships with externalizing behaviors. In addition to these factors, child-to-parent attachment, parent-to-child attachment and parenting styles have been found to have relationships with internalizing and externalizing behaviors in children and adolescents. The current literature lacks research exploring parenting practices and child/adolescent problem behaviors in countries comparable to the United States, research exploring neglectful parenting style and problem behaviors, and research investigating parent-to-child attachment and problem behaviors in children and adolescents. The current study is designed to investigate the relationships between parenting practices, including secure parent-to-child attachment, insecure parent-to-child attachment, parental discipline practices, and parental involvement. Participants will be 30-100 child-parent diads whose parents completed measures (Child Behavior Checklist, Parenting Relationship Questionnaire) regarding their children's behaviors and their parenting practices. It is hypothesized that there will be a negative relationship between 1) parent-to-child secure attachment and internalizing behaviors and 2) parent-to-child secure attachment and externalizing behaviors. There will be a positive relationship between 1) parent-to-child insecure attachment and internalizing behaviors and 2) parent-to-child insecure attachment and externalizing behaviors. There will be differences across parenting styles on internalizing behaviors and externalizing behaviors. Researchers will use correlational, simple linear regression, multiple regression and hierarchical regression analyses to assess the relationships among these variables.

Session: The Basis of Behavior

Presentation Title: Pornographic Consumption, Emotional Intelligence, and Traditional Masculine Behaviors: A Study of Potential Predictor Variables of Male Sexual Attitudes Towards Women

Presenters: Megan Gibson, Caitlin McCallar, Michael Taylor

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Margie Gill

Abstract:

Recent studies have indicated that by age 17, 93% of males and 62% of females have viewed pornography whether accidentally or intentionally. The widespread growth of technology, in particular the internet, has allowed for increased availability of pornographic material. In 1998, there were 14 million pornographic web pages. By 2004, that number had grown to over 420 billion. Such a large and sudden cultural shift can create unintended societal side-effects. Shifts in culture and society impact social relationships between people. In 2020, technology provides multiple avenues for observation of others, and a new means of social learning. Previous research suggests that social learning plays an important role in shaping social and sexual behavior in young adults within the United States.

In an attempt to test possible connections between the higher prevalence of online pornography and changing male sexual attitudes, researchers aim to identify potential predictor variables. Prior research suggested that emotional intelligence, traditional masculine behaviors, and pornographic consumption rates individually may influence male sexual attitudes towards women. The researchers will investigate these variables to determine if they are potential predictors of male sexual attitudes. Researchers seek to understand if the combination of these variables might yield a more significant prediction value than any individual variables. Researchers will utilize an online survey targeting heterosexual males between the ages of 18 and 32 to gather data. Data will then be analyzed using simple linear and hierarchical regression analyses run through SPSS in an effort to accomplish this goal.

Session: The Basis of Behavior

Presentation Title: The Role of Mentalizing and Shame-proneness in Disordered Eating among College Students: An Exploratory Study

Presenters: Shana Bassett, Carrlisa Heard, Hope Lam, Haylie Yakrus

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lucinda Grapenthin

Abstract:

Disordered eating is a serious health concern affecting over 60% of college women. The study of mentalizing, and its operationalized form reflective function, is an emerging line of theory and research within attachment theory and psychoanalysis that is proving relevant to a variety of psychopathologies. While mentalizing has been studied in the context of clinical eating disorders, less attention has been paid to the relationship of mentalizing to subclinical manifestations of disordered eating. This is a significant gap in research since subclinical disordered eating behaviors often lead to eating disorders, which have one of the highest mortality rates among clinical diagnoses. The current study is an attempt to better understand the relationship between mentalizing and shame, provide empirical evidence to further refine and elucidate the relationship between mentalizing and affect regulation, and further the understanding of the role of both shame and mentalizing in disordered eating attitudes and behaviors.

The current study will explore the following hypotheses:

H1: Individuals with lower levels of reflective function are significantly more likely to display disordered eating attitudes and behaviors than those with higher reflective function.

H2: Individuals with higher levels of shame are significantly more likely to display disordered eating attitudes and behaviors than those with lower levels of shame.

H3: Individuals with lower levels of reflective function are more likely to display difficulties in emotion regulation than those with higher levels of reflective function.

H4: Individuals with higher levels of internalized shame are significantly more likely to display difficulties with emotion regulation than those with lower levels of shame.

H5: Individuals with lower levels of reflective function are significantly more likely to display internalized shame than those with higher levels of reflective function.

Session: The Power of the Written Word

Presentation Title: Activating Transnational Advocacy Networks: Ida B. Wells and Mainstreaming Antilynching

Presenter: Dr. Anna Deeb

College: College of Business & Communication

Department: Department of Communication

Undergraduate / Graduate / Faculty: Faculty

Abstract:

Transnational and rhetorical theory scholars are increasingly concerned with how discourse travels across physical and cultural borders. Existing scholarship largely examines public address from a national context, which fails to account fully for all the potential forces that influence and shape rhetorical concepts. A transnational analytical approach attends to local, national, and global exchanges of information, goods, and ideas that shape and are shaped by discourse as it moves across borders. Through the lenses of transnational rhetorical theory and public address, this project seeks to answer scholars' call for greater attention to how rhetoric(s) track and change as they move across borders. The analysis engages Ida B. Wells's antilynching newspaper dispatches that she wrote in the early 1890s and sent to the Chicago Daily Inter-Ocean from England. The conclusion finds that she engaged both transnational rhetorical strategies and transnational settings to advance her rights claims within her own nation. This project contributes to transnational rhetorical scholarship and public address with findings of how rhetors accessed and engaged resources beyond borders for the national goal of increasing civil rights for African Americans.

Session: The Power of the Written Word

Presentation Title: Africa in the Declarations of Independence of America, Liberia, Congo, and Cote D'Ivoire

Presenter: Dr. Gnimbin Ouattara

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Humanities

Faculty Project

Abstract:

Thomas Jefferson drafted the US Declaration of Independence in June 1776 and submitted it to a Committee of Five who made revisions. The Second Continental Congress, assembled in Philadelphia, made further revisions. They declined to include in the final version of the Declaration Jefferson's indictment of the British king for enslaving the people of Africa who never offended him and for now exciting these slaves against American patriots engaged in the War for Independence.

Why did Congress strike out this passage? After all, it was, in the words of W. E. B. DuBois, "not [a] strictly truthful statement." Jefferson explained that Congress deleted it because they did not want to alienate Southerners, who wished to continue the importation of slaves, and northerners, who still sought to profit from the trade. Would the American Declaration of Independence have been as "manly" as Jefferson envisioned it if he had single-handedly authored it and delivered it at a ceremony that King George III attended?

How did African leaders conduct the processes for their declarations of independence, and what type of independence could they declare when their colonial masters controlled their independence ceremonies? For the 2020 Brenau Research Symposium, I propose to answer these questions by comparing and contrasting the declaration of independence of the United States and those of the African countries of Liberia, Congo, and Côte d'Ivoire.

Session: The Power of the Written Word

Presentation Title: American Literature and Journalism

Presenter: Lan Yang

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Art and Design

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Rebekah Taylor-Wiseman

Abstract:

In the 19th century, the growth of journalism as a trade in the United States corresponded with the vigorous movement of a distinctly American literary style. During this period, Samuel Langhorne Clemens first worked as a news writer developing his humorous stories that criticized the corrupt aspects of contemporary American society and signed them with a pseudonym-Mark Twain. From then on this artificial identity, which was infused with Clemens' soul, had a great impact on American literature. Sarcasm and theatricality were the tools Mark Twain used to approach American realities, and were also his most distinctive stylistics to transform his journalistic style into literature. By comparison, in the first half of the twentieth century, Ernest Hemingway characterized his novels with different journalistic techniques-such as authenticity and simplicity-which were shaped by the features of the periodical industry in that era. Hemingway's literary masterpieces constructed with his journalistic structure and cultural fragments capture American ideology in the early 20th century, and, along with his "iceberg theory," manifest his unique stylistics.

The prosperity of the periodical publishing industry provided a platform for journalists to present their stories and contributed to their career transformation to novelists. Through the examination of the interaction between American literature and journalism in the examples of Mark Twain and Ernest Hemingway's writing performances, this presentation illustrates how American literature was enriched by the substantial participation of journalists who consistently employed journalistic elements into their fiction.

Session: Improving the College Experience

Presentation Title: Student Assessment Evaluation for Accreditation

Presenter: Dr. Denise Smith

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Faculty Project

Abstract:

The purpose of this project is to evaluate the exit exam scores for students completing the MBA program at a specific school in the southern United States. This analysis is part of the continuous improvement process used for business school accreditation. The hypothesis is that the mean of the scores will increase over time, due to the changes and improvements made in specific courses and the MBA program overall. The results of data analytics and hypotheses testing supports the project hypothesis that the mean scores increase over time. Further study on the possible causes of the increases are included.

Session: Improving the College Experience

Presentation Title: Yumpu Your Program!

Presenter: Dr. Bill Haney

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Faculty Project

Abstract:

Yumpu! The desire and demand for innovative, multi-accessible, and interactive content has given rise to the dissemination and popularity of online electronic magazines. Aside from the cost savings compared with print media, online magazines can direct readers to relevant organizational links, interactive videos, and visual storytelling. And, at the same time, electronic magazines provide an exciting full screen experience for the reader. Brenau University's School of Business is spearheading the use of these online electronic magazines through a company called "Yumpu." This presentation will provide an overview of how these electronic magazines are developed and used in the School of Business. It will also highlight the benefits of how this new medium can be used from providing information to existing students to the recruitment of new students in any and all programs at Brenau.

Session: Improving the College Experience

Presentation Title: The Perceived Professional and Personal Value of Physical Therapy Students Participation in an Interdisciplinary Service Trip: A Focus Group Pilot Analysis

Presenters: Jessica Hall, Zachary Young, Dr. Bob Cantu, Dr. Tammy Buck

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Bob Cantu and Dr. Tammy Buck

Abstract:

Introduction: Service learning opportunities in medical programs can be a valuable tool for enhancement of student learning in a multitude of domains. Service learning gives students the experience of working in diverse environments and providing services to underprivileged communities. The purpose of this qualitative pilot study was to examine the motivations and perceived benefits of a group of physical therapy students who participated as team members in an intensive, interdisciplinary week-long service learning experience with the Farm Worker Family Health Program (FWFHP) in Moultrie, GA.

Methods: 13 DPT students participated in a focus group interview after the service learning opportunity. The interview was transcribed, coded and categorized for analysis.

Results: Four major themes emerged: (1) improvement in professional skills, (2) passion for service, (3) interdisciplinary skills, and (4) cultural diversity and inclusion exposure.

Discussion: Of the four themes, improvement in professional skills was most dominant. Improvement of clinical skills, and improvement of soft patient management skills were other characteristic responses. Additionally, students stated having a desire to give back was a contributing factor towards going on a service learning trip. Finally, the respondents remarked that the FWFHP encouraged interdisciplinary teamwork among multiple medical professionals.

Conclusion: The results of this study suggest that service learning is an excellent opportunity for PT students to serve diverse communities, enhance their patient care skills, and enhance their ability to function in interdisciplinary settings. Continued research is needed on the characteristics of participants and the academic, professional, and personal benefits of service learning.

Session: What Fashion Says about Society

Presentation Title: A Man's World: How Men's Clothing Created a Fashionable Caste System that Signified Socioeconomic Status and Political Power in Ancient Rome Years 44BCE-395CE

Presenter: Stephanie Contreras

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Art and Design

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Charity Armstead

Abstract:

For a time period spanning almost 500 years, Ancient Rome ruled over much of what is now modern-day Europe, Asia, and parts of Africa. The empire quite literally ruled most of the world. Here, a rich and diverse culture that enforced structure and rules governed its people in almost every way. In particular, men's dress served various purposes other than that of clothing the body. Their articles of dress served as a means of non-verbal communication. Often, their clothing signified socioeconomic status, political power, and even indicated a strong sense of nationalism for men. The study will focus on the importance of these factors and how they impacted a man's life. Specifically, that of a male Roman citizen. Also, the study will focus on how the toga created a strong sense of nationalism and the symbolic meanings of common adornments added onto the togas. Throughout the study, hypotheses on how clothing, specifically among the Romans, was used to create distinctions among social classes are going to be examined. Here, connections from ancient to modern times will be created to determine how Roman dress may have shaped the fashions of those in a position of political authority today.

Session: What Fashion Says about Society

Presentation Title: Children's Fashion During the Civil War Era

Presenters: Kadaija James

College of Fine Arts & Humanities

Department of Art and Design

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Charity Armstead

Abstract:

Children's clothing in the 1860's changed as they grew up. Both genders wore skirts and dresses until the age of six, and then after the age of wore clothes that went with their genders. For example, after the age six boys started to wear trousers or short pants while girls continued to wear skirts and dresses. This research examines how children dressed in the 1860s, from a newborn to the age of 14. I chose to do research on children's wear in the 1860's because I wanted to make a mini-exhibit to learn more about what children wore during this time period.

It is important to learn about children's wear because, while there is a lot of research on the colors children wore in the past, there is not much research available on how children dressed. It is also important to see if the civil war had any effect on children's fashion during the 1860s. Three ensembles will be made for this research for a visual representation of how children dressed during the missionary generation. I put together a presentation that outlines my progress while making the three ensembles and information about children's clothing choices in the civil war era.

Session: ADHD

Presentation Title: An Epidemiological Study of Undergraduate Students at Brenau University Experiencing Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Presenters: Raymond Berger, Lindsay Embrick

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Josh Hall

Abstract:

With a prevalence rate of five to nine percent, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common neuro-developmental disorders in the United States (American Psychological Association, 2013). It is a life-long disorder that affects the functioning of individuals across a number of settings. Adolescents and young adults are among the most severely affected and, if untreated, ADHD can lead to higher rates of injury, substance abuse and social/professional impairment. Scholastic achievement is one area of functioning that is significantly impacted by this disorder with graduation rates of students experiencing ADHD significantly lower than their unaffected peers. Economically, the lifetime earning potential of a college graduate is between \$600,000 and \$1.3 million more than those that do not obtain an advanced degree (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016). As such, the consequences of not obtaining an advanced degree, as a result of ADHD related academic impairments, are far reaching. The current epidemiological study is intended to estimate the actual prevalence rate and symptom index of ADHD among the Brenau University undergraduate student population. The university, as well as other universities, may utilize this information to determine an appropriate mix of interventional strategies that can be offered to qualifying students. A well-known measure, the Clinical Assessment of Attention Deficit-Adult (Bracken & Boatwright, 1994) will be utilized to determine if participating individuals present with ADHD. This information will be used to estimate the prevalence rate of undergraduate students with ADHD at Brenau University. Presentation severity and symptomatology data will be measured and aggregated as well. A symptom profile will be created from this data to determine which interventional strategies best address the needs of undergraduate students experiencing this disorder.

Session: ADHD

Presentation Title: Social Functioning in Adolescents with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder-Inattentive presentation (ADHD-I) and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder - Combined presentation (ADHD-C)

Presenters: Dana Pudenez, Aleeja Barnes, Sierra Howard

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Psychology

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Josh Hall

Abstract:

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) manifests in childhood or adolescence and can significantly impair the academic and social functioning of the affected individual. A diagnosis of ADHD is currently categorized by three different presentations: Hyperactive/impulsive presentation (ADHD-H), Inattentive presentation (ADHD-I), or Combined presentation (ADHD-C). Adolescents who have deficits in social skills are predicted to have problems as adults in several domains including psychological, academic or occupational, marital, social and the legal affairs. The available literature suggests social functioning is affected in adolescents with ADHD, such that elements of adaptability, social skill development, and leadership skills are limited. Nonetheless, little research exists that examines social functioning impairments based on the specific presentation and typology of ADHD. Furthermore, limited investigations have been conducted in accordance with the most recent criteria in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, which was expanded to include the diagnosis of ADHD into adolescence (DSM-V; American Psychiatric Association, 2013). From this investigative procedure, it is hypothesized there will be statistically significant differences between adolescents with ADHD-I versus ADHD-C on measures of social functioning as measured by the Behavioral Assessment System for Children, Second and Third Editions (Reynolds & Kamphaus, 2004; 2015). As such, it is expected there will be more significant limitations in social functioning across all measures in the group of adolescents with ADHD-C than in the group of adolescents with ADHD-I. The results of this study will allow clinicians to target effective treatments by presentation type, which could be employed in multiple settings, such as schools and occupational fields.

Session: Inclusion

Presentation Title: Experiences and Echoes in Inclusion: The Lived Experience

Presenters: Devon Durman

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jeananne Elkins

Abstract:

Background:

Diversity dispels negative stereotypes, reduces personal biases, and helps people recognize and respect "ways of being" that may be different from our own. Physical therapy is not a profession with much diversity. Ten percent of physical therapists are persons of color and thirty percent of physical therapists are male. These sparse statistics demonstrate the difficulties of diversifying the profession.

Although physical therapy as a profession struggles with diversity, the Brenau DPT program has made progress with this endeavor. About 32% of the students are from minority populations. However, with diversity comes the next challenge of inclusion. Inclusion for Brenau DPT is the achievement of a school environment in which all students are treated fairly and respectfully, where all students strive and thrive, and where collaboration among all students is both expected and encouraged. With inclusion there will be a seat for everyone at the table, everyone's contributions will be valued, and each student will be in an environment that allows them to do their best work.

Methods

This project was conducted as a personal ethnography. I used introspection as well as conversations with my peers to develop themes and conceptualize solutions.

Results

Major themes were developed from my personal perspective as well as the perspectives of others. Each theme represents an area where improvement is needed in inclusion practices.

Discussion/Conclusion

Diversity can be achieved with holistic admission practices. Inclusion presents a unique challenge. People with different lifestyles, different cultures, and different backgrounds challenge each other and challenge the normal paradigm. Inclusion is the necessary and imperative next step for Brenau DPT.

Session: Inclusion

Presentation Title: Intellectual Hospitality in the Academy Through the Approach of C. S. Lewis

Presenter: Linda Kern

Brenau Library

Faculty Project

Abstract:

We live in a polarized world where family and social networks grow increasingly homogeneous. We prefer to associate, in person and online, with those who share our opinions and perspectives, while distancing ourselves from and distrusting the other. We reinforce our beliefs and values through confirmation bias. This standing pat, or perhaps standing still, precludes learning. If we - and our students - are to learn, we must involve ourselves with unfamiliar ideas -examine them, consider them, engage with them, to seek to understand the unfamiliar and often uncomfortable concepts. Learning requires conversations with each other (Ellis 2020). "Through mutual respect, interaction, and reciprocity" we can "invite students to help one another with personal intellectual projects" (Haswell and Haswell 2015). The concept of intellectual hospitality captures this idea of being open to an experience that changes our consciousness, as we become what we were not before. (Lewis 1961). It invokes the ancient Greek image of xenia, coming together at the table as host and guest, where friend and stranger alike are welcomed. Intellectual hospitality is "as indispensable characteristic of healthy learning communities" (Bennett 2000). Join me for an interactive discussion of how we can foster an environment of intellectual hospitality on our campus using C. S. Lewis's *An Experiment in Criticism* as our guide.

Session: Influencing the Economy

Presentation Title: Presidential Tweets, Stock Returns and Sectoral Performance

Presenter: Dr. Arun Narayanasamy

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Faculty Project

Abstract:

Presidential tweets have been analyzed extensively in the field of political science and communication but their impact on the financial market is completely unexplored. How investors react to signals of certain specific keywords from The President is completely new to signaling theory. In this paper, I test the efficient market theory by analyzing presidential tweets and certain specific keywords repeated in the tweets and their impact on financial markets. In addition to exploring the impact on the overall market, I also explore the sectoral impacts, which make this study one of its kind. The results from this analysis show statistically significant evidence that for specific keywords included in presidential tweets, investors can make abnormal return from the financial market that lasts for 2 to 3 trading days. Since the financial market is on average semi-strong form efficient, this finding is inconsistent with that theory. This is the first paper in the field of finance to explore this relationship between presidential tweets and financial market performance and sectoral performance. Additionally, this is the first paper to test the attention based investing hypothesis incorporating presidential tweets.

Session: Influencing the Economy

Presentation Title: Does Financial Market Openness Spur Economic Growth?

Presenter: Dr. Fasil Fanta

College of Business & Communication

School of Business

Faculty Project

Abstract:

This paper investigates the relationship between financial market openness and economic growth among countries with different levels of income. We hypothesize that financial openness spurs economic growth after controlling for various economic factors such as economic policy uncertainty, level financial market development, and other institutional qualities. We use the financial openness index developed by Chinn and Ito (2006) as a measure of a country's capital account openness. Other sources of data include the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. We use a fixed-effect model to analyze the data which is the appropriate econometric model to deal with the endogeneity issue that may arise in our panel data. This paper has an important implication regarding the role of financial market policy on economic growth.

Posters

Session: Poster Session

Presentation Title: A Comparative Phenotypic Analysis of Bacteria Collected from Paper Currency and Bank Cards at The Women's College of Brenau University

Presenter: Sophia Casey

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Mathematics & Science

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Prof. Jessi Shrout

Abstract:

Paper currency is known to harbor fecal bacteria and other pathogens. Microorganisms such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* are pathogenic examples that have been isolated from banknotes. In a society where bank cards are increasingly used instead of paper currency, it is of interest to examine potential differences in levels of microbial contamination. In this study we sought to collect, isolate, culture, and identify bacterial species found on paper currency and bank cards at Brenau University. Samples were collected utilizing sterile culture swabs and standard aseptic collection techniques. Swabs were inoculated on chromogenic microbiological media plates, then plates were incubated according to standard protocol at 35°C for 24 hours. Following incubation, plates were phenotypically evaluated for colony growth and classification. Suspected Enterobacteriaceae species were then tested with Enteropluri tests for verification. Cultures grown from bank cards and cultures grown from paper currency were then compared. Full conclusions are not available at the submission of this abstract, but it is predicted that potentially pathogenic bacterial species will be identified, and that cultures grown from bank cards will be similar to cultures grown from paper currency. Outcomes from this study will lead to increased public awareness.

Session: Poster Session

Presentation Title: Analyzing the Participation of a Recreational Athlete with an Intellectual Disability

Presenter: Kathryn Loud

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Faculty and Graduate Student Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Tamara Buck

Abstract:

Many adolescents and young adults with disabilities participate in less than the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Additionally, these individuals are at a greater risk for increased comorbidities including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and osteoporosis. Together We Run (TWR) is a community program that promotes wellness and fitness to improve the health of adolescents and young adults with disabilities while facilitating peer relationships and promoting community togetherness. This case report describes the impact of TWR on the overall participation of a 22-year-old female participant with an intellectual disability. She is an active young adult who participates in other recreational sports including bowling, swimming, tennis, and kayaking. She participated in the 10-week training intervention to prepare for and successfully complete a community 5K race. The TWR program consisted of weekly group training sessions with volunteers and individual training completed at home. The Six Minute Walk Test (6MWT) and the time to complete the 5K race were assessed. The difference pre- and post-6MWT was an increase in 150 yards. The participant completed the 5K after the 10-week training in 35 minutes and 45 seconds with reports of enjoyment. In summary, community programs such as TWR, are an effective way to improve physical activity as well as provide social opportunities. The participant reported TWR helped her compete in other recreational activities more successfully and gave her opportunities to make new friends. Her father revealed that TWR facilitated opportunities for social learning experiences, fostered relationships between individuals with and without disabilities, and created a safe environment for individuals with disabilities.

Session: Poster Session

Presentation Title: Can Music Effect Activity, Eating Habits, and Behavior of Betta Fish?

Presenters: Anna Bobo, Madison Zaferatos

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Mathematics & Science

Undergraduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Karine Tornieri

Abstract:

Music has been shown to have a variety of effects on humans, animals, and plants. Betta fish, also known as Siamese fighting fish, are known for being territorial and aggressive towards other fish. We seek to learn if classical music can make the betta fish less stressed while in captivity. The experiment will consist of two control betta fish and two experimental betta fish. Each betta fish will be housed in a 5 gallon tank with the same decor, food, and temperature. The experimental betta fish will be exposed to classical music twice a day for one hour over the course of 15 days. We expect the betta fish to show more "happy" behavioral characteristics with the exposure to classical music.

Session: Poster Session

Presentation Title: Changes in Perceived Self-Efficacy in Physical Therapy Students During Early Clinical Experiences

Presenters: Hannah Cothran, Robert Rush

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Christy Brimmer

Abstract:

Healthcare students in professional programs demonstrate improved student self-efficacy with simulations and experiential learning modules. Evidence also supports the relationship between improved self-efficacy and skill and knowledge acquisition and retention. Early clinical immersion programs allow students the opportunity to perform and observe skills and activities that will improve their skill specific self-efficacy related to patient care. The Self-Efficacy Experiential Learning Form (SELF) scale has been established as a reliable and valid measure of PT student self-efficacy. It evaluates three domains of self-efficacy including general self-efficacy, and two skill specific self-efficacy domains of professional behaviors and psychomotor skills. The purpose of this study was to track the changes in self efficacy of PT students prior to their first semester of early clinical immersion and after two semesters of clinical experiential learning within the first year of the DPT program. The SELF scale was given to DPT students to complete voluntarily and anonymously after their first semester of classes including basic skills coursework, but prior to any clinical experiences. Students then spent 4 hours per week working in acute care helping to mobilize patients not requiring skilled physical therapy intervention but needing assistance to get up and out of bed. The SELF scale was given again after two semesters of early clinical immersion. These results were cross analyzed. Thirty-eight students completed the SELF scale. The mean score for each skill specific domain and sub-domain of the SELF scale showed an increase in self-efficacy. General self-efficacy also improved. In the skill specific major domains of psychomotor skills and professional behaviors, median scores increased, and variability reduced. Within the skill specific domain of professional behaviors, the sub-domain of problem solving also shows both improved self-efficacy and strong reduction in the variability of the students scores after 2 semesters of early part-time clinical immersion. The same is noted in the sub-domains of safety and locomotor skills. Skill specific self-efficacy of DPT students in an early immersion program is improved while general self-efficacy shows minimal change. The median score changes across all subdomains in the skill specific components of the SELF scale as well as the reduced variability of scores among the 38 students is notable. These changes in skill specific self-efficacy early in the DPT program could lead to improved skill and knowledge acquisition and retention over the course of the program. Future research is needed to track changes over the course of the program. Correlational studies of performance in full-time clinical experiences in the 2nd and 3rd years of the DPT curriculum need to be completed.

Session: Poster Session

Presentation Title: Chronic Pain: PT's Beliefs and Attitudes

Presenter: Shanice Teasley

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Stacey Hoffman and Dr. Jeananne Elkins

Abstract:

Background

With more than 20 million Americans experiencing chronic pain, chronic pain is one of the most common reasons for which adults seek medical care. Chronic pain is linked to restrictions in mobility and activities of daily living. However, little is known about how life experience and age influences physical therapist's (PT's) attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions will be toward patients with chronic pain. This research reflects how PTs experience, age, and exposure to pain curriculum effects their attitude and beliefs towards treating those with chronic pain, as well as their confidence level with implementing the Psychologically Informed Physical Therapy (PIPT) model.

Methods

After IRB approval, an anonymous survey was distributed to physical therapist using a snowball sampling technique. Using descriptive statistics and regression analysis we examine PT's exposure to pain curriculum, PT years of experience, and current attitudes and beliefs towards treating patients with chronic pain.

Hypotheses:

- 1) PTs (those practicing 10 years or less) will have greater comfort level working with CP and implementing the PIPT model due to more exposure to pain curriculum and recent introduction of the PIPT model.
- 2) PTs with 15 years or more experience will have more positive attitudes when working with CP patients.
- 3) PTs over 40 are more likely to have positive attitudes towards patients with chronic pain.

Results:

Preliminary results indicate the null hypothesis will be accepted. No relationship with statistical significance exists in our data between years of experience, positive attitudes about patients with chronic pain or exposure to pain curriculum and PIPT.

Discussion/Conclusion

Our data collection was limited and this may have led to the non-significant results. Ongoing research is being conducted to further explore the relationship of PT's years of experience, positive attitudes about patients with chronic pain or exposure to pain curriculum and PIPT.

Session: Poster Session

Presentation Title: Functional Movement Screen, the Athlete Sleep Screening Questionnaire and Nutrition as a Predictor of Injury Rate in Female Collegiate Athletes

Presenters: Brooke Sanders, Mckenzie Carter, Ethan Barrett

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Faculty and Graduate Student Project

Project Faculty Advisors: Dr. Jim Lewis and Dr. Jeananne Elkins

Abstract:

Purpose of study

To determine the relationship between injury rates in female collegiate athletes and the Functional Movement Screen (FMS), The Athlete Sleep Screening Questionnaire (ASSQ), and nutrition.

Subjects

Twenty-six female athletes at Brenau University.

Materials and methods

Brenau University IRB approval was obtained. Participants were consented and tested in multiple sessions. Participants completed a demographic form, medical history form, the Athlete Screening Questionnaire (ASSQ), and a nutritional survey before performing the FMS.

Data analysis

We report descriptive statistics and Spearman's correlation for non-parametric data for the relationship between sleep, sports injuries while participating in university level athletics, nutrition, and FMS scores.

Results

Our sample included twenty-six female athletes with a mean age of 19.5 years. Nearly 71% of athletes had sustained an injury while practicing or playing sports at the university. Twenty-four percent reported their injury to have prevented them from playing. Fifty-eight percent of those injured had from 1 to 4 injuries. As expected, there is a correlation between the sport played and university level injury (Spearman's rho -0.4699, 0.0205). FMS total score average is 15.4.

Conclusion and Clinical Relevance:

There is correlation between athletic injury prevalence and type of sport played. FMS components related to mobility and motor control scored below levels indicative of optimal movement control. Athletic injury and contributing factors are important to understand and address as to prevent future or re-occurring injury. Low FMS criteria related to mobility and motor control and poor diet choices may be related to athletic injury.

Session: Poster Session

Presentation Title: Getting it off My Chest: Benefit of the Research Interview for Caregivers

Presenters: Eva Blais, Trent Childs, Chandy Henson

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jeananne Elkins

Abstract:

Background

More than 43 million adults in the U.S. are caregivers. The majority are female and provide for a relative. Higher hour per week caregivers are more likely caring for a partner/spouse. Forty-nine percent are caring for more than one person. Caregivers are, on average, forty-nine years of age; however many caregivers are much older. In caregivers ages 75 and older the typical caregiver is a 79 year old female providing 1 to 34 hours per week of care without any paid assistance. This caregiver is caring for a male spouse about 77 years of age with dementia, "old age" issues or heart disease with a high burden of care. Caregiving at any age can be rewarding or risky. Loneliness and isolation as well as other psychological issues are prevalent in caregivers.

When a former caregiver, Mary, was interviewed 2 years after the death of her aunt for whom she provided 24 hour intense caregiving, the first words spoken by the Mary were: "you don't know how much this means to get this off my chest". Rossetto (2014), Murray (2003) and others have explored the value of the research interview to research participants and reported benefits to the participant; however, the benefit of the research interview has not been examined in caregiver/caregiving research.

Methods

The primary researcher and the student research team conducted qualitative analysis and reflection using the results and notes from twenty-two interviews of caregivers from two projects. In addition, an interview with the primary researcher from the projects was used for triangulation.

Results

In the initial sixteen interviews, the interview content was primary outcome measures; however, the participants without prompting began telling their stories during completion of the demographic datasheet. The strategy utilized during these "storytelling" periods was active listening. No prompts were necessary from the researcher; instead, the use of "oh", "yes" and were enough for the caregiver to continue to tell their story. From the frailest caregiver to the healthiest caregiver and among all demographics each participant expressed feelings of relief from telling their stories.

In this present study, two major themes emerged, "engaging the listener- I have a voice" and "you understand". Participants of various demographic backgrounds showed relief through telling their stories and feeling heard.

Discussion/Conclusion

Participants of various demographic backgrounds showed relief through telling their stories and being heard. This indicates that active listening done by the researcher may yield therapeutic result for caregivers. At the end of the interview Mary, the former caregiver, commented "this is finished for me now". Research is ongoing to further examine the therapeutic interview in caregiving.

Session: Poster Session

Presentation Title: Increasing Walking Distance Through Participation in a Community Running Program: A Case Study

Presenter: Kyle Ruygrok

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Tamara Buck

Abstract:

Physical activity is widely recognized as an effective method to prevent chronic disease. Less than one quarter of adults with disabilities meet the recommended physical activity guidelines. Due to more sedentary behaviors, adults with intellectual disabilities are at a higher risk to develop chronic illnesses compared to the general population. Specific chronic diseases that this population is at risk to develop include coronary artery disease, stroke, osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, cancer, low back pain, and diabetes. Together We Run is an intervention designed to help individuals with disabilities increase time in physical activity. Together We Run, a 10 week organized walking and running group, is designed to promote physical activity for individuals with a variety of disabilities. Individuals with disabilities participate in weekly training sessions with a steady increase in time spent in physical activity and distance walked while paired with volunteers. The volunteers provide encouragement and ensure the safety of the participants each week. Upon completion of the program, participants and volunteers are encouraged to take part in a local 5K to celebrate their achievements and training efforts. In this case study, one participant with intellectual disabilities completed the 6MWT pre-and-post intervention. He also completed a post-intervention interview regarding his experience in the program. The participant increased his total distance traveled in the 6MWT by 53.7 meters, almost double the minimal clinically important difference of 30.5 meters. The participant's post intervention questionnaire expressed his desire to continue participating with Together We Run, his enjoyment of the experience, and his determination to participate in more physical activity on his own in his everyday life.

Session: Poster Session

Presentation Title: Individuals' Reported Misophonia Symptoms after Use of Electronic Auditory Stimulation Effect (EASe) Guided Application

Presenters: M Irma Alvarado PhD, Christa Reeves AuD

Ivester College of Health Sciences

School of Occupational Therapy

Faculty Project

Abstract:

Misophonia is a condition in which an individual's autonomic nervous system evokes a fight-or-flight response when they hear otherwise harmless everyday sounds causing them to display anger, anxiety, or resentment (Edelstein, et al., 2013). Electronic Auditory Stimulation effect (EASe) Guided Application is a sound-based intervention geared toward helping listeners acclimate to sounds (Bayazeed, et al., 2018). This study employed previous research hypothesizing that EASe use might improve one's ability to tolerate sound. The EASe app generates a rating called an EASe Intensity Quotient (EASe IQ) which is a score based on a formula of music parameters. The EASe listening protocol consisted of 30 or 60 min listening sessions and reporting for 42 consecutive days. Five participants listened to the EASe App. The participants' EASe IQ scores and results from the Misophonia Activation Scale (MAS-1) and the Misophonia Assessment Questionnaire (MAQ) were interpreted and analyzed. Results varied in terms of time which participants followed the 42 day EASe listening protocol, EASe IQ scores, and self-reported misophonia symptoms. Nonetheless, three out of five participants reported to having a decrease in misophonia symptomatology. Despite missing data due to missed listening sessions, the EASe IQ scores - a measure of sound tolerance, increased for all participants from Day 1 to Day 42 (end) of study regardless of missing some listening sessions.

Session: Poster Session

Presentation Title: Infection Control in the Medical Educational Setting

Presenters: Chris Wilkinson, Andrew Goorsky

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jeananne Elkins

Abstract:

Individuals are exposed to pathogens in a variety of ways from their everyday environment. Visits to the gym, grocery store, school, or clinic or even pets can potentially introduce pathogens such as *Clostridioides difficile* (C. diff), Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), and influenza. Once exposed, individuals can become potential carriers and introduce pathogens to the school setting. Notably, students spend substantial amounts of time in various outpatient clinics, schools, hospitals, and gym environments and many have played competitive sports resulting in extended exposure to locker rooms, a known source of pathogen colonization. Currently, the Brenau Physical Therapy Department has not adopted a formal hygiene/ infection control policy. Therefore, in an effort to reduce potential contamination in the school setting, we conducted student surveys to identify potential barriers to maintaining a clean environment, reviewed current procedures, completed a literature review related to identified deficiencies, and generated corresponding recommendations.

Session: Poster Session

Presentation Title: Locomotor Training and Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury: A Case Study

Presenters: Julie Joyner, Taryn Anthony

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Faculty and Graduate Student Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Christy Brimmer

Abstract:

The purpose of this case study was to assess the feasibility of a family in a small rural area to come to a private clinic for body weight supported treadmill training; we also looked at the effectiveness of restoring function for chronic traumatic brain injury (TBI) using locomotor training. The patient is a 52 year old male status post severe traumatic brain injury secondary to a gunshot wound 2 years prior. He has suffered multiple strokes since the initial trauma. His primary goal in attending outpatient physical therapy was to restore functional ambulation and decrease caregiver burden. His prior level of function included maximal assistance for stand pivot transfers and use of a power wheelchair for all locomotion. Over the course of a 12 week locomotor training program, the client received 1 day per week of locomotor body weight support treadmill training and 1 day of usual and customary outpatient PT interventions including over ground gait training. During this time, he demonstrated improved kinematics of gait pattern specifically with enhanced weight shifts to complete forward progression of the limbs. Over the course of the training period, over ground walking distance increased from 25 feet to 132 feet with less assistance required. His level of assistance required for transfers dropped from maximal to minimal assistance. Over the course of the 12 week program, this client's primary caregiver cancelled only 1 appointment within the 12 week program. Though his goal was not fully met to the level of independent ambulation, he was able to ambulate with 1 person assistance and device as needed. His ability to sit independently and transfer with minimal assistance were positive steps towards reduced caregiver burden. This client's ambulatory and functional transfer achievements demonstrate the neuroplasticity and recovery potential for clients with chronic traumatic brain injury. It also demonstrates that long term intense skilled therapy is required to achieve recovery in chronic traumatic brain injury.

Session: Poster Session

Presentation Title: Prehab in a Wellness Setting: Improving results in TKR

Presenters: Tessa Cornwall, Matthew Jacobson, Natalie Espinoza-Hensley, Cory Muncill, Dr. Gregory Patterson

Ivester College of Health Sciences

Department of Physical Therapy

Graduate Project

Project Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jeananne Elkins

Abstract:

Background:

Current literature supports the use of preoperative rehabilitation programs for individuals receiving a total knee arthroplasty. Most literature to date has studied these effects in a traditional physical therapy setting, and there is currently limited research on the effects of preoperative rehabilitation in a wellness setting. Our study will investigate the effects of rehabilitation in a wellness center. Therefore, the purpose of our case study is two-fold. First, we want to investigate the effects of a four-week pre-habilitation program on postoperative outcome measures after a total knee replacement. Secondly, we want to know if the same known postoperative effects can be achieved without traditional physical therapy prior to surgery. This can serve as a cost-effective alternative for those who cannot afford physical therapy care or have limited access. This study can help further determine the need for preoperative care and its impact on functional outcomes post-surgery.

Methods:

A single case report

Results:

After IRB approval, a knee rehabilitation intervention was administered prior to total knee arthroplasty in a 64 y.o. male participant. This program included lower extremity strength, aerobic, and stretching exercises two times per week for four weeks in a wellness center. Outcome measures were taken prior to the onset of intervention, at the conclusion of the intervention, and six weeks post-surgery. Outcome measures included KOOS, WOMAC, 5x sit to stand, 6 MWT, TUG, knee flexion ROM, knee extension ROM. The participant made improvement in the pre-operative exercises.

Conclusions:

The initial recruiting strategy was not effective. Potential participants preferred to be compensated for their time and effort but this was a non-funded study. However, this case study suggests that a preoperative rehabilitation program in a wellness setting can improve outcomes for patients undergoing TKA.