



Wayne State College Honors Program
Fall 2007 Honors Colloquium Presentations

AMANDA ANDREAS

“MOZART EFFECT: A STUDY OF TODDLERS”

Instructor: Dr. Joni Irlmeier

Presentation: Wednesday, December 5, 2007; 4:00 p.m.; Brandenburg Education, Room 217

Abstract

The Mozart Effect is a term coined by Alfred A. Tomatis for the alleged increase in brain development that occurs in children under the age of three when they listen to the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The most common known fact is that it helps with short term memory. The majority of research has been done on college-aged students and this study explores possible effects with younger aged children such as toddlers. Studies have shown it is also beneficial to people with autism, dyslexia and attention deficit disorder through reducing stress, anxiety and depression.

Autobiography

Amanda Andreas is the daughter of Jim and Laurie Andreas of Lincoln, Nebraska. Amanda, a graduate of Lincoln Southeast High School, is majoring in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education with an endorsement in Coaching. While at Wayne State College, Amanda has been on the Dean's List and has participated in GAMMA WSEAN, Dorm Council and NENTA. Amanda is also currently Pledge Educator for Zeta Tau Omega, President of Greek Council and President of Cardinal Key National Honor Sorority.

KELSEY KOCH

“THE REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT OF LATIN-AMERICAN HEROES”

Instructor: Dr. Alan Bruflat

Presentation: Tuesday, December 4, 2007; 4:00 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

Abstract

Political revolution has been a central concept to understanding the histories of the various nations in Latin America. Revolutions are not possible without the leaders and followers who participate in them. In the course of my research, I examined the lives and deeds of historical figures who hailed from various locations in Latin America and who lived during different centuries in history. This paper presents historical and modern figures from Latin America, focusing on commonalities in their personalities and situations, and past and present views of the populations of their particular countries.

This paper seeks to determine why revolutionaries are admired by the peoples of Latin, especially if a specific attempt to overthrow a government is not successful. Examples of Spanish-American literature are also explored to determine what various authors have written about the positive and negative consequences of revolution. Is there a tendency for inhabitants of Latin American countries to admire revolutionaries, or are there boundaries that influence who gains the favor of the general population?

Autobiography

Kelsey Koch is the daughter of Steve and Kathy Koch of South Sioux City, Nebraska. She is a double major in English and Spanish Education at the Secondary Level, with an additional endorsement in English as a Second Language. She will graduate in May 2008 after completing her student teaching. While at WSC she has served as Spanish Club President, Publicist for the Wayne Student Education Association of Nebraska (WSEAN), and Secretary/Treasurer for Sigma Tau Delta. She was also a member of Sigma Delta Pi, served as a Learning Center Peer Tutor in Spanish, and worked at the Writing Help Desk.

Heather Petersen

“WAYNE STATE COLLEGE: COLLEGE LIFE DURING THE VIETNAM YEARS”

Instructor: Dr. Kent Blaser

Presentation: Friday, December 7, 2007; 3:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

Wayne State College will soon be celebrating its 100 year anniversary. This paper will describe what student life was like on campus during the years 1965-1973. Methodologies include interviews of former WSC employees and students, and studying historical issues of the Wayne Stater on microfiche. This paper shows that an event such as the Vietnam War and public issues such as environmentalism did have certain effects on the lives of WSC students.

Autobiography

Heather Petersen is the daughter of Brad and MaryAnn Petersen of Herman, Nebraska. Heather, a 2004 graduate of Logan View High School, is majoring in Social Science. While at Wayne State, Heather has been a part of Pi Gamma Mu, Phi Alpha Theta, Explorer's Club,

Northeast Nebraska Teacher Academy, and been on the Dean's List. Heather will graduate in December of 2007

LAURA PEITZ

**“HOOKIN’ UP OR SAVIN’ IT? AN EXAMINATION OF
SEXUAL SCRIPTS IN *SEVENTEEN* MAGAZINE”**

Instructor: Dr. Monica Snowden

Presentation: Tuesday, December 4, 2007; 3:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

Young women today receive mixed messages about their sexuality. School sex education programs and community faith-based organizations promote traditional sexual norms by teaching abstinence and promoting cultural slogans, such as *saving it*. Meanwhile the media reinforces messages that recognize young women's sexual desires and recreational sexual activity commonly referred today as the *hooking up* culture. Given the influence of media on young women's sexual ideas the teen magazine *Seventeen* is thought to play an important role in the media's portrayal of young women's sexuality. This research seeks to further explore the implications of opposing sexual scripts for young women. Drawing on past research examining sexual scripting in *Seventeen* a quantitative and qualitative content analysis of articles and ads is conducted to systematically analyze the magazine's sexual scripts in the years 2006 and 2007. In question is how *Seventeen* is responding to these conflictual cultural messages. If the *hook up* culture is indeed marketed in teen media are traditional gender roles and sexual norms reinforced or subverted?

Autobiography

Laura Peitz is the daughter of Martin and Carolyn Simon of Norfolk, Nebraska. She currently lives in Norfolk with her husband, Nicholas, and her two-year old son, Ethan. Laura is majoring in Sociology and will graduate in December 2007. She is currently a Sociology tutor for STRIDE Student Services, the vice president of the Psychology-Sociology organization, and a member of Pi Gamma Mu, a social sciences honor society. While at Wayne State College, Laura has presented research at the 2006 Nebraska Undergraduate Sociological Symposium and the 2007 Midwest Sociological Society annual meeting.

SAWYER PLAGEMAN

**“THE ACADEMIC GAP BETWEEN CHILDREN FROM
SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN
FROM TWO PARENT HOMES: RESULTS, REASONS
AND RECOMMENDATIONS”**

Instructor: Dr. Monica Snowden

Presentation: Monday, December 10, 2007; 3:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

Due to changes in family formation and dissolution, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of children raised in single-parent families. Because of this, it is essential that the impact of single-parent family structure be understood. One critical impact of family structure appears to be on educational attainment. This is a vital issue as education is an important indicator of social capital, health and well-being, as well as lack of education may result in poor occupational achievements, unemployment, and financial insecurity. Unfortunately, research shows a negative relationship between children of single-parent families and educational attainment. However, this paper argues that family structure alone does not explain variances in educational attainment, but rather it is social, emotional, and political factors that play a more influential role. A survey of college students has been done to further explore the influences of family structure on educational attainment.

Autobiography

Sawyer Plageman is the daughter of Rhonda Plageman, of Hawarden, Iowa and the late Dale McKee. She is a Sociology major and a Public Administration minor. While at Wayne State College, Sawyer has been involved in Alpha Lambda Delta, Pi Gamma Mu, Phi Kappa Phi, Ambassadors, Dean's List, Psych/Soc Club, and Young Democrats. Sawyer will be graduating in May of 2008.

KATHLEEN RUETHER

“THIS SIDE OF SANITY: A CHAPBOOK”

Instructor: Mr. JV Brummels

Presentation: Tuesday, December 4, 2007; 1:30 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

Abstract

Chapbooks have been around for centuries and appeal to young writers because of their low cost and simplicity to produce and distribute without a publisher. This project focuses on the writing, editing, layout, design, and printing of my first chapbook *This Side of Sanity*. *This Side of Sanity* contains my poetry from the beginning of college to the present.

Autobiography

Kathleen Ruether is the daughter of Donna and Donley Ruether of Fremont, Nebraska. She is an English writing and literature major with a minor in editing and publishing and a member of the English honor society Sigma Tau Delta. Her poetry was published in the annual student publication *The Judas Goat*, and she served as its co-editor. Kathleen is also Lifestyles Editor of the *Wayne Stater*. In the spring of 2006, she traveled to Europe as part of the Nebraska Study Abroad in the Czech Republic. She will graduate in December 2007.

KAREN SCHMEICHEL

“EVALUATION OF HIGH SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS”

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Alexander

Presentation: Tuesday, December 4, 2007; 2:30 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

Abstract

Textbooks have long been considered an indispensable teaching tool. But how accurate and valid is this tool? Problems, such as textbook errors, censorship from the public and from the publishers, multicultural bias, and the dumbing down of material, became apparent while researching through interviews, internet sources and books. Accentuating these problems is the pressure of big business in the form of publishing monopolies and state adoption policies, and authors or the lack thereof. Some avenues to control and/or eliminate these problems are discussed in the conclusion.

Autobiography

Karen (Becky) Schmeichel of O'Neill, NE, is the wife of Randy Schmeichel and the mother of three daughters--Kristy, Cindy, and Jacy – and grandmother of Tyler and Justin. A secondary education major with an ESL endorsement, Karen will graduate in December 2007.

LUCUS VIRGIL

“MINIMUM WAGE AND ITS IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES IN RURAL NEBRASKA”

Instructor: Dr. Joe Blankenau

Presentation: Monday, December 10, 2007; 4:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

In 2007, the U.S. Congress passed the Fair Minimum Wage Act, which will increase the federal minimum wage to \$6.55/hour by 2008 and to \$7.25/hour by July of 2009. This increase came with much debate about its impact on employers and employees across the country. While important, the national debate does not adequately consider the unique situations of rural economies located in remote areas such as northern Nebraska. To examine the impact of minimum wage increases on these areas, small business owners in rural Nebraska and other experts with backgrounds in rural economics were interviewed. In these interviews respondents were asked to evaluate how they perceive the minimum wage increases will affect small businesses and rural economies.

Autobiography

Lucas Virgil is the son of Richard and Teresa Virgil of Weston, Nebraska. He is a Political Science major with minors in Pre-Law and History. While at Wayne State College, Lucas has been a Resident Assistant in Neihardt Hall, the Student Trustee to the Nebraska State College System's Board of Trustees, the editor of the Opinion Page in the *Wayne Stater*, President of the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, a member of the Pi Gamma Mu Social

Sciences Honorary, a member of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honorary, an ex officio member of the Wayne State College Student Senate, a member of the Wayne Political Union, an officer for the Advocates, a member of the Pre-Law Association, and a member of the Neihardt Hall Council. In the spring of 2008 Lucas will graduate from Wayne State College and he plans on attending law school.

MORGAN WARRICK

**“ADAPTATIONS OF JANE AUSTEN IN
POPULAR CULTURE FILM”**

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Alexander

Presentation: Tuesday, December 4, 2007; 3:00 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge Film

Abstract

Jane Austen is a classic author who has regained popularity. This is greatly attributed to the recent releases of film versions of her books. Pride and Prejudice, Emma, and Sense and Sensibility have all been made into major films that have found popularity with modern audiences. This paper explores the aspects of Jane Austen that allow her works to be translated into film. In this research I consider the glamorization of the hero/heroine, the use of irony and humor, and the balance of reason and emotion when translating the books to film. This paper brings to light the changes that filmmakers have found necessary to make Jane Austen’s classic love stories appeal to a modern American audience.

Autobiography

Morgan Warrick is the daughter of Richard and Teri Warrick of Blair, Nebraska. She is double majoring in English Education and Applied Music with a minor in Editing and Publishing. While at Wayne State College, Morgan has been involved in Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, Woodwind Ensemble, Sigma Tau Delta, Kappa Kappa Psi, and Learning Center and STRIDE tutoring. Morgan will graduate in May of 2008 after completing her student teaching.

ADAM WELTON

**“DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN THEATER LIGHTING IN
THE 1920’S”**

Instructor: Dr. Gwen Jensen

Presentation: Tuesday, December 4, 2007; 2:00 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

Abstract

In 1920’s America, scene design was no longer the sole responsibility of the scenic designer. With the advancement in lighting technology in the form of instruments, colors, and

dimmers, it became possible for the lighting designer to contribute to the scenic development as well. This can be seen in the 1920's when the advancements were being put into practice by American theaters and designers. This paper examines the nature of the advancements, who used them, and how they changed the American theater.

Autobiography

Adam Welton is the son of John Welton and Linda Squier of Cheyenne, Wyoming. He is a Theater major with an emphasis in Theater Technology. Before coming to Wayne State College he received an A.A. in Music from Laramie County Community College. While at Wayne State College he has been involved in the stage productions of Quills, Guys and Dolls, No Exit, and Out on a Limb. In August of 2007 he married Kayla M. Warner of Cheyenne, WY. Adam will graduate in December 2007 and will remain in Wayne while his spouse completes her studies at WSC.