



**Wayne State College Honors Program
Fall 2008 Honors Colloquium Students' Abstracts**

Charity Bolling

ASPARTAME AND ORGANIC FOOD PACKAGING DEBATES: AN ANALYSIS OF THE CLAIMS OF A NEW YORK BEST SELLER DIET BOOK, DIET BOOK, *SKINNY BITCH*

Advisor: Dr. Jean Karlen

Friday, December 12, 2008; 12:00 p.m. Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract:

Skinny Bitch is a New York Times Best Seller and, although published in 2005, is a current piece of pop culture. The book encourages women to pursue healthier eating habits and is a guide to the vegan lifestyle. The authors, Rory Freedman and Kim Bamouin, accuse many sectors of intentionally misleading the American public. The authors present only one side of the argument surrounding the popular sweetener aspartame and argue that the organic food packaging industry is rife with deceit. This honors project is a critical analysis of the book's claims researching both sides of the arguments regarding aspartame and organic food packaging.

Sophie Dubas

APPLYING THE QUANTUM TEACHING PROCESS TO THE CLASSROOM

Advisor: Dr. Tim Sharer

December 10, 2008; 4:00 p.m.; Brandenburg Education Building, Room 218

Abstract:

The question as to how classroom instruction works has received much attention and been the subject of constant research. Teachers, wanting to improve instruction and student achievement, often search for methods as to how best to teach, reach out to students, and attain the goal of increased student interest and success. The purpose of this research is to examine one such classroom methodology, Quantum Teaching. The focus will be on Quantum Teaching's classroom strategies, specifically the behaviors conducted by the teacher and subsequently reciprocated by the students, the identification of the outcomes achieved by both the teacher and the students, the identification of the outcomes achieved by both the teacher and the students, and concluding with an analysis of the method's effectiveness. To enhance understanding of select Quantum Teaching strategies, filming was conducted in classroom of a Northeast Nebraska school, where a middle school teacher uses Quantum Teaching strategies.

Eric Knutson

BENEDICT ARNOLD, FORGOTTEN HERO OF THE REVOLUTION

Instructor: Dr. Kent Blaser

Wednesday, December 10, 2008; 4:30 p.m. ; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract:

In American history, the name Benedict Arnold is synonymous with treason. However, Arnold's story and subsequent reputation have become areas of increased attention among early American historians. This paper looks at Arnold's early life, his performance during the American Cause, and his role in the struggle for American independence. This paper argues that credit should be given to Arnold for his valor and success during the American Revolution, and therefore should be remembered in history for more than his infamous treason.

Cassandra McCutcheon

BLIND JUSTICE: CAN PERSONALITY TRAITS AFFECT JURY VERDICTS?

Instructor: Dr. Karen Walker

Wednesday, December 10, 2008; 4:00 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract:

Scientific interest in the jury system has focused on jurors and the variety of personality, attitudinal, and social differences that each may bring to courtroom decisions. The present study examined the influence of personality traits outlined in the Five Factor Model on the process and outcome of jury deliberations. The hypothesis was that individuals who exhibit higher levels of authoritarianism/dogmatism are more likely to convict and will influence the decisions of others. Participants completed a personality evaluation and provided a pre-deliberation verdict (guilty or not guilty) after watching a video depicting the criminal case of State of Arizona v. Troy York. In addition, participants were randomly assigned to six-person juries to stimulate process of discussion and reaching a unanimous verdict. After deliberations, participants provided the final verdict and decided which juror held the greatest impact on their final decision. Results will focus on the relationship between specific personality traits and final verdicts rendered.

Janet Portiner

THE WRITE CHOICE: LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

Instructor: Ms. Lisa Sandlin

Wednesday, December 10th, 2008; 1:00 p.m. Humanities Student Lounge

Abstract:

Many people have a life's dream, yet few take the steps needed to have a richer, fuller life. My choice was to go to college to receive the education to fulfill my dream of writing and publishing children's books. Because my reason to go back to school did not directly translate into a new, higher-paying job upon graduation, some people did not understand the rationale behind what I was doing. Yet, getting an education made sense to me as the best way to achieve my dream; and more than that, I had a vision to help other writers gain knowledge about their craft. As I neared completion of my Bachelor's degree, I had finished a novel, had started another, and had been accepted into six different publications. To carry out the last part of my dream to share my knowledge with others, I hosted two writers' workshops for adults and presented these groups with the concepts I learned in college. Both the workshops and the publications would not have happened without my decision to pursue a life's dream. Although society often measures success monetarily, there are hidden benefits to going to college; and pursuing education for the sake of education is perfectly logical. It is the best investment I made, and the returns will not be exclusively monetary. I took the desire to write, cultivated it, and turned it into living my American dream—to write and publish children's books.

Corey Uldrich

PARKING FOR ALL? THE GEOGRAPHY OF PARKING AT WAYNE STATE COLLEGE

Instructor: Dr. Randy Bertolas

Monday, December 15, 2008; 3:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract:

At colleges across the country, students buy parking permits because they believe permits will entitle them to a parking spot on campus. However, does a parking permit actually entitle its owner to a guaranteed parking place? Parking at Wayne State College is continually attacked and complained about. But, do students have a legitimate complaint? Is it really as bad as everyone makes it seem? This project will view the parking situation at Wayne State College and compare it to campuses across the country.