



Wayne State College Honors Program
Spring 2007 Honors Colloquium Presentations

JOSEPH BATTIATO

**“A COMPANY OF HEROES: EASY COMPANY BEHIND
ENEMY LINES”**

Instructor: Dr. Randy Bertolas

Presentation: Wednesday, April 25, 2007; 3:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

The character of war has changed dramatically over the course of the 20th Century. Technology, strategies, and tactics have all contributed to the changes of the character of the battlefield. World War II provides a tremendous example of the advances in technology and tactics in war during the 20th Century. One of the innovations implemented during World War II was airborne troops or infantry parachute soldiers. The main objective for paratroopers was to drop into enemy territory and using the element of surprise and quick infantry movements to secure objectives and harass the enemy. The 101st Airborne Division was made famous for the valor and service in the European theater of World War II. The story of Easy Company, one of the most elite companies in the 101st Airborne Division, provides insight into both courage in battle and tactics on the battlefield. Easy Company demonstrated examples of new battle techniques and maneuvers coupled with innovations in strategy and technology.

Autobiography

Joseph is the son of Dave and Jacqueline Battiato of Lincoln, Neb. He is engaged to Megan Snider, the mother of his 3-year-old son, Aidan. He is a 2003 graduate of Pius X High School in Lincoln. Joseph is pursuing the Social Sciences Field Endorsement with a coaching minor. While at WSC Joseph participated two years on the football team and was named a Presidential Scholar Athlete and an Outstanding Scholar Athlete by the Social Sciences Department. He has been a STRIDE tutor and has done extensive work for the Northeast Upward Bound program. He is a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Pi Gamma Mu, Pi Alpha Theta, and Gamma Theta Upsilon honor societies. He was the recipient of the 2006-2007 Randoll Family Scholarship. Next fall Joseph will be student teaching. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue a career as a secondary school teacher and coach, while working on a Masters Degree.

BRENNA BEHRENS

**“ATTACHMENT PROPERTIES OF STREPTOCOCCUS
MUTANS, A BACTERIA ASSOCIATED WITH DENTAL
CAVITIES”**

Instructor: Dr. Douglas Christensen

Presentation: Monday, April 30, 2007; 2:30 p.m.; Carhart Science Building

Abstract

Tooth decay is the second most common chronic disorder next to the common cold. Dental caries arise from the accumulation of acids produced by oral bacteria. *Streptococcus mutans* is the major contributing bacterial agent of dental caries due to its ability to survive in extreme acidic environments. A key factor in the survival of any bacteria is its ability to adapt to the environment. This paper takes an in-depth look at the gene regulation associated with attachment and the actual attachment success *S.mutans* has in various environments.

Autobiography

Brenna is the daughter of Glenn and Sue Behrens of Templeton, Iowa. Brenna, a 2003 graduate of Manning Community School, is majoring in Biology. While at WSC Brenna has been active in Neihardt Hall Dorm Council, Biology Club, Cardinal Key Honor Society, Alpha Lambda Delta, TeamMates Mentoring Program and has been a Freshman Orientation Ambassador, Team Leader, and a Navigator. In the fall of 2007, Brenna will begin her graduate work in dentistry at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

GARY BROWNELL

“THE DECLINE OF RURAL NORTHEAST NEBRASKA: AN HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW OF DIXON COUNTY AND ALLEN, NEBRASKA”

Instructor: Dr. Randy Bertolas

Presentation: Thursday, April 26, 2007; 4:00 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

The decline of rural Nebraska populations and regional changes in farming has recently received increased attention. This phenomenon, long in coming but only recently noticed, can be traced from the original settlement among farmers in the 19th century to the present day. This paper examines in depth how and why Dixon County and Allen, Nebraska were settled, by whom, and how the landscape has changed. The author considered outside events and local area experiences to understand these changes, extracting early history and census data to understand who came here, what was done, and why. Three generations of a local farm family, who have worked the land from the 1930s to the present day, were interviewed. This resulted in an understanding that farm mechanization and changes in local labor usage have effectively changed the rural society, both economically and socially. As productivity has increased by a factor of five, the rural population of farmers has been cut in half.

Autobiography

Gary is a 1978 graduate of Allen Consolidated High School and was awarded an Associates of Applied Science degree from Northeast Nebraska Technical Community College in 1980. Gary joined the United States Army in 1983 and retired from active duty in 2003. Gary is majoring in History, with a minor in Political Science and will graduate with Honors in May, 2007. While at WSC, Gary has been on the Dean's list, is secretary of the Theta Sigma chapter of the Alpha Sigma Lambda (National Honor Society), a member of the Phi Alpha Theta chapter (History Honor Society), and a member of Pi Gamma Mu chapter (Social Sciences Honor Society). Gary has been married to Christine since 1980 and, along with their son Matthew, operates Great Plains Auto and Service with locations in Allen and South Sioux City, Nebraska.

AMY CARPENTER

**“WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP: AN ANALYSIS OF THE
CHANGING ROLES AND A REVIEW OF NANCY
PELOSI'S POSITION”**

Instructor: Dr. Deborah Whitt

Presentation: Thursday, April 26, 2007; 1:30 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

Abstract

Leadership has been an area of interest for many communication scholars and continues to receive new attention. As leadership continues to be an important aspect of all major business and institutions, the role of the leader is changing. Women continue to struggle to gain many positions of power in a male-dominated world. As women seize many higher roles within organizations, their techniques are constantly being reviewed in relationship to the leadership styles identified by communication scholars. This paper takes an in-depth look at the major leadership styles as identified by scholars, and relates them to women and their leadership techniques. More specifically, this paper analyzes the leadership styles of Nancy Pelosi, the first female and current Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. The study includes analyses of her speeches, public appearances, and the opinions of others.

Autobiography

Amy is the daughter of JC and Donna Carpenter of Neligh, Nebraska. She is a speech communication major with an emphasis in Corporate, Community, and Public Relations Communication and a minor in Advertising. While at WSC Amy has been involved in the following: Navigator, serving as the organization's president and secretary; Student ambassadors, serving as the orientation coordinator for one year; WSC Cheerleading; Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society; Alpha Lambda Delta National Academic Honor Society; and Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society. Amy will graduate in May and plans to pursue a career in the advertising industry.

KYLE CHRISTENSEN

“HEARTLESS IN THE HEARTLAND”

Instructor: Ms. Maureen Carrigg

Presentation: Thursday, April 26, 2007. 3:00 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

Abstract

Kyle's honors project combines critical thinking, writing, research, and video production. The result of this work is “Heartless in the Heartland” a video documentary that explores the issues and trials that are a part of every day life for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals in rural America. Kyle shot, wrote, and edited the documentary after spending a semester researching the topic. The documentary combines interviews, metaphoric messages, reenactments, and facts.

Autobiography

Kyle is a double major in Mass Communication/Broadcast Communication and Theatre with a minor in Online Media, and will graduate in May. While at WSC Kyle was an air personality and web director for K92, and worked on numerous broadcasting projects through KWSC-TV. In theatre, he acted, directed and served as a makeup designer. Kyle interned during the summer of 2006 in Sherman

Oaks, California, at GoTV Networks, a corporation focusing in on-demand programming for mobile television. While at WSC Kyle received recognition for his acting and radio/television projects from the American College Theatre Festival, and the Nebraska Collegiate Media Association Golden Leaf Awards.

JEREMY FAJMAN

“SHAKESPEARE’S RICHARD III: PORTRAIT OF A VILLAIN”

Instructor: Gwen Ursula Jensen

Presentation: Wednesday, April 25, 2007; 1:00 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

Abstract

The need for a good story often surpasses the need for the truth. Shakespeare’s *Richard III* is no exception to this concept. For centuries historians have debated on how accurate Shakespeare’s portrayal of Richard III was. What is forgotten often, however, is that Shakespeare was not writing a history lesson but good drama. In the process of writing this drama Shakespeare created the character type of the villain. The goal of this project is to examine what resources Shakespeare used in both history and literature to create the villain. This project will also examine how and why Richard III is perceived as a villain in our society. The results of this project have shown that a critical element of story telling in our heritage was laid down in Richard III, since so many of our stories today are given momentum by the villain.

Autobiography

Jeremy Fajman, is the son of Richard and Connie Fajman of Columbus, Nebraska. He is a History Education and Theatre Education major. While at Wayne State Collge, Jeremy has been involved in the following: Phit Alpha Theta, Pi Gama Mu, Lambda Eta, Peer Tutor for the Learning Center, Campus Crusade for Christ, and College Republicans. In the fall of 2007, Jeremy will be student-teaching at Lakeview High School in Columbus, Nebraska.

GABRIEL FEJFAR

“IMPLICATION OF SUPERSTRING THEORY ON OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SPACE AND TIME”

Instructor: Dr. Todd Young

Presentation: Wednesday, April 25,, 2007; 3:00 p.m.; Carhart Science Building, Room 131

Abstract

Superstring theory is currently the burgeoning scene in theoretical physics. In an attempt to combine the rigorously examined yet mutually incompatible realms of quantum mechanics and general relativity, string theory allows for and actually requires radical new ideas that lead to new questions about our universe: How many dimensions do we really live in? Is ours the only universe? Could other universes have different types of physics? While past theories try to avoid these questions, they are valid in the framework of string theory. The talk will discuss the main focus of string theory, a brief historical background, the relations of the five different superstring theories, some of the implications of the theory on space and time, and will include a short discussion of some current alternate theories.

Autobiography

Gabriel will graduate in May with majors in Chemistry, Psychology, and Interdisciplinary Physics with Earth Science, and a minor in Mathematics. He was a member of honor societies including Alpha Lambda Delta and Pi Gamma Mu, was president of Lambda Delta Lambda and Kappa Mu Epsilon, and was treasurer for Psi Chi. Gabe was also a bass guitar player for the Wayne State Jazz Ensemble and held multiple offices in the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity.

CHRISTINE HORNER

**“THE DAY AFTER: REGIONAL EFFECTS OF A
TECTONIC ERUPTION OF THE YELLOWSTONE
CALDERA”**

Instructor: Dr. Randy Bertolas

Presentation: Thursday, April 26, 2007; 3:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

Below the picturesque setting of Yellowstone National Park lies one of the world's largest super volcanoes. Three super eruptions have occurred over the last millions of years forming the beautiful caldera that millions of people travel to see every year. Research has shown that the volcano has a cycle of erupting every 600,000 years, the last being 640,000 years ago. Is the volcano due for another super eruption? Should the volcano erupt, the eruption would be 2500 times the 1980 Mount St. Helens eruption. Thick ash deposits would bury vast areas of the United States, and injection of huge volumes of volcanic gases into the atmosphere could drastically affect global climate. The results would be a cold wave lasting several years, destroying crops, and many species of plants and animals would face extinction. The Yellowstone caldera continues to rise leaving some wondering whether the next big eruption is imminent.

Autobiography

Christine, a wife and mother of two, is a graduate of Emerson-Hubbard High School. She will graduate in May with a degree in geography and minors in public administration and business administration. While at WSC she has been active in Gamma Theta Upsilon (Geography Honor Society), Pi Gamma Mu (Social Science Honor Society), Alpha Sigma Lambda (Non-traditional Student Honor Society), and the Explorers Club. Christine also assisted the judges at the 2007 Nebraska State Geography Bee. She will graduate in May, 2007 and plans on returning to WSC as a graduate student in the fall, working towards a Masters degree in Social Science Education. Once completing her degrees, she hopes to secure a position working with educational programs in the National Park System.

MICHAEL JACOBSEN

**“APPLYING SURFACE PLASMON RESONANCE FOR
DETERMINING AND QUANTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF
DRUG CARRIERS WITH NUCLEIC ACIDS AND SERUM
PROTEINS”**

Instructor: Dr. Shawn Percy & Dr. Douglas Christensen

Presentation: Monday, April 30, 2007; 1:30 p.m.; Bluestem Room, WSC Student Center

Abstract

Finding tools to study pharmacokinetic properties of drug delivery vehicles is becoming increasingly important in today's drug delivery efforts. Understanding these properties should facilitate design of more effective delivery vehicles.

In this study, polyethyleneimine (PEI) and nanogel—a recently developed polymeric nanoparticle—were applied in a novel drug delivery screening approach utilizing Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) technology. The two nanoparticles were amine coupled to a biosensor chip and screened for interactions with human serum proteins and nucleic acids. Preliminary results showed serum protein adsorption to PEI, but no adsorption to nanogels. These adsorbed proteins could be simply eluted via various salt treatments, or, more gently, using trifluoroacetic acid (TFA). In the latter case, SPR was coupled to MALDI Mass Spectrometry (MS) for identification of interacting serum proteins. A positive control injection of Bovine Serum Albumin protein provided interacting partners with the PEI particles.

Thus, *proof of principle* was demonstrated via protein adsorption to and desorption off of PEI. The SPR-MALDI MS concept for identifying interacting proteins was also demonstrated. This study employed an innovative approach to DDV screening in that rather than immobilizing serum proteins to the biosensor chip, the nanoparticles were immobilized and the serum proteins were subsequently injected over the sensor chip. Lastly, the novel nanogel particle displayed inert properties that should support its progression through DDV development.

Autobiography

Michael is the son of Thomas and Michelle Jacobsen of Laurel, Neb. He will be graduating in May with majors in biology, chemistry, and computer science, and will have completed over 200 credit hours at WSC. He is a recipient of the National Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and the Nebraska Academy of Science's C. Bertrand and Marian Othmer Schultz Scholarship. Michael has conducted research in microbiology and immunology at WSC, redox biology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), and drug delivery/ nanomedicine at the University of Nebraska-Medical Center (UNMC). He is currently serving as the student representative on the Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees and has been involved in the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and the WSC Catholic Newman Club.

ABBIE KLEIN

“MY FAIR LADIES: AN EXPLORATION OF NON-FUNCTIONAL WEARABLE ART”

Instructor: Mr. Steven Elliott

Presentation: Monday, April 30, 2007; 3:30 p.m.; Peterson Fine Arts Building, Room 19

Abstract

Vulnerability, personal narrative, and identity join together to bring personality to life-sized sculptures in the form of dresses in this series of work. The research presented is an introspective quest for innovative uses of materials and forms based on images from the fashion world of the past. Common materials, found in homes, offices, and school buildings have been used. This is a series of dresses that ask the viewer to take a fresh look at the cloths we wear, and also at the vulnerability of materials used in making the sculptures. The idea for the form of each sculpture comes alive in the evaluation of the materials chosen, and each sculpture contains metaphor or irony, as well as symbolism. The treatment of surfaces includes three-dimensional drawing with thread, curvilinear line and pattern. The presentation will be projected images of the sculptures from the series *My Fair Lady* and also images of high fashion from research of the *haute couture* genre of fashion. Along with the images will be a narrative from the author's progression through this series.

Autobiography

Abbie is the daughter of Gordon and Chris Klein of Harvard, Neb. Abbie, a graduate of Harvard High School, is majoring in studio arts and will graduate in May. While at WSC Abbie has been involved in Cardinal Key, Phi Kappa Phi, dean's list resident assistant, Alpha Lambda Delta, Zeta Tau Omega, Greek Council, GAMMA, Art Club, Campus Crusade for Christ, Alpha Omega Ministries, Hall Council, and theater productions. Abbie has also participated in the Juried Student Show since spring of 2004 and her work has been in various student installations around campus. Following graduation Abbie will be pursuing an MFA degree with a concentration in sculpture for the purpose of becoming a freelance studio artist.

RHEA LANDHOLM

“THE HEARTBEAT OF THE HEARTLAND”

Instructor: Dr. Max McElwain

Presentation: Thursday, April 26, 2007; 2:30 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

Abstract

Rural journalism in Nebraska has always been a key for thriving small towns. Editors are not only editors of the newspaper, but they are also business people, and have to live amongst neighbors who scrutinize everything they do. Reporters have a keen sense of the area and its people, making some important contacts in each town the newspaper covers. On the day the newspaper is published, many citizens are seen reading the newspaper mostly for local, sports, and school news. In this paper, the author will examine the vitality of community journalism, especially in rural America. Research methods include the comments of Nebraska publishers on community journalism in their newspapers

Autobiography

Rhea is the daughter of Joel and Carrie Landholm of Lyons, Neb. A graduate of Lyons-Decatur Northeast High School, Rhea is a mass communications major with an emphasis in journalism and minor in editing and publishing. While at WSC, Rhea has been on the dean's list all four years, Editor-in-Chief of the Wayne Stater, president of Lambda Pi Eta, vice president and treasurer for WSC-Peer Education Network and secretary for Kappa Kappa Psi. She has been a member of the marching band, Wind Ensemble, pep bands, Alpha Lambda Delta, Explorer's Club, Neihardt Hall Council and Drama Club. She will graduate in May, 2007.

DAWN MOORE

“UNDERSTANDING PERFORMANCE ANXIETY”

Instructor: Dr. David Bohnert

Presentation: Wednesday, April 25, 2007; 4:00 p.m.; Peterson Fine Arts Building, Room 105

Abstract

Performance anxiety is a group of disorders that affects musicians, actors, dancers, public speakers, and athletes alike. The psychological and physical symptoms of performance anxiety are often severe and prevent individuals from achieving maximum potential in their performance. There is no cure for this disorder; however symptoms of anxiety may be lessened with treatment. In this presentation an

in-depth look will be taken at the causes and effects of performance anxiety, those persons most likely to experience it, and the various methods used to help sufferers cope with the disorder.

Autobiography

Dawn is the daughter of Larry and Maria Moore, Sr. of Omaha, NE. Dawn is majoring in Elementary Education and Vocal Music Education K-12. While attending Wayne State, Dawn has been on the Dean's List and has served as an officer in the WSC Concert Choir and Cardinal Key National Honor Society for Women. She has also been a member of the Northeast Nebraska Teaching Academy (NENTA), and Phi Alpha Theta. She will graduate this May after completing her student teaching.

ROSS PESEK

“RESTRICTION OF FOURTH AMENDMENT RIGHTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ITS EFFECT ON STUDENT PERCEPTION IN OTHER ENVIRONMENTS”

Instructor: Dr. Mark Leeper

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

Abstract

The Fourth Amendment Rights of public school children have been systematically rolled back beginning in 1985. The Supreme Court has been influential in paring back the rights of public school children so far that they are afforded virtually no Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable search and seizure. The paper takes an in-depth look at the case law which led to this unprotected environment and attempts to determine the effect it has on students' perceptions of "reasonableness" as it relates to the Fourth Amendment. Will public school students who experienced aggressive stripping of their Fourth Amendment liberties in school be more likely to allow government officials more latitude with Fourth Amendment rights, as compared to fellow students who experienced milder intrusion of their rights?

Autobiography

Ross is the son of Don Pesek and Joanna Taylor of Omaha, Neb. He is a political science major with minors in criminal justice and pre-law. While at WSC Ross has been involved in the Judicial Board, Criminal Justice Association, Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice Honorary), Pi Gamma Mu (Social Sciences, Honorary), Phi Kappa Phi (All Discipline Honorary), and as president of the Pre-Law Association. In the fall of 2007 he will enroll in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law.

AARON POWERS

“THE SPIRITUAL SIDE OF THE SCREEN: THE LIFE AND WORK OF HORTON FOOTE”

Instructor: Dr. William Slaymaker

Presentation: Wednesday, April 25; 1:30 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

Abstract

Faith and spirituality in today's world are often seen in a rigid set of rules, or a religion. This perception of faith confines it to ritual and structure. In the media of today's world, faith is often portrayed as something related to a close-minded nature. In the author's research of faith in film, he

sought to find a screenwriter who dealt with faith in a different manner and subsequently discovered the work of Texas playwright and screenwriter Horton Foote. Foote's plays and films were surveyed and it was found that this converted Christian Scientist portrayed faith in a much more optimistic and objective manner than the norm. This paper will show how faith and film can coexist through one man's work and finally, how faith shows itself to the world.

Autobiography

Aaron is the son of Dixon and Susan Powers of Holdrege, Neb. He is an English major with emphases in writing and literature. While at WSC Aaron has been involved in the following: Neihardt Scholar, Dean's List, Co-President of Campus Crusade for Christ, membership in the English honorary society Sigma Tau Delta, appearances in and assistant editor of the annual student publication *The Judas Goat*, and theater productions. Following graduation Aaron plans to seek employment in his field of study and pursue his goal of becoming a freelance writer.

JESSICA REEVES

“THE ROLE RACE PLAYS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM”

Instructor: Dr. Monica Snowden

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

Abstract

Race discrimination has persisted since the beginning of the institutionalization of the criminal justice system, and remains deeply entrenched in the system. This paper seeks to further understand racial injustice in the criminal justice system and examines the degree to which individuals perceive racial injustice within the entire system. To investigate, a survey of WSC students was conducted. It is argued that college students' perceptions are important to understand because some may hold future positions within the criminal justice system, as well as being citizens of a democracy which purports to uphold justice and protect its people's rights.

Autobiography

Jessica is the daughter of Michele Jakub and Larry Reeves of Brainard, Nebraska. Jessica, a graduate of East Butler High School, is majoring in Criminal Justice and Sociology and will graduate in May. While at WSC Jessica has been on the Dean's List, and has participated in Psychology/Sociology Club, Alpha Phi Sigma, Alpha Lambda Delta, and Phi Gamma Mu.

TANNA SIECKE

“COMMUNICATION PATTERNS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE”

Instructor: Dr. Deborah Whitt

Presentation: Thursday, April 26, 2007; 2:00 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

Abstract

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines domestic violence as “a pattern of assaultive and/or coercive behaviors...that adults use against their intimate partners to gain power and

control in that relationship.” According to Harvard Women’s Watch, significant numbers of women experience an abusive relationship; in fact, a woman has 25 percent higher risk she will be involved in such a relationship in her lifetime. Analysis of intimate partner violence has uncovered patterns in abusive relationships, as seen through the aftermath and actions of the abuser and the constant fluctuations in the relationship. This study seeks to show through literary analysis that there are established communication patterns in abusive relationships.

Autobiography

Tanna is the daughter of Mark and Bev Siecke of Decatur, Nebraska. She is graduating with majors in Spanish and Speech Communication with emphasis in Corporate, Community, and Public Relations Communication. While at WSC Tanna has been on the Dean’s List and a member and officer of the Lambda Pi Eta Communication honorary. In the fall of 2007, Tanna will begin graduate work in the field of Organizational Communication at the University of Northern Iowa.

ASHLEY VILLARREAL

“A COMPARATIVE GEOGRAPHIC STUDY OF ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS TOWARD RECYCLING AT SELECTED MIDWESTERN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES”

Instructor: Dr. Randy Bertolas

Presentation: Wednesday, April 25, 2007; 4:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

With the population of the world currently at 6.5 billion and rising at 1.2 percent annually, waste is consuming more land that could be used for human living. Recycling is the key to reduce the waste expenditure of each person, community, and the world as a whole. The hope of each generation is to attain postsecondary education and contribute to society, and be aware of ways to better the world by improving the environment for future generations. For this project, students from five selected postsecondary institutions in the Midwest were given a survey consisting of two main parts dealing with recycling and environmental issues: college student’s attitudes and college student’s behaviors. The questions came from two known scales: College Students Environmentally Responsible Behaviors (ERB) and Attitudes Toward Recycling (ATR). The goal of this study was to understand the attitude and action differences geographically across the region depending on the location of the college. The data was analyzed using SPSS. The author’s hypothesis states that college students’ attitudes are not affected by the community in which they live but are instead affected by degree choice and personal interests.

Autobiography

Ashley is the wife of Arturo Villarreal, Jr., and is working toward a field endorsement in health and physical education K-12, and a subject endorsement in Geography Education. While at WSC Ashley has been awarded the Jess M. Randol Endowed Scholarship and John David Robinson Scholarship. She is a member of Pi Gamma Mu and Gamma Theta Upsilon honor societies, and is currently Vice President of the Physical Education Professionals Club. Prior to her attending WSC in the spring of 2005, she spent six weeks on a mission/traveling experience in Taiwan, a country that no longer uses plastic bags in grocery stores and where significant recycling takes place.

CARA WATCHORN**“SUBTERRANEAN BEAUTIES: JEWEL CAVE AND WIND CAVE”**

Instructor: Dr. Randy Bertolas

Presentation: Wednesday, April 25, 2007; 4:00 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

In Custer County, S. D., approximately 20 miles apart are located Jewel Cave National Monument and Wind Cave National Park, the second and fourth longest caves in the world. Together totaling over 260 miles of passages, both are major tourist destinations and are still being explored. Though Jewel Cave and Wind Cave are found a short distance from one another within the Black Hills, the caves are vastly different. This research explores the similarities of the caves, including geographic location; the Pahasapa Limestone Formation; the early history of each cave, including accepted discovery; and the beginning of tourism. This research will also point out differences between the caves, including speleothems, the Minnelusa Formation, exploration, National Park Service involvement, and present tourism. There are still many unanswered questions about both caves, including the possibility of a connection between the two. After over 100 years of exploration in both caves, neither Wind Cave nor Jewel Cave has an end in sight, but both provide Custer County with significant tourism.

Autobiography

Cara is the daughter of Dave and Carol Watchorn. She is a senior from Ponca, Nebraska, and will graduate in May with majors in Speech Communication and Geography. Cara is currently president of Pi Gamma Mu, vice president of Lambda Pi Eta, vice president of Gamma Theta Upsilon, and co-president of the Explorers Club. She has also been involved in WSC Madrigals and concert choir, Student Activities Board, Neihardt and Anderson Halls, and Catholic Newman Club. When time allows, Cara volunteers at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Wayne Public Library, Girl Scouts, Nebraska Leadership Seminars Inc., and WSC Service Learning. This project began to develop last summer while working as an interpretive guide intern at Wind Cave National Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Upon graduation, Cara will be a seasonal interpretive park ranger at Yellowstone National Park.

EMILY WILKE**“FROM MEXICO CITY TO MANGO STREET: THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN MANIFESTATIONS OF THE FEMALE VOICE IN THE WORKS OF SANDRA CISNEROS.”**

Instructor: Dr. Gretchen Ronnow

Presentation: Thursday, April 26, 2007; 3:00 p.m.; Humanities Student Lounge

Abstract

Sandra Cisneros has gained acclaim in recent years as a prominent Mexican-American writer who draws on experiences from her youth as a Mexican-American female in the barrios of Chicago. The women in her stories manifest themes identifiable in Mexican folklore and in her familial experience. Through studying the female voices present in Caramelo, The House on Mango Street, Woman Hollering Creed, and selected poetry, the author was struck by the preponderance of strong female archetypes. This presentation will concentrate on the novel, Caramelo. Methodology includes a study of traditional Mexican folklore, biographical information on the Cisneros family, literature on common female

archetypes, and critical commentary on male and female characters in Cisneros's texts. Cisneros's main project is to reanimate, reclaim, and reenergize the myth archetypes so that living women have a constant and vivid image to emulate.

Autobiography

Emily is the daughter of Clark and Kathy Wilke of Osmond, Neb. She is a 2003 graduate of Osmond High School and is majoring in English and Spanish education with an endorsement in ESL. She will graduate in December 2007 after completing her student teaching.