



Wayne State College Honors Program
Spring 2009 Honors Colloquium Students' Abstracts

Aric Butterfield

“FACTORS INFLUENCING THE MIGRATION OF COLLEGE ENTRANTS AND THEIR POST-COLLEGIATE SETTLEMENT PATTERNS”

Instructor: Dr. Randy Bertolas
Wednesday, April 29, 2009; 4:00 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

Student mobility has been studied on a large scale, but little research has been done with survey data from specific institutions. This study examines the deciding factors for college students in choosing their postsecondary institutions. The study also looks into the subsequent reasons behind college graduates choice of areas to live and work after college graduation. The reasons for both of these major migrations are examined. The study examines previous literature regarding student mobility, and then original survey data is gathered that focuses on Wayne State College graduates and their reasons for migration.

Brian Faltys

“MOTIVATIONS FOR ENGAGING IN SUICIDAL TERRORISTIC ACTS”

Instructor: Dr. Paul Campbell
Wednesday, April 29, 2009; 2:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

Suicide terrorism, a terrible method of warfare, is becoming increasingly common since it emerged as a major phenomenon in the early 1980s. Although the tactic can be traced back as far as 4 B.C., it was not until recently that modern suicide terrorism, often consisting of vehicular or human bombs, has been so effectively harnessed by terror groups. It has become so effective, in fact, that suicide terrorism is now the deadliest form of terrorism. Understanding what motivates individuals to give their lives in such a fashion is vital to those who are threatened by terrorism. This paper reviews and compiles literature which investigates the causes of suicide terrorism, whether they are social, psychological, cultural, political, or religious. The history of suicide bombing, its condition today, and what is known of the typical suicide terrorist are also presented. It is the intent of this paper to give the reader a better understanding of those who have turned to a method of warfare so extreme and atrocious.

Melissa Gasper

"AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM RESPONSES TO MEMORY-RECALL GENERATED EMOTIONS"

Instructor: Dr. Shawn Percy

Friday, May 1, 2009; 1:00 p.m.; Bluestem Room, Student Center

Abstract

Autonomic nervous system (ANS) controlled variables – heart rate variability (HRV), blood pressure (BP), respiration rate and pulse – were measured to determine if emotional memories have a significant effect on these ANS responses. This study investigates the physiological responses of memory – recall generated emotions – anger, fear, sadness, disgust, surprise, joy – as measured by changes to the (ANS). Thirteen college students generated autobiographical memories from each of the six basic emotions. They then verbalized each of these emotions while blood pressure, pulse, respirations and electrocardiogram (EKG) were recorded. HRV and mean arterial pressure (MAP) were calculated from EKG and BP recordings, respectively. Subjective data was gathered with post-emotion survey to determine the amount of emotion participants experienced and the perceived physiological intensity for each of the six emotions.

Apollonia Grandi

“A LOOK INTO THE ‘CSI EFFECT’: HOW TELEVISION CRIME DRAMAS ARE AFFECTING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM”

Instructor: Dr. Jason Karsky

Wednesday, April 29, 2009; 3:00 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

With the rise in popularity of television crime dramas, America has fallen in love with forensic science. People are fascinated by the idea that science can solve crimes. The “CSI effect” is a term that legal authorities and the mass media have coined to describe a supposed influence that watching the television show *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* has on juror behavior. The purpose of this research is to determine whether the CSI Effect really does exist, or if it is just a way for prosecutors and other court observers to explain acquittals that they find puzzling. The research for this honors project takes an in-depth look at Wayne State College students’ television crime drama watching habits, and their perceptions of reality regarding these shows.

Heather Hegi

“NEWLY INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES: AN EXAMINATION OF THE VIABILITY OF SELECTED STATES FROM 1992-PRESENT”

Instructor: Dr. Shawn Percy

Wednesday, April 29, 2009; 3:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

The purpose of this presentation is to bring to attention the changes that have been made to the world’s political landscape since the breakup of the Soviet Union (why my analysis starts at 1992), and to examine why these countries became independent and critique how viable they are as independent countries. Information was gathered from mostly online sources, and countries were critiqued by the eight accepted criteria items that define a viable country. I have found that there have been nine countries that have declared independence since 1992 with varying locations, circumstances, and viability. It will be these nine countries that will be discussed in terms of why they became independent, and their viability as an independent country.

Dane Jessen**“SMALL SCALE WOOD SCULPTURE”**

Instructor: Mr. Steven Elliott

Wednesday, April 29, 2009; 2:00 p.m.; Studio Arts Building, Design Room 118

Abstract

Nature is one of the most powerful forces we know. It can destroy anything in nature or anything mankind has ever made. This idea was the starting point for the wood sculptures I have been working on for the past couple of years. This past semester, I pushed an idea and a form I had been working with by making it into a larger scale piece. The piece was started by laminating wood together and sanding it down to a desired form. My paper will go into more depth on the processes used to achieve my work and all of the challenges associated with working in a larger scale. After the large scale piece, I started to work on more intimate pieces, all of which will be described in my paper.

Jennifer Johnson**“WHERE ARE WE HEADED AFTER COLLEGE? FACTORS INFLUENCING COLLEGE STUDENT ASPIRATIONS”**

Instructor: Dr. Monica Snowden

Tuesday, April 28, 2009; 3:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

A few studies have looked at college students' class aspirations most notably, Brimeyer, Miller, and Perrucci (2006). The future aspirations of college students have changed over time. The changing educational requirements for occupations combined with increasing pressures from family members has led to a growing number of students attending public colleges and universities. Interestingly, students along with their parents expect a greater return for their educational investments. In this study college students are surveyed to investigate the potential effects of their social class socialization, college socialization and awareness of current affairs on their future class expectations.

Jolene Mattan**"EFFECTS OF WEIGHT BASED TEASING"**

Instructor: Dr. Karen Walker

Wednesday, April 29, 2009; 4:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

Abstract

Obese children are exposed to more peer torment, ridicule, and maltreatment than other children their own age. This teasing has been found to be distressing in overweight children, and a cause of body dissatisfaction which, in turn, lowers self-esteem. Obese children are likely to be the victims of this type of bullying; consequently this has made them much more likely to be the perpetrators of bullying when they are older. Overweight children have also been found to have interpersonal difficulties. These include social anxiety, social skills deficits, and loneliness, as well as academic problems during later adult life. This paper takes an in-depth look at weight-teasing and its affects on a child's view of their future potential.

Cassidy Seaman

“THE FINANCIAL CRISIS FROM WALL STREET TO MAIN STREET”

Instructor: Dr. Gerard Ras

Wednesday, May 4, 2009; 3:00 p.m.; Gardner Hall, Room 210

Abstract

The current financial crisis has affected the lives of all Americans one way or another. The more severe effects of the crisis have included: businesses going bankrupt, borrowers in the mortgage sector facing foreclosures on their homes, job market slumps, and unemployment. Blame can be spread in many directions for these occurrences. Subprime mortgage lending, failing financial institutions, and leaders or head authorities in the financial sector of the Federal Government have all been identified as culprits of contributing to the crisis. Many are under the impression that the news of the credit crisis is seen as a problem that only the “big league” lenders and financial groups on Wall Street should be dealing with. But what about those of us in small communities across America? What about the effects the crisis on Wall Street has had on the businesses and banks of Main Street? This paper takes an in-depth look at seven local bank President’s perspectives and opinions about how their bank is handling the financial crisis. By conducting interviews with each bank President, I gathered their insight and the information about their lending practices and bank structure. I also documented the changes the bank has made since the crisis. The research combines the information of how the crisis began with the findings on how banks on Main Street, particularly banks in northeast Nebraska, are dealing with the credit crisis.