



THIS IS A **CREATIVE AUDIENCE** EVENT

3rd Annual - 2019 **SPRING STUDENT SYMPOSIUM**

TUESDAY
APRIL 23

1-4 PM
NVU-JOHNSON CAMPUS
Free and open to the public

SCHEDULE

1 – 2 p.m. Dibden Auditorium

Welcome

Performing Arts Session

2:10 – 3 p.m.

Oral Presentations

Panel A: Bentley 307

Panel B: Bentley 308

Panel C: Bentley 309

3 – 3:15 p.m.

Refreshments, *Bentley Hall, Second Floor*

3:15 – 4 p.m.

Poster and Visual Arts Session, *Bentley Hall, Second Floor*

1 – 2 P.M.

Performances: Dibden Auditorium

NVU–Johnson’s Student Symposium offers an opportunity for participants to observe, learn, and practice professional etiquette common to all disciplines. Performers should arrive early and plan to stay for the entire session. Spectators should enter and exit sessions between—not during—performances.

Session Moderator - Professor Isaac Eddy

CLOWN PIECE

ReAnna Jean Adams, *Theater/Drama*

Faculty Mentor: Isaac Eddy

In Acting I, we learn how to be vulnerable with our bodies and mind in order to put out the greatest performance possible. “The Clown” is an abstract concept where students pick two opposites and experiment with the mental and physical possibilities of “The Clown”.

JIM’S MONOLOGUE

Kevin Diette, *Musical Theater*

Faculty Mentor: Isaac Eddy

A monologue from *The Glass Menagerie*.

PARALLEL ZONE. PAROXYSM

Adam Dobler, *Cinema Production*

Faculty Mentor: Timothy Egan

SHALOSH SHIRIM: SOPHOMORE YEAR

Rebecca Fielder, *Communications and Community Media, Creative Writing*

Faculty Mentor: Liz Powell

Shalosh Shirim means “three poems” in Hebrew. During my sophomore year, I found myself grappling with issues of religion and identity in Judaism. These three are the culmination of my frustrations with my Jewish identity while here at NVU.

"ARMONDO" LONG-FORM IMPROV COMEDY SET

ReAnna Adams, Jade April, Krystina Broscko, David Constantine, Gabe Densmore, Caleb Eugley, Amber Follansbee, Kian Kaufman, Sarah Krumeich, Kyle Palmer, Amanda Rosalbo, Anna Seargent, Katelyn Shaw, Lucas Sirois, & Makaylah Vaillencourt

Faculty Mentor: Isaac Eddy

A 12-minute completely improvised comedy based on a single word suggestion from the audience.

SKETCH COMEDY

Lucas Sirois and Katelyn Shaw; Kyle Palmer and Amanda Rosalbo; David Constantine and Makaylah Vaillancourt; Jade April and ReAnna Adams

Faculty Mentor: Isaac Eddy

Students were assigned a partner and had to write a two-minute sketch that clearly established a "base reality" (who, what, where of a scene) and a "game" (a single interesting point of focus for the scene). Much like a sketch on Saturday Night Live, they had to raise the stakes of the "game" and then find a conclusion for the scene.

2:10 – 3 P.M.

Oral Presentations: Bentley Hall

NVU–Johnson’s Student Symposium offers an opportunity for participants to observe, learn, and practice professional etiquette common to all disciplines. Presentation lengths vary. Presenters should arrive early to prepare their technology and remain in the room until all presentations and questions in their session are complete. Audience members should enter and exit sessions between—not during—presentations.

Panel A

Bentley 307 Moderator: Professor David Plazek

POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Sara Ford, *Political Science & Secondary Education*

Faculty Mentor: David Plazek

Political corruption has been a frequent player in American politics since the beginning of our nation. In recent times, discussion of corruption in the central government has been prevalent. Are these allegations of corruption actually true, or is the opposing side taking every scandal and turning it into something more? Using Clifford Geertz’s thick description case study analysis on the history of corruption in American government,

this research is looking at trends and patterns seen in the past to determine if they are present in the current administration. By doing this, we can determine if Donald Trump and his administration are corrupt and if so, what techniques are being used in order to achieve corruption.

IMPACT OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ON INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Jesse Streeter, *Political Science*

Faculty Mentor: David Plazek

For many years researchers have attempted to determine the most significant causes of infant mortality rates. Global economic inequality has a very strong relationship with the general health of a nation, and infant mortality rate is often a good indicator of a nation's general health. Because of this, many researchers suggest that a nation's Gross Domestic Product per capita could have a strong negative relationship with their infant mortality rate. This study seeks to add to the research suggesting the significance of this negative relationship. Many studies suggest the inevitable impact of intervening variables other than a nation's Gross Domestic Product. This study controls for the most persistent of these variables, including income inequality, healthcare spending, and female education. By controlling for these variables, this research aims to provide a framework for policy decisions for countries to combat the global infant mortality rate while also suggesting other solutions to how greater developed countries could aid and assist underdeveloped countries in improving their infant mortality rates. This research utilizes a comparative case study of Burundi, Morocco, and Japan, each representatives of low-income, middle-income, and high-income countries. While a comparative case study of 3 countries only allows generalizations to be made for said 3 countries, it is plausible that the results of this study could be accurately translated to countries with similar demographics and statistics.

Panel B

Bentley 308 Moderator: Professor Gina Mireault

TEMPERAMENTAL PROFILES AND INFANT GAZING AS PREDICATORS OF CHILDHOOD GRIT AND CURIOSITY

Jordan Niles & Arnela Grujic, *Psychology*

Faculty Mentor: Gina Mireault

Grit, the ability to persevere through challenge, has been linked to a range of success outcomes (Duckworth et al., 2007). Attempts to teach grit have yielded only short-term results. A neural basis for grit, found in the nucleus accumbens (Nemmi et al., 2016), is also involved in the "seeking system" and has been implicated in curiosity (Di Domenico & Ryan, 2017). The seeking system has not been studied in infants, but its analog "approach", a temperamental quality characterized by positive anticipation of reward, has (Gartstein & Rothbart, 2003). Approach levels vary in infants and help to differenti-

ate Gartstein et al.'s (2017) three temperamental profiles. Gazing may serve be another analog of grit and curiosity in infants as it reflects the persistence and degree of their interest in novelty (Baillargeon, 1988). Participants were 1.75 to 9.5 years old, and had participated in previous longitudinal studies on infant humor perception. Parent completed Infant Temperament Questionnaire-Revised (IBQ-R) were used to classify infants into one of three temperament profiles (Gartstein et al., 2017). Parents also completed the Grist-Short scale and the Interest/Deprivation-Young Children scale as part of the current study. Infant approach was significantly correlated with childhood curiosity. Profile 3 infants displayed greater curiosity in childhood than Profile 1 infants. Contradictory to the predictions, infant gazing did not predict childhood grit or curiosity. Low sample size likely negated several non-significant trends. These data suggest grit and curiosity may have innate origins.

EXERCISE AND PRESCHOOLERS

Kelly Costello, *Health and Exercise Science*

Faculty Mentor: Amy Welch

My symposium presentation will include details about my first internship as an NVU student and how it shaped what I am doing today. In my original internship I helped implement UVM's preschool exercise intervention, "Kiddie CATs on the Move", during a pilot program at Johnson Elementary School. Since then my involvement with Kiddie CATs has evolved. I completed the Kiddie CATs course "Fit Kids Applied Research" that NVU offered last semester and I'm currently assisting Amy Welch in leading other NVU students in their internships with Kiddie CATs. Aside from my current internship, I am in the process of completing a senior thesis project involving data collection during the Kiddie CATs program. My experiences with the Kiddie CATs program and the knowledge I've gained as a Health and Exercise Science major has inspired my desire to explore factors affecting physical activity involvement in young children. The purpose of my research is to investigate the relationship between fine and gross motor skills, BMI's, and physical activity levels in preschoolers. I will end my presentation by explaining the purpose of my senior thesis, research design, and plan for data collection.

Panel C

Bentley 309 Moderator: Professor Elizabeth Powell

ESTABLISHING AND PILOTING BIRD BANDING POPULATION RESEARCH FOR BABCOCK NATURE PRESERVE

Kelsey Carrier and Brockton Corbet, *Environmental Science*

Faculty Mentor: Lisa Zinn

In the summer of 2018, bird banding monitoring research began at the Babcock Nature Preserve. This research is part of a larger national and international program to monitor

song birds called MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship). This presentation will begin with a broad background about bird banding, population concepts, and the larger MAPS research goals. We will then provide a specific account of our experience of starting and conducting research over the summer including some of the logistical obstacles and necessary steps along with our research methodology and protocol. We will be discussing our results including what birds we caught and how that reflects the bird community composition of the Babcock Preserve ecosystem. We will conclude with explaining the short-term and long-term research goals for continuing bird population monitoring at this site. The presentation will be wrapped up by highlighting our major takeaways and reasons why students should consider taking place in this ongoing research project.

WRITING THE FUTURE

Kylie Gellatly, *Creative Writing*

Faculty Mentor: Elizabeth Powell

My presentation will highlight one of the most valuable opportunities that has opened up to me in my internship for Green Mountains Review. My first semester with GMR was about getting to know the journal and the character of the work that we publish, the community of writers, reading submissions and leaving comments for the Editors. I had read over 250 submissions in three months, when Liz Powell, the Editor-in-Chief, offered me a collection of poetry to read and write a review of. I was thrilled by the opportunity, for in the past few years, I have read almost 400 books in my free time and never once thought to write about them! Responding to literature in my own words was something I had never done and as soon as Liz asked if I had any interest in it, I realized it was something I should have been doing all along-- for myself! What writing these book reviews is offering is more than just an outlet for my love of poetry, it is also the opportunity to enter a national literary conversation and adds to my own blossoming professionalization and creativity.

3 –3:15 P.M.

Refreshments served Bentley Second Floor

3:15 – 4 P.M.

Poster & Visual Art Session: Bentley Hall—Second Floor

NVU–Johnson’s Student Symposium offers an opportunity for participants to observe, learn, and practice professional etiquette common to all disciplines. Presenters should remain with their work during the entire session, and be ready to explain their work and respond to questions from attendees, who will be making their way around the session.

THE RELATION OF PERCEIVED POSTPARTUM WEIGHT-BIAS ON MOTHER’S PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING AND COMFORT IN THE MOTHERHOOD ROLE

Arnela Grujic, *Psychology*

Faculty Mentor: Leslie Johnson

In the United States, weight based prejudice is severe, widespread, and culturally endorsed. Roughly 86% of women in the U.S. give birth, making postpartum weight-bias a widespread issue. This research investigates the relationship between women’s perception of postpartum weight-bias and their well-being. In these two studies, postpartum women reported their perceptions of weight-bias, self-esteem, depressed mood, life satisfaction, happiness, and comfort in the motherhood role. We predicted a negative correlation between perceived postpartum weight-bias and psychological well-being and comfort in the motherhood role. Participants were women 12-52 weeks postpartum. They were randomly selected from the Vermont Public Birth Records database. Study 1 (N=117) consisted of primiparous (first time) mothers only, while Study 2 (N=254) included both primiparous and multiparous mothers. In both studies, women participated in a 30 minute online research study in which perceived weight-bias, psychological well-being, and comfort in the motherhood role were assessed through self-report questionnaires. As predicted, both studies found a negative relationship between perceived postpartum weight-bias and psychological well-being and comfort in the motherhood role. This finding remained consistent with primiparous and multiparous mothers. A future direction for research may investigate whether the effects of perceived weight-bias extend past the postpartum period.

USING GIS, LIDAR, AND DRONE IMAGERY TO VISUALLY REPRESENT LANDSLIDE CUTBACK AT DEER RUN HEIGHTS IN JEFFERSONVILLE, VT

Lillian Kolbenson, *Environmental Science*

Faculty Mentor: Les Kanat

The landslide at Deer Run Heights in Jeffersonville, VT has been continually monitored since the significant 1999 event. Houses, businesses, and an elementary school are located at the base of this active landslide area. While multiple aspects are under study,

this research attempts to visualize the data in order to demonstrate the cutback that has occurred since the 1999 event. GIS data, LIDAR imagery, and images captured from a drone, are coupled with long-term cutback measurements to demonstrate the evolving landscape. There have not been any large movements noted from these data collected at the landslide site, only gradual changes, however, the changes in the ridgeline are significant. On average, the landslide site has cut back by 1.48 meters over the data collection year; this equates to approximately 0.12 meters per year over the 12 years observed at each stake location. Some sectors of the landslide site are more active than others. From the cutback measurements collected, and visually observing the ridge-line, more land will be lost at this active site. The GIS maps and video created, visually demonstrate the change overtime from the data collected. The 3D model, and imagery collected by the drone, provides a baseline for the current state of affairs in this active area. In future years, these products will be used as a datum for the evolving landscape.

ARTIFICIAL STREAM INTERNSHIP

Lindsey Levoy, *Wellness and Alternative Medicine*

Faculty Mentor: Bob Genter

Artificial streams have been used in research to study the growth of algae since before the 1980s (Genter, Cherry, Smith & Cairins, 1987; Genter & Amyot, 1993.) Artificial streams are designed to mimic conditions found in nature by controlling flow rate, temperature, concentrations of different trace minerals, and the pH of the water comparable to that of a natural stream. The purpose of using an artificial stream method in a laboratory environment is to observe the community levels of algae under different water toxicities. The purpose is to conduct controlled experiments with a certain degree of environmental realism; hence, to change one variable, like the concentration of copper, while holding the other variables previously mentioned relatively constant. The findings of these experiments can be used for setting EPA criteria in the United States.

In the Fall semester of 2018, Dr. Genter renovated an existing artificial stream lab and designed eighteen new streams. My internship was based on maintaining all aspects of the artificial stream facility. For example, I adjusted water quality of the experimental streams, controlled supply rates of water to the streams, kept a long check-list daily observations and measurements, and made sure that the equipment was functioning properly. This experience has taught me about the importance of careful observance and documenting information. I also have benefitted from working on such a complex system to gain the skills to multitask and work efficiently.

THE HUMAN/ANIMAL RELATIONSHIP AND HOW WE ARE HURTING NATIVE WILDLIFE

Jessica Malskis, *Biology*

Faculty Mentor: Lisa Zinn

This poster will reflect the 300 hours that I spent as an intern and volunteer at the Adirondack Wildlife Refuge. I will be highlighting the negative impacts that many common human behaviors have on wildlife populations. Many everyday human activities cause harm to owls, hawks, falcons, and other birds native to the Adirondack and Vermont region. Actions such as throwing out apple cores or handling young wild animals may seem innocuous but they can have harmful consequences. Through stories of many of the animals I worked with on the refuge, I will address many myths about the human/animal relationship and how they can be harmful. I will also address the role a wildlife refuge can have in helping people be better informed and encouraging behavioral changes to help better protect our native wildlife populations.

INTERNSHIP IN BIOLOGY: VERMONT FISH AND WILDLIFE

Erin Nichols, *Biology*

Faculty Mentor: Les Kanat

The conservation and management of Vermont's species and natural resources enables biodiversity to exist for generations to come through controlled hunting, restoration projects, and the laws and regulations that protect the fish, wildlife, and plant species of this state. Efforts to conserve and manage wildlife species can be seen in three projects: 1) Creel surveys on Lakes Memphremagog, Willoughby, Little Averill, and Seymour, 2) Otolith measurements in these lakes, and 3) A moose study involving GPS tracking collars on members of the Vermont moose herd in the Northeast Kingdom.

THE CREATIVE PROCESS OF MUSIC COMPOSITION

Timothy Pinkney, *Music with a focus in Composition*

Faculty Mentor: Justin Rito

My poster will demonstrate the collaborative creative process used in composing a new work called Hat Trick for two of my peers' joint senior recital. In demonstrating the creative process, I will model how I composed melodic themes and their variations, counter-melodies, modulations, rhythmic consistency and diversity, and formal structures for this piece. Using several stages of progress during composition, I will demonstrate the collaborative aspect of this project highlighting discussions with my classmates about their desires for the piece regarding instrumentation, style, length, ranges, and their capabilities on their respective instruments. Finally, I will demonstrate the use of visual representation in the performance of Hat Trick. Throughout the piece, the two performers will

exchange a single hat between them, sometimes being worn, sometimes being used to create unconventional sounds with the instruments. The performer in possession of the hat is always playing the melody, and the hat is meant to persuade a viewing audience to listen to the melody primarily, as opposed to the countermelody being played by the other performer. Although this work will be premiered after the Symposium, I will bring a digital (MIDI) mock-up of the work for attendees to experience it.

THE ART AND CULTURE OF CUBA

Abigail Bartell, Lily Dunbar, Marisa Eldred, Michele Feiner, Rebecca Flieder, Elijah Hamilton-Wray, Brianna Lamothe, William Lewis, Peter Maurice, Zosia Prince, Dana Prouty, Shealine Rivera Caraballo, Phoebe Townsend, Ryan Willette, Caroline Williamson

Faculty Mentors: Ken Leslie & Tyrone Shaw

Images from Cuba.

SLEEP NO MORE

Sophia Ruiz & Bryanna Smith, *Animation Illustration w/ Game Design Concentration*

Faculty Mentor: Robby Gilbert

This game is an exploration of inner confrontation, of learning how to deal with the physical and mental pain that comes with the news that a loved one has cancer. In this current demo we will show the contrast between the reality of how this disease affects those around them and the dreamlike state where one can escape that reality. Specifically, this game is about a young adult who is learning to cope with their mother's cancer. The purpose of this game is to evoke emotion from the audience to bring a better understanding to those who are currently going through this and to let those people know that they are not alone.

AWAKENING, 2018

Jillian Lauren Lisitano, *Visual Arts*

Faculty Mentor: Mary Martin

I completed my painting *Awakening* at the end of Fall Semester 2018. The execution of the piece was part of my Independent Study in Painting with Dr. Mary Rhodes Martin. Throughout the semester we explored works by several female abstract artists who were key players in the New York art scene of the 1950s thru the '70s. How I achieved the images on the canvas began by activating the painting with the use of movement and action of my hands holding black charcoal. I then took my abstract design and filled in areas with layers of color. To soften the color and line work, I covered the canvas in a wash of color which softened the lines, like a fine layer of gauze. I then added a field of delicate stems and small blossoms. To complete this work I also washed, scrubbed and sanded the layers of color to create a soft, worn, weathered finish.



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