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**SIXTH ANNUAL**

# **Graduate Student Research and Scholarship Symposium**

**APRIL 25, 2014**



**Valdosta State University's Graduate School presents  
the Sixth Annual Graduate Student Research  
and Scholarship Symposium**

**April 25, 2014**

**4:00 - 6:00 p.m. • UC Magnolia Room**

**Welcome:** Dr. James LaPlant, Interim Assistant Vice  
President for Research and Dean of the  
Graduate School

**Opening Remarks:** Dr. William McKinney, President  
  
Dr. Sharon Gravett, Assistant Vice  
President for Academic Affairs

**Introduction of Guests:** Dr. James LaPlant

**Enjoy the Posters!**

*Refreshments provided by the Office of University Advancement.*



## **Colleges of the Arts**

### **Communication Arts**

#### **THE REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ATLANTA SERIES AND THE ANGRY BLACK WOMAN STEREOTYPE**

**Rafiah Jenkins**

**Dr. David Nelson, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Arts**

Reality television is a genre that has become a common fixture in the line-up of shows on air today. Although it has been around for ages, it has grown tremendously in the 21st century. Formats throughout time have ranged from talk shows, to athletic or insect eating competitions, to looking into the lives of everyday housewives. This study will analyze the three most watched episodes from the 5th season, of the popular reality show series *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*. The analysis will be conducted utilizing content analysis and aims to identify any stereotypical portrayals of African American women throughout the selected episodes in the series.

#### **AFRICAN AMERICANS AND ADVERTISING: AN ANALYSIS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN DEPICTIONS IN EBONY MAGAZINE ADS FROM 1960-1998**

**Juhaina Soares and Kathryn Kirkpatrick**

**Dr. Larry Etling, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Arts**

This study analyzes the portrayal of African Americans in the advertisements showcased in *Ebony*, a magazine with an intended African American target audience. The study examines how the images of African Americans in advertising aimed toward African American consumers have evolved with the race's sociopolitical advances in the United States. In other words, it examines the change in how African Americans have portrayed and viewed themselves throughout their years of racial progress. A content analysis of ads in *Ebony* issues from 1960 to 1998 was performed. Three criteria were utilized: the roles played by African Americans in ads, the racial demographics of models grouped together in ads, and the types of products African American models advertised. The discussion explains that the image of African Americans improved, but a portrayal of harmony and benevolence between African Americans and whites was absent.

## Music

### **THE STRING QUARTET OF JOHN CALVITT HUXFORD: A PERFORMANCE EDITION**

**Daniela da Cruz**

**Dr. Kenneth Kirk, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Music**

John Calvitt Huxford was a faculty member of the Department of Music of Valdosta State College from 1966 to 1987. He wrote the *String Quartet in Two Movements* in 1957, and the manuscript became part of the John C. Huxford Papers of the Odum Library after his death in 2008. This study examines the piece from historical and theoretical perspectives in an effort to solve certain textual issues with the manuscript, leading to the creation of a performance edition of the piece. In particular, a portion of the first movement exists in incomplete form, requiring reconstruction on the basis of contextual clues as well as comparison with Dr. Huxford's other works and knowledge of his compositional style obtained from family members and colleagues. *Ms. Cruz is accompanied by graduate students Mariana Krewer and Vitor Eduardo, on violin, and cello instructor Steven Taylor on violoncello.*

## College of Arts and Sciences

### Biology

### **SIGNIFICANT SEX RATIO FLUCTUATIONS WERE NOT OBSERVED IN THE MUSSEL *GEUKENSIA DEMISSA* DURING STARVATION TREATMENT**

**David Arancibia**

**Dr. Cristina Calestani, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Biology**

The effects of environmental stress on population sex ratio of marine bivalves remain largely unexplored. A previous study on an invasive mussel species to North America, *Mytella Charruana*, suggests that this species undergoes sex reversal from female to male in response to starvation conditions. Our study aims to test if this ability is also present in the native North American species *Geukensia demissa*. We dissected roughly 1200 animals collected along the Georgia coastline during September-November 2013. The sex ratio at collections indicated a male biased population, 1.25: 1. After starvation conditions, the population sample had an increased male-biased sex ratio, together with a higher percentage of mussels lacking gametes. These unclear results could be due to sex-reversal, differential spawning or gamete re-absorption between females and males. Further replicates of this trial are required to gain a more accurate insight on the possible causes of sex ratio changes in mussel populations.



**LONGTERM PHOTOSYNTHETIC PIGMENT TRENDS SHOW SIMILAR PRIMARY PRODUCER COMMUNITIES IN TIMES OF HIGH AND LOW ANTHROPOGENIC IMPACTS ON A MESOTROPHIC SINKHOLE LAKE**

**Sean Earley**

**Dr. Matthew Waters, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Biology**

Anthropogenic impacts on lake ecosystems include nutrient inputs, land-use change, and hydrological modifications. Likewise, autochthonous responses typically include eutrophication of lake systems, largely linked to phosphorus and nitrogen. Here, we apply paleolimnological techniques to a 5m sediment core collected from a mesotrophic lake in Georgia, to investigate the response of the primary producer community to allochthonous inputs. Results indicate the lake existed in 2 states over its 5,000yr history. Preceding modern conditions the lake resembled a wetland and was a sink for organic carbon. During this period primary productivity was dominated by diatoms, cryptophytes, and cyanobacteria. Following modern conditions nutrient inputs greatly increased along with other anthropogenic effects. However, the primary producer community structure resembled historic conditions. Data analysis shows a relationship between P and AI indicating P could be unavailable for biological uptake. These results support the linkage of nutrient inputs with in-lake biogeochemical processes in anthropogenic land-use areas.

**POPULATION GENETIC STUDY OF *E. OKEFENOKEE* AND *E. EVERGLADEI* IN SOUTH GEORGIA**

**Kameron Farrow**

**Dr. John Elder, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Biology**

The genus *Elassoma* (*Centrarchidae*) consists of seven sunfish dwarf species: *zonatum*, *evergladei*, *okefenokee*, *gilberti*, *alabamae*, *boehlkei*, and *okatie*. The latter three are now endangered. *Elassoma* species are found in disjunct, quiet, weedy, freshwater habitats ranging from the Gulf of Mexico to the lower Mississippi River basin. Inundations of marshes and continued anthropogenic effects continue to displace these species into new and restricted habitats. The goal of the present research project is to study 14 geographically distinct populations of *E. evergladei* and *E. okefenokee* to evaluate genetic diversity and connectivity. Population genetic structure will be assessed using a battery of microsatellite loci. This data should provide insight for conservation of these species in south Georgia.

## **ACCUMULATION AND SUBLETHAL RESPONSES OF THE SEA ANEMONE, *AIPTASIA PALLIDA*, AFTER EXPOSURE TO COPPER OXIDE NANOPARTICLES**

**Samreen Siddiqui**

**Dr. Gretchen Bielmyer, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Biology**

Increasing use of metal oxide nanoparticles (NP) by various industries has resulted in substantial contributions of NP into aquatic systems. At elevated concentrations, NP may cause effects to aquatic organisms. Environmental implications of increased NP use are largely unknown, particularly in marine systems. This research investigated effects of copper oxide (CuO) NP exposure to the sea anemone, *Aiptasia pallida*, over 21 days. Tissue copper accumulation and activity of the enzymes: catalase, glutathione peroxidase, glutathione reductase, and carbonic anhydrase were quantified. CuO NP were observed for size and shape using scanning electron microscope and the presence of copper was confirmed by using Oxford EDS. Tissue Cu in the anemones increased in a concentration dependent manner and antioxidant impairment was observed in every CuO NP treatment. This study is useful in discerning differences between CuO NP and dissolved copper exposure to aquatic organisms and increases understanding about effects of CuO NP on sea anemones.

## **Political Science**

### **GAME DAY MEETS ELECTION DAY: SPORTS RECORDS, ELECTION RESULTS, AND THE AMERICAN SOUTH**

**Sydney Bryan**

**Dr. James LaPlant, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Political Science**

In the American South, college football is followed by many with a religious fervor. The first stage of our study replicates and extends the analysis by Miller (2013) of the relationship between professional sports records and incumbent vote share. We disaggregate the influence of professional football records and find no impact of those records on incumbent vote share in mayoral elections. The second stage of this project updates the analysis by Healy et al. (2010) on the relationship between college football victories and incumbent party vote share through an exploration of the 2012 presidential election as well as gubernatorial elections from 2010-2012. We separate presidential and gubernatorial election results and discover a powerful influence of college football victories in the two weeks before the election on incumbent party vote share for gubernatorial elections from 2010-2012. The relationship between college football victories and incumbent party vote share is not amplified in the South. The results of this study for recent gubernatorial elections provide further support for the contention that voter well-being and happiness can influence retrospective voting.

## **A MIXED METHODS STUDY OF DATA INTEGRITY TEAMS AT POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS**

**Katherine McGuire**

**Dr. Viviane Foyou, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Political Science**

Colleges and universities are facing ever-growing demands for institutional information, but frequently data contained in administrative computing systems are not of high enough quality to meet end-user's needs for accuracy and consistency. This mixed methods survey and semi-structured interview project studied data integrity teams, groups which try to improve the accuracy and usefulness of data in computing systems, at institutions of higher education. The survey found that many campuses did not have data integrity teams, while interview participants reported that the greatest benefit of having a team was greater communication and awareness of data quality issues. Both survey respondents and interviewees reported that resources such as staff time and executive buy-in were an issue in not having better data quality processes.

### **College of Education and Human Services**

### **Communication Sciences and Disorders**

#### **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SPEECH VOLUME OF A PATIENT WITH PARKINSON'S AND THE PROXIMITY OF LISTENERS**

**Lauren Duncan**

**Mrs. Susan Miller, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

This investigation examined the relationship between the speech volume of an individual with Parkinson's disease (PD) and the proximity of listeners. The participant was a 70-year-old man with PD. The researcher and the participant's graduate clinician conversed with the subject involving topics of the subject's interests. A sound level meter was utilized to record the subject's fluctuating decibel levels from two different distances. The results demonstrated that the subject lacked awareness of the need to increase his speech volume when speaking with a communication partner at a greater distance. The subject did not automatically adjust his volume to the increasing distance, suggesting the need for additional instructions concerning vocal intensity related to changing conversational distances. Further implications and research are discussed.



## **IMPLEMENTATION OF VOCAL HYGIENE PROGRAMS INTO BEGINNING TEACHER ORIENTATION**

**Kimberly Helms**

**Dr. Mary Gorham-Rowan, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

Preventing vocal abuse/misuse is vital among multiple populations. Individuals are at risk when they develop hoarseness, dehydration, and work in loud environments. Vocal abuse occurs when the speaker habitually abuses the vocal folds. Previous research has found that beginning female teachers are at high risk of developing a voice disorder. The purpose of this study was to implement a vocal hygiene program into beginning teacher orientation. It was hypothesized that there would be an increase in the awareness and implementation of vocal hygiene strategies among beginning female teachers following a vocal hygiene presentation. Participants included four beginning female teachers. Following a vocal hygiene presentation, data were collected and analyzed by using a 100mm perceptual scale across pre- and post- surveys. Results revealed that vocal fatigue, soreness, quality, and confidence did not improve for all participants. However, all participants independently reported that they implemented vocal hygiene strategies into their work routine.

## **CAN LUMOSITY INCREASE COGNITION/MEMORY IN ADULTS?**

**Brianca Holloman**

**Dr. Ruth Renee Hannibal, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

The purpose of this research was to investigate the efficacy of using computer-based training to enhance cognition and memory in healthy adults without cognitive impairments. Two 48 and 53 year-old adults completed brain-training games using the online brain-training program Lumosity. Participants played three games for ten days over two weeks. The Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) and the Everyday Memory Questionnaire (EMQ) was administered pre- and post-training. The MMSE is an objective measure used to measure global cognition. The EMQ is subjective and measures memory failure in everyday life. Results do not support or disprove the hypothesis that Lumosity can improve cognition and memory in adults.

## **VOCAL MISUSE OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EDUCATORS: A SURVEY**

**Abby Killough**

**Dr. Mary Gorham-Rowan, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

Elementary educators often experience vocal misuse and struggle to alleviate current symptoms and prevent further voice damage. In this study, it is hypothesized that higher grade level educators will experience more vocal misuse symptoms than lower grade level educators. Twenty-five elementary educators responded to an anonymous online survey about vocal health. The survey asked for the participants' age, years of experience, alcohol and tobacco use, symptoms, grade level, and vocal hygiene training. Three data analyses were conducted by relating vocal misuse symptoms to age, years of experience, and grade level. Results showed that with increased age and experience level, fewer vocal misuse symptoms were reported. None of the educators had vocal hygiene training from their employer. There was no significant correlation between higher grade level educators and increased symptoms of vocal misuse. Vocal hygiene training and future research are addressed.

## **THE EFFECTS OF DELAYED AUDITORY FEEDBACK ON SPASMODIC DYSPHONIA**

**Barbara Lee**

**Dr. Matt Carter, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

This study was conducted in order to investigate the perceptual vocal qualities of an individual with adductor spasmodic dysphonia (ADSD). The research participant was a 59-year-old male with ADS. The subject read a phonetically balanced passage under three experimental conditions: normal auditory feedback (NAF), delayed auditory feedback (DAF) at 50 ms, and DAF at 150 ms. When DAF is utilized, the speaker/reader hears their own voice with a delay. Two speech-language pathologists rated the vocal quality of these three speech samples in the following areas: overall severity, strained-strangled voice quality, abrupt voice initiation, and expiratory effort. Results indicated that the subject exhibited better vocal quality when using DAF at 50 ms. Furthermore, the ratings suggested that the subject exhibited the worst vocal quality when using DAF at 150 ms. These results reveal that DAF, with a specific delay, may serve as a possible management technique for persons with ADS.

## **MATERNAL AUTOIMMUNE DISORDERS AND AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS IN THEIR OFFSPRING**

**Catherine Palumbo**

**Dr. Lynn Adams, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

The following study was conducted in order to further investigate the association between maternal autoimmune diseases and children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Following prior research, a concise list of autoimmune disorders was utilized and a nationwide survey was distributed via social media. Mothers who completed the survey must have at least one child with ASD. The survey contained questions regarding the children with ASD as well as the mother's physical health and diagnoses. The majority of mothers fell into the 30-39 age range and their children were mostly between the ages of 2-6. Data showed 26% of participants who completed the survey have an autoimmune disease with 5 out of 19 who answered the question. It can be concluded that the prevalence of autoimmune diseases in the sample higher than autoimmune diseases in the general population. Future research needs to focus on maternal autoimmune diseases and their link to having children with ASD.

## **EFFECTS OF THE MASAKO MANEUVER ON VELOPHARYNGEAL CLOSURE**

**Jynielle Wells**

**Ms. Melissa Carter and Dr. Mary Gorham-Rowan, Faculty Mentors  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of the Masako maneuver on velopharyngeal closure. The subject was a 6-year-old male with a repaired complete bilateral cleft who exhibited functional velopharyngeal incompetence. Initial therapy sessions consisted of 3 x 10 repetitions of the Masako maneuver, two times per day. Therapy was conducted over a 6-week period, with progressive inclusion of voicing and speech as velopharyngeal closure improved.

**FOREIGN ACCENT, COMPREHENSIBILITY, AND INTELLIGIBILITY IN THE  
SPEECH OF SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNERS: COMPARING  
SPEAKER AND LISTENER PERCEPTIONS**

**Natalia Gurina-Zakrzewski**

**Dr. Mary Gorham-Rowan, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

The present study examined self-perception and a listener's perception of accentedness, intelligibility, and comprehensibility of non-native English speakers. Ratings were obtained prior to and following two months of studying English. The subjects of the study were English as second language (ESL) students from the English Language Institute (ELI). Results of two reading and two speaking tasks and a judgment task by a native speaker were analyzed. The results demonstrated a weak correlation between self-perception and the rater's perception of comprehensibility on speaking and reading tasks. However, there was a significant positive correlation between students' and rater's perception of accent on a reading task. Following two months of studying English, the results indicated an improvement in accentedness but minimal change in comprehensibility. The results of the study are pertinent to accent modification therapy.

**Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

**THE EFFECTS OF VARIOUS EARLY LEARNING EXPERIENCES ON THE ACADEMIC  
ACHIEVEMENT OF RURAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS:  
A QUANTITATIVE STUDY**

**William David Beeland, Jr.**

**Dr. Ellen Wiley, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

This study researched the effects of four types of early learning experiences (no prekindergarten experience, Head Start, state-funded prekindergarten, and private prekindergarten) on the achievement of 510 students. ANOVAs were conducted to analyze reading and math scores at the end of kindergarten using the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills assessment and at the end of first, third, and fifth grades using the Criterion Reference Competency Test. The results indicated that students who attended a state-funded or private prekindergarten program had statistically higher mean scores in reading at the end of kindergarten, first, and third grades than students who did not participate in a prekindergarten program. A similar pattern was not found to exist in math. At the end of fifth grade, a statistically significant difference in reading mean scores only existed between students who did not participate in prekindergarten and those students who attended a private prekindergarten program.

## **USING TELEPRESENCE TO ENHANCE INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN**

**Allan Celik**

**Dr. Lee Grimes (Psychology), Faculty Mentor  
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

The digitalization of the classroom is already upon us, and while technology affects the way we teach, it is also affecting the way we learn. Students from around the globe have reported greater satisfaction with courses enhanced with lecture capture (LC) (Newton, Tucker, Dawson, & Currie, 2014). These videos and telepresence technology affords us the ability to watch and participate with experts in many different fields other than our own. This presentation explores multi-discipline teaching possibilities available with the use of LC. Lectures can be accessed via hosting sites like YouTube, or streamed to another endpoint effortlessly. Various implications for this include the ability to have on-demand student interaction with content, and the dissemination of expert information in a timely and cost-effective manner. Telepresence affords the university the ability to enrich content by bringing in more expertise and engaging more students. There are many legal and ethical factors involved with lecture capture explored as well.

## **GROWING TOWARDS UNITY: A CULTURAL AUDIT OF VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Meagan Ellis and Katie Colip**

**Dr. Travis York, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

A firm understanding of an institution's culture has oftentimes been cited as one of the most important elements of a successful college or university. Utilizing Kuh and Whitt's (1988) definition of culture as "the collective pattern of values, norms, beliefs, and assumptions" of a given group, the researchers performed a pilot cultural audit of Valdosta State University in order to identify its preeminent symbols, ongoing traditions, and political atmosphere. The study also sought to identify potential detriments to the cultural health of the institution and suggest applicable solutions. Methods of research employed during the course of the audit include analysis of VSU's history, current enrollment statistics and marketing, community demographics and its relationship with the institution, as well as conducting interviews and student observations. The findings of the audit indicate that the culture of VSU reflects how the institution is actively striving to meld its currently incongruent atmosphere in order to create a stronger, more unified culture.



## **SEXUAL ATTITUDES AS PREDICTORS OF HOMONEGATIVITY IN COLLEGE WOMEN**

**Tamera Dunn**

**Dr. James Archibald, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

It is no secret that negativity exists in today's world, as undesirable as it may be. Homonegativity is any prejudicial attitude or discriminatory behavior directed toward an individual because of his or her homosexual orientation (Morrison, McLeod, Morrison, Anderson, & O'Connor, 1997). The purpose of the study was to investigate heterosexual females' attitudes towards homosexual females. Additionally, this study investigates the presence of homonegativity among college females toward their peers who identify as lesbian. The results of the study indicated that females with more conservative sexual attitudes would show higher levels of homonegativity than females with more liberal sexual attitudes. Consequences and predictors of homonegativity will be discussed, as well as implications for higher education professionals.

## **REVIEWING STUDENT ACTS OF INCIVILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Neil Harrow and Kathleen Hemphill**

**Dr. James Archibald, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

Civility is defined as behavior in public that demonstrates respect for others (Dupont, 2002). It is clear that incivility is present in many facets of higher education. Students appear to no longer respect rules and do not express any remorse for ill actions they caused. The increased prevalence of unauthorized cellular phone use in classrooms, tardiness, disrespectful commentary, and academic bullying are a few examples of these acts. These actions cause disruption to students and faculty members in the academic learning environment, as well as potentially inhibiting a student's social development. The purpose of this study is to examine the various acts of incivility that are present in a current higher education setting. Recommendations will be presented for addressing acts of incivility provided by faculty, staff, and students.

## **GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS: EDUCATION OR INDENTURED SERVITUDE**

**Michelle Jordan**

**Dr. Travis York, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

This scholarly paper utilized extant literature to examine the position of graduate assistants within post-secondary settings. The goal of this study was to provide clarity to the ambiguous nature of these pseudo-staff positions. Grounded in the historical context of how graduate assistantships came to exist and the developments since their inception, such as collective bargaining, the author attempts to explore the benefits and drawbacks to both employee and student classifications. While graduate assistants function as beginning professionals in the field, their student classification obscures certain rights, responsibilities, and benefits that would be afforded to employees. Due to recent collective bargaining endeavors on the part of graduate assistants, these ambiguities have been highlighted in recent literature. Future implications for institutional policy and practices are discussed.

## **EPISTLES OF A WRITER: A CASE STUDY OF WRITING INSTRUCTION IN MIDDLE GRADES**

**Heather Powell**

**Dr. Lorraine Schmertzinger, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

This dissertation stemmed from research on writing instruction in secondary grades. Studies showed that writing proficiency for students in grades 4 - 12 was difficult, particularly with students on free lunch programs. I established the research as a qualitative, case study examining the writing instruction occurring in two middle school language arts classes. This study yielded recommendations for teachers, administrators, curriculum directors, and preparation programs. Because state writing exams tend to feature a formulaic essay prominently in most curriculums, I determined that a more integrated approach to middle school writing instruction will not only improve the writing proficiency of all students but will also allow writing to function as a tool for learning as well as a method for self-expression and definition.

## **Early Childhood and Special Education**

### **IMPACT OF TEACHERS ON PREKINDERGARTEN OUTCOMES**

**Dana McDowell**

**Dr. Janet Foster, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Early Childhood and Special Education**

The prekindergarten program has faced many funding cuts in the last few years. Prekindergarten teachers have been affected with pay cuts and calendar days being cut shorter than any other grade level in the school. This research was led over the impact of teachers on the prekindergarten outcomes. This research was conducted using survey and interview questions. I found that all of the prekindergarten teachers were unhappy with the cut in pay and planned to move to another higher paying grade level as soon as possible. The prekindergarten teachers also do not feel like equals in their own schools due to the difference in pay.

### **EFFECTIVENESS OF STUDENT GRADE RETENTION**

**Mary Beth Sebring**

**Dr. Janet Foster, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Early Childhood and Special Education**

Student grade retention has become a prevalent intervention practiced in schools throughout the country. This research focused on the effectiveness of retention academically and psychologically for participating retained third-grade students. Methods included: a survey inquiring about teachers' perceptions of retention, an interview with each of the six students, and a collection of archival academic data. Overall, teachers believed students should be retained due to poor academic performance and perceived parental involvement as the most promising intervention to deter the use of student grade retention. The results proved that retention was a viable solution for these third-grade students, as they made significant academic gains and maintained a positive attitude toward school and their teachers.

## **Library and Information Science**

### **HOW TARGETED MARKETING IMPACTS ACCESS IDEALS: AN ANALYSIS OF JOHN COTTON DANA LIBRARY PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD WINNERS FROM 2009 TO 2013**

**John Freeman**

**Dr. Linda Most, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Library and Information Science**

This study analyzed winners of the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award from 2009-2013. The study hoped to determine whether targeted marketing had become a part of public libraries' outreach campaigns. After analyzing 23 winning submissions, it became clear that successful libraries used targeted marketing. The connection was strongest when libraries conducted programs whose goal was to increase patron access. This conclusion suggests libraries need to embrace a three-pronged model of access: patrons must have the right to access the library, the ability to access the library, and knowledge of the library's services. A targeted access approach will better address patrons' needs to know about library services. This works to dispel ignorance as a barrier to library services in targeted groups. Thus, this model suggests that libraries can increase patrons' access to services while remaining judicious stewards of limited marketing dollars.

### **REACTION TO CONCEPTUAL CHANGES IN THE LIBRARY PROFESSION: AN ANALYSIS OF THE LIS LITERATURE**

**Samantha Paul**

**Dr. Anita Ondrusek, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Library and Information Science**

Graduate students enrolled in a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program may feel some anxiety when they think about their future. Beyond the thought of procuring employment, the discussion of librarianship and the changes therein in library and information science (LIS) literature may be prompting graduate students to think negatively about the future of librarianship. To determine the manner in which authors are communicating their thoughts and the overall attitude of the literature, full-text LIS journal articles concerning the profession and its changes were analyzed using discourse analysis. From the perspective of metadiscourse, results were analyzed to ascertain the confidence and authority with which these authors shared their thoughts. By raising awareness of the impact that language can have in the formation of opinions, this research could serve to guide those writing within this discipline to do so in a manner that is informative but not alarming.

## **Kinesiology and Physical Education**

### **CONCEPTUALIZING SPORT COACH MENTORING: A PROPOSED DEFINITION AND THEORETICAL MODEL**

**Jorden Clements**

**Dr. Matthew Grant, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education**

There is little unity in defining a mentor within and between disciplines. A meta-analysis was used to review and evaluate current concepts of a mentor, i.e., characteristics and roles, across various disciplines in order to yield a comprehensive definition and theoretical model for application to sport coaching. Common trends such as phases of the mentor relationship, type of mentor relationship, and behavioral roles of the mentor were found across disciplines. While several similar definitive concepts were located, prudent differences were considered and utilized in providing a comprehensive definition and theoretical framework. Some of these key differences include the power dynamic in the mentor relationship, the different type of mentor needed as the mentee develops, and the perceived quality of the mentor relationship.

### **PERCEPTIONS OF HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SPECIAL EDUCATION MAJORS TOWARDS INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

**Haley Smith**

**Dr. Sonya Sanderson, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education**

The purpose of this study was to examine the perceptions of pre-service teachers toward students with disabilities. Form A of the Attitudes Toward Individuals with Disabilities Scale (ATDP) by Yuker, et al. (1970) was used. Participants were Early and Childhood and Special Education (ECSE) and Health and Physical Education (HPE) majors at a southeastern university enrolled in an admission to education (pre-entry) course. Participants included 53 (HPE  $n = 28$ , ECSE  $n = 25$ ) pre-service professionals. Age range was between 19-25 years (HPE  $M = 21.64$   $SD = 1.42$ , ECSE  $M = 21.32$ ,  $SD = 1.406$ ). Basic demographic information was collected (i.e., age, sex, major, hometown, education, knowledge of disabilities). Results showed that ECSE pre-service teachers ( $M = 59.44$ ;  $SD = 8.63$ ) rate themselves higher compared to HPE pre-service teachers ( $M = 49.79$ ;  $SD = 9.91$ ) on the ATDP. Early Childhood and Special Education also state they have worked more with students with disabilities, have more experience, more confidence, and more knowledge when working with students with disabilities.



## **COMPRESSION GARMENTS AS A PERFORMANCE AID FOR CONTINUOUS EXERCISE: A META-ANALYSIS**

**Luke Vargo**

**Dr. Sonya Sanderson, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education**

The aim of this study was to conduct a meta-analysis to determine if wearing compression clothing affects athletic performance by increasing endurance and aerobic capacity as measured by improvements in both VO<sub>2</sub> max and heart rate. Studies were found by using the search engines Google and Galileo, and by using search terms such as “compression garments effect on performance.” Only studies that examined compression clothing and its effect on endurance and aerobic capacity were used. Of the five studies, only one study concluded that compression clothing does improve performance ( $P < 0.05$ ), whereas the other four found that compression clothing were highly effective with reducing delayed on-set muscle soreness ( $P = 0.05$ ) and/or leg edema when wearing compression stockings (effect sizes = 0.00-0.65). All studies were performed on recreational to well-trained athletes. In conclusion, compression clothing may be more physiological than physiological for improving endurance.

## **Marriage Family Therapy**

### **THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN COMMITTED RELATIONSHIPS**

**Tabitha McCoy, Amber Albritton, and Kamala Glenn**

**Dr. Jennifer Lambert-Shute, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Marriage and Family Therapy**

There has been interest shown pertaining to the role religion plays within committed relationships. With many of the past studies generating mixed results, the purpose of this study is to foster a greater understanding of the subject. Researchers sought individuals who were 18 years or older in a committed relationship, and at least one partner identifying with a particular religious denomination. Researchers met with participants, either individually or as a couple from a Christian church in Valdosta, Georgia, or from the surrounding Valdosta area. Interviews with participants were digitally recorded and later transcribed into the following article which attempts to capture the experience of each individual or couple as well as highlight any reoccurring themes that may have been found. While previous studies indicate highly mixed results, an analysis of the topic within our geographical context was deemed as highly relevant.

## **Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education**

### **EFFECTS OF INCORPORATING ONLINE LEARNING IN FOURTH- AND FIFTH-GRADE MATH CLASSROOMS**

**Cindy Durden**

**Dr. Dawn Lambeth, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education**

The study was conducted to determine the effects of incorporating an online learning program on mathematic achievement scores, attitudes toward math, and student engagement of 20 fourth- and fifth-grade students. The SuccessMaker Group received instruction using the online learning program, SuccessMaker, while the Traditional Instruction Group received traditional math instruction. The SuccessMaker Group had a higher increase in math achievement scores than the Traditional Instruction Group when comparing math pretest and posttest scores. The Traditional Instruction Group reported a slight increase in agreement when asked if they enjoyed coming to math class. The Traditional Instruction Group reported a higher rate of agreement when asked if they felt they were good at using computers to complete math. A higher rate of engagement was reported for the SuccessMaker Group.

### **EFFECTS OF AN INVERTED CLASSROOM ON MATH ACHIEVEMENT**

**Erin Overby**

**Dr. Dawn Lambeth, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education**

The purpose of this study was to examine the effect of the inverted classroom on academic achievement, student engagement, and students' attitudes towards mathematics. The study was conducted on four 11th-grade mathematics classes with a total of 67 participants. A teacher led, best-practice teaching style was utilized for two classes, while the other two classes participated in the inverted classroom. Academic achievement was measured for both groups using three pretests and posttests for the units covered and an engagement checklist was used three times each week to measure student engagement. At the conclusion of the study, students completed an attitude survey. While the students made significant gains from their pretests to their posttests, there were no statistically significant differences found on the gains made between the two groups. Students in the inverted class were more engaged; however the inverted class was not a valuable strategy to improve mathematics achievement scores.

## **Psychology and Counseling**

### **AN INVESTIGATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOAL ORIENTATION, ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**

**Shelby Byrd**

**Dr. Jennifer Branscome, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Psychology and Counseling**

Academic dishonesty is an issue that occurs throughout all levels of education and disciplines. This study examined the relationship between goal orientation, academic achievement, and academic dishonesty. Participants completed an academic dishonesty questionnaire and the Achievement Goal Questionnaire online. The results demonstrated that there was no significant relationship between goal orientation and reported cheating behaviors. Prior research concerning academic achievement and reported cheating behaviors is mixed. This study found that there was no significant relationship between academic achievement and reported academic dishonesty. Finally, there was no significant interaction between goal orientation, academic achievement, and reported academic dishonesty. Further implications and research are discussed.

### **AN EXAMINATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ADAPTIVE NARCISSISM, MALADAPTIVE NARCISSISM, AND SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE BEHAVIORS**

**Adam Coffey**

**Dr. David Wasieleski, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Psychology and Counseling**

Previous research has linked social networking site use to higher levels of narcissism. As a construct, narcissism can manifest in the form of grandiosity or vulnerability. It can also have both adaptive and maladaptive manifestations. In previous studies, researchers have used the Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI; Raskins & Hall, 1988). to measure narcissism. Some researchers argue that the NPI is a measure of adaptive narcissism, with few items devoted to maladaptive traits. The current study employs the NPI along with a scale intended to measure maladaptive narcissism, the Pathological Narcissism Inventory (PNI; Pincus et.al, 2009). Along with Facebook activity, users' self-reported activity on Twitter was examined. Results from this study suggest that higher scores on subscales measuring grandiose features of narcissism on both the NPI and the PNI are related to higher activity on social networking sites, particularly on Twitter.com. Additional findings and implications are discussed.

## **HOURS OF DELIBERATE PRACTICE: DO GRITTIER COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYERS SHOW INCREASED GAINS ON PERFORMANCE TESTS?**

**Alicia Wong**

**Dr. David Wasieleski, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Psychology and Counseling**

This study examined grit as a mediating factor between training hours and improvement in performance tests among redshirt NCAA II college football athletes. Thirty male redshirt college football athletes aged 18 to 23 years from all college grade-levels completed the Short Grit Scale, and logged hours spent on mandatory training, non-mandatory training, and leisure play for four weeks. Their performance on back squat press, bench press, and clean press were measured pre- and post-football season. Correlational and multiple regression analyses were used to examine the mediating role of grit in training hours and gains on performance tests. Results demonstrated that mandatory training hours was significant in predicting gains on back squat and clean press compared to Short Grit Scale scores, non-mandatory training hours and leisure play; however, closer examination indicated a possible outlier, and non-significant relationships between variables. Future implications and research directions are discussed.

### **Social Work**

## **CAN ATTENDING NURSING HOME SUPPORT GROUP SESSIONS OFFER SOLACE TO AGING INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE?**

**Megan Black**

**Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

This Single Subject Research Design was implemented to determine if attending support group sessions at a nursing home would improve a nursing home resident's symptoms of depression and lessen feelings of guilt after experiencing a recent loss. The subject was a 79-year-old male who recently lost his spouse. An AB design was chosen for this study. The A phase required reconstructed baselines of the severity of his depression by utilizing scores from a depression inventory called a Personal Health Questionnaire 9 (PHQ9) that he completed at regular intervals after his wife's death. His feelings of guilt were also rated on a scale of 1 to 10 based on his perception and report. The B phase intervention was that the resident attended three support group meetings at the nursing home. The group utilized supportive and active listening, open sharing from other bereaved individuals, and discussion of coping strategies. The results of the AB design showed overall lower Personal Health Questionnaire 9 scores, indicating lessened severity of depression. Feelings of guilt based on self-report on a scale of 1 to 10 were also slightly lessened after the subject began attending support group sessions.

## **SINGLE SUBJECT RESEARCH DESIGN ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERVENTIONS ON ADOLESCENT SELF-ESTEEM**

**Caitlin Connolly**

**Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

With the use of a single subject research design, this study was conducted to determine the effectiveness of interventions on the self-esteem. The subject for this study was a 15-year-old high school female that has struggled with low self-esteem due to bullying and a traumatic home life. Operational measures for this study were identified as the scores on the Roseberg Self-Esteem Scale and the number of positive self-remarks subject made weekly. The interventions used were positive self talk exercises and journaling. With the use of an A-B research design, it was found that the interventions were successful as there was an increase in the subject's self-esteem.

## **BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION THROUGH ANGER MANAGEMENT THERAPY AND PRAISE**

**Megan McDaniel**

**Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

The Children's Methodist Home provides residency for many adolescents who struggle with numerous behavioral issues in varying degrees. In an effort to combat the defiant behaviors of one 12-year-old resident, this study examines the use of anger management therapy, in addition to praise, as a method to emphasize and promote appropriate behaviors. When looking specifically at this resident, her physical and verbal aggression was undeniable. Using a Single Subject Research design, this intervention will help the resident recognize her negative behaviors while rewarding her through praise when she responds in a positive, healthy manner. It will show a decrease in disruptive behavioral incidents while enhancing her sense of self-worth through an increase of obligations given to the resident as a way to help her have a sense of responsibility in her actions. The intervention was designed to better motivate the resident to become more rational in her desire to express herself effectively.



## **INCREASING MEMORY RETENTION AND LEVEL OF RELAXATION BY UTILIZING MUSIC THERAPY WITH ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS**

**Taylor Hageman**

**Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

This single subject research design assessed the level of memory recollection and level of relaxation of a client diagnosed with early-middle onset of Alzheimer's disease. Music was chosen as the intervention as a non-invasive, yet effective method of attempting to create a positive change within the client. The number of Bible verses that the client recalled measured the first variable, which was the level of memory recollection. Additionally, the use of a self-reported likert scale measured the second variable, which was the level of relaxation. Later, the study revealed that although the use of music had limited effect on the level of memory recollection, it improved the client's level of relaxation significantly. In the future, playing music for clients with Alzheimer's disease could be utilized as a therapy technique that assists in causing the client to be in a calm state.

## **EFFECTIVENESS OF PLAY THERAPY WITH A NON-VERBAL CHILD TO DECREASE NEGATIVE CLASSROOM BEHAVIORS**

**Abigail Smith**

**Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

This study was a Single Subject Research Design (SSRD) that was intended to gauge the effectiveness of play therapy for an autistic non-verbal male child. The goal of treatment was to decrease destructive tantrums in order to increase safety and learning in the classroom. In order to measure effectiveness his daily grades, which were based on classroom behavior, were recorded; additionally, the teacher and paraprofessional each completed weekly self-reported surveys regarding the child's behavior. The study was an AB design. The A phase or baseline was reconstructed and covered 17 days. The play therapy intervention used in the B phase also lasted 17 days. During the intervention phase, the researcher met with the child twice a week for 20 minutes each day. The results indicated that the interventions have done little to decrease the client's negative behaviors; therefore, the study would need to be continued to find the effectiveness.

## **MANAGING HOSPITALIZATIONS AND SUICIDE RISK IN ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH**

**Nicole Wasdin**

**Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

The purpose of this study is to manage hospitalizations and suicide risk in a single subject adolescent diagnosed with Major Depression and persistent suicidal ideations. This Single Subject Research Design (SSRD) is designed to challenge negatively distorted beliefs and reinforce positive affirmations in order to respond to emotional and environmental stimuli in a more appropriate manner. This study uses Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) to effectively decrease symptoms by using techniques that are scientifically proven to be one of the most effective treatments for depression in adolescents. The operational measures for this study included frequency of negative thoughts, ratings of self-worth, and magnitude of suicidal ideations. The outcome of this study shows a decrease in levels of suicidal ideations and resulted in zero suicide attempts and mental health hospitalizations. The findings may be useful in effectively decreasing symptoms associated with mood disorders and minimizing the risk of hospitalization and suicide in adolescents with mental illness.



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