

Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Practice

APRIL 14, 2023 | 15TH ANNUAL

Graduate Student Research & Scholarship Symposium

and

Graduate Assistant of the **Year**

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

April 14, 2023

3:00 - 3:30_{PM} • Student Union Theater

3MT Presentations

Audience to vote on Peoples' Choice

3:30 - 6:00pm • Student Union Ball Rooms

Welcome: Dr. Becky da Cruz, Associate Provost for Graduate Studies & Research

Opening Remarks: Dr. Robert T. Smith, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Special Recognitions: Dr. Becky da Cruz, Associate Provost for Graduate Studies & Research

Please enjoy the Posters, 3MT Presentations, and Musical Performances!

Refreshments provided by the Office of University Advancement.



Musical Performances

In Quegli Anni from Le Nozze di Figaro
Composed by: W.A. Mozart
Performed by: Isaiah Ricks, tenor & Gracia Velasquez, on piano
Dr. Susan Boddie, Faculty Mentor
Department of Music

Mio Padrone, lo Dir Volevo from La Finta Giardiniera
Composed by: W.A. Mozart
Performed by: Isaiah Ricks, tenor & Gracia Velasquez, on piano
Dr. Susan Boddie, Faculty Mentor
Department of Music

Performance starts at 3:45_{PM}

Devil's Waltz

Composed by: Steven Verhelst (b. 1981)

Performed by Franklin Carmona, Tenor Trombone, and Paul Henry, Bass Trombone

Dr. Doug Farwell, Faculty Mentor
Department of Music

Performance starts at 4:30pm

Invierno Porteno from De Las Cuatro Estaciones Portenas Composed by: Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992) Performed by Xin-Yu Chang, Violin, Lidia Sanchez, Cello and Gracia Velasquez, Piano

> Dr. Josh Pifer, Faculty Mentor Department of Music

Folksong No. 4 for Piano Trio, Rondo-Allegretto
Composed by: Sun-Jen Hsu (b. 1941)
Performed by Xin-Yu Chang, Violin, Lidia Sanchez, Cello and Gracia Velasquez, Piano

Dr. Josh Pifer, Faculty Mentor Department of Music

Performance starts at 5:00pm

Posters College of the Arts

Music

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THREE SETTINGS OF GOETHE'S "KENNST DU DAS LAND"

Hanna Ivey

Dr. Beibei Lin, Faculty Mentor **Department of Music**

"Kennst du das Land" is a text taken from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre. It is a song sung by Mignon, a young girl who has been taken from her homeland, to her adoptive father Wilhelm. She describes her homeland, her former house, and dangerous mountainous terrain. She also expresses her desire to return to her homeland with Wilhelm. Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, and Hugo Wolf each composed a musical setting of this text. Each composer chooses to focus on different aspects of Mignon. Schubert focuses on Mignon's youth and innocence. Schumann focuses on Mignon's turmoil and nostalgia, and Wolf focuses on the intensity and complexity of Mignon's emotions. Each composer provides a unique perspective on this text.

College of Education & Human Services

Communication Sciences & Disorders

CAN THE PRESENTATION OF A LEADING TITLE AFFECT SURVEY RESPONSES?

Meghan Barnes and Madelyn Thomas

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

In the field of speech-language pathology, there are multiple voice assessments that are administered using rating scales. This study was created to assess whether a title could possibly affect and skew a responder's answers. This study could help evaluate whether speech therapists are using the most valid and reliable measures when administering voice assessments. Using Google Forms, two surveys were created: one that was titled and one that was untitled, but both included the same statements regarding vocal quality/fatigue. First, the untitled survey was distributed to general schoolteachers, across elementary, middle, and high schools. After those responses were collected, the titled survey was sent out two weeks later. The results indicated that the teachers generally scored themselves lower when the title was presented. This outcome suggests that the presence of a title can lead a responder into answering a certain way, which guestions the accuracy of these formal assessments.

Communication Sciences & Disorders

HOW DO THICKENED LIQUIDS AFFECT THE SWALLOWING FREQUENCIES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DYSPHAGIA?

Shiann Brownrigg & Mattie Wolfson

Mrs. Katherine Walden & Dr. Mary Gorham-Rowan, Faculty Mentors
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Dysphagia is a complex disorder with complications involving increased difficulty with swallowing. Individuals affected by dysphagia often present with symptoms such as malnutrition, dehydration, and fatigue. The purpose of this study was to investigate how swallowing frequency is affected by thickened liquids in individuals who have dysphagia. The experiment included six participants: three who have dysphagia and three who do not. These individuals were presented with three cups containing 240 mL of water with different viscosities (thin, nectar, and honey thick). The number of sips and swallows required to finish the drink was recorded and analyzed for interpretation. The results from this experiment illustrate that altered consistency and texture require more swallows in order for an individual to finish the drink as a consequence of fatigue or disinterest. With this in mind, it can cause adverse effects related to symptoms that may already be present in individuals who have dysphagia.

Industrial/Organizational Psychology

THE EFFECT OF LEADERSHIP STYLE ON STUDENT SATISFACTION

Caroline Perret, Emmanuel Bakareke, Nicole Harris, Anastasia Zbarazhskaya

Dr. Jeremy Bauer
Department of I/O Psychology

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between a professor's leadership style and a student's level of satisfaction in a particular course. The goal was to understand if there were any positive or negative satisfaction ratings based on the perceived leadership styles each teacher had. Specifically, we also wanted to determine how course type mediates the relationship between professors' leadership style and students' satisfaction levels. From the literature, we used 3 different leadership styles: Transactional, Transformational, and Servant-Leadership. These were the top three leadership styles seen within the education community. We sent out a survey to the undergraduates and graduates at Valdosta State University.

COVID-19 REMOTE WORK: FAMILIES ADAPTING TO THE NEW NORMAL

Nelson Graves
Deborah Vizcarrondo
Shea Walker

Dr. Jennifer Lambert-Shute
Department of Marriage and Family Therapy

COVID-19 has significantly changed the landscape of our lives. In fact, over 27 million people are now teleworking. This fact has impacted how families function. To better understand how the family process has adapted and recalibrated due to working from home we conducted a literature review. We found that gender gaps intensified if both parents or the mother worked from home but decreased when only fathers telecommuted. Additionally, stress compounded further when caretaking for elderly family members or those with a disability. Some couples experienced increased marital satisfaction, while others reported that the lack of resources and support caused an increase in spousal and parental conflict. Consequently, those most successful in adapting to this new normal created separate work and family spaces, designating time for each. Furthermore, couples who developed more robust communication and relational skills experienced greater marital and parental satisfaction.

Marriage & Family Therapy

YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT WHAT? SEXUAL COMMUNICATION WITH COUPLES

Sara Hathaway and Terri Funk

Dr. Jennifer Lambert-Shute, Faculty Mentor Department of Education and Human Services

"Taboo" and "uncomfortable" often describe couples' communications about sex which can lead to poor physical functioning and depression (Roles et al., 2020). To better understand this area of research, we conducted a literature review about couples and their sexual communication. Additionally, two informal interviews were conducted with local therapists to gain clinical insight into this topic area. We found that sexual communication in couples enhances sexual and relational satisfaction in both sexes. However, a correlation was found to be stronger in couples who had been together longer and in married couples. Furthermore, sexual self-disclosure has a positive effect on sexual satisfaction through the increased frequency of sexual rewards and openness within the couple. The research has been conducted mostly through surveys and self-reports. Additional qualitative studies could enhance the therapeutic process and yield more adaptability in couples as they navigate emotionally charged topics.

Social Work

ANALYZING THE EFFECTS OF TRAUMA ON THE DEVELOPING BRAIN

Cassidy L. Abbott

Dr. Katharine Adams, Faculty Mentor Department of Human Services

Trauma can have a significant impact on brain development, leading to alterations in brain structure and function. A systematic review of literature will examine the effects of trauma on the brain structure and function throughout the various developmental stages. The review will also examine the neurobiological mechanisms underlying the impact of trauma on brain development, including changes within the stress response system, alterations in brain connectivity, and disruptions in the development of major regions in the brain. Understanding the neurobiological mechanisms underlying the impact of trauma on brain development can inform interventions that target prevention and alleviation of these negative effects. Further research is imperative for developing effective interventions to support individuals who have experienced trauma. Being knowledgeable of the effects trauma has on brain development and the interventions that alleviate these negative effects will allow counselors to effectively treat clients who have experienced trauma.

Social Work

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION AS A MEANS TO MITIGATE ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, AND COMPASSION FATIGUE FOR A PRACTICIONER IN A SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT ENVIRONMENT

Wood Alter

Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor
Department of Human Services (Master of Social Work Program)

As a female recreational therapist with a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) working in a substance use disorder treatment facility, the subject of this Single Subject Research Design (SSRD) often finds herself feeling anxious or emotionally drained. Her symptoms of anxiety and compassion fatigue may be related to her being relatively new to the profession or the stress from providing individual therapy to diverse clients she is not familiar with. This SSRD focuses on determining whether mindfulness meditation is an effective means of treating these symptoms in the subject. The SSRD measures the subject's self-reported symptoms using the Zung Self-Rating Anxiety Scale, the Beck Anxiety Inventory, and the Compassion Fatigue Short-Scale. After establishing a baseline for these symptoms by measuring them for one work week, the subject's use of mindfulness meditation for the weeks after baseline shows promising results, with a measured drop of symptoms on all three scales.

THE EFFECTS OF MUSIC THERAPY ON SHORT-TERM MEMORY IN AN ALZHEIMER'S PATIENT

Jennifer N. Bowers

Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor Department of Social Work

Alzheimer's disease is a currently incurable, progressive brain disorder that destroys memory and mental functioning. Multiple studies have suggested that music could delay cognitive decline and reduce agitation in patients with Alzheimer's disease. A single-subject research design was conducted on an Alzheimer's patient at My Friend's House, an Alzheimer's Day Center, to determine whether music could improve her short-term memory. In this design, music was used as an auditory aid to recall information. The patient was first told a story. After thirty minutes, she listened to a song with lyrics that aligned to the story. She then answered a series of questions about the story's plot. Results indicate that the patient could answer a higher percentage of questions correctly when provided with the auditory aid. Results also indicated that music lowered the patient's overall level of frustration when recalling stories.

Social Work

THE MIND AND BODY CONNECTION: BENEFITS OF INTEGRATIVE CARE FOR ATHLETES

Michaela C. Brooks

Dr. Katharine Adams, Faculty Mentor Department of Human Services

With more and more athletes coming forward with mental health concerns, it is imperative that mental health providers have a plan for reaching this underserved population. The health of athletes is primarily focused on the physical realm. Barriers such as stigma and access hinder mental health from being considered a priority in the treatment plan for athletes' health. This systematic review explores the option of integrative care within the context of mental health for athletes. This review considers what integrative care is and how it can relate to athletes' and their mental wellbeing. There is currently a gap in the knowledge and implementation of this strategy. Therefore, this review analyzes how integrative care can be implemented within the health plan for athletes.

Social Work

THE BENEFIT OF COGNITIVE-BEHAVIORAL THERAPY ON A HISPANIC WOMAN FACING POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION

Ashley Karina Charles

Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor
Department of Human Services (Master of Social Work Program)

The Single-Subject Research Design (SSRD) project analyzed how postpartum depression could impact the overall health of a Hispanic woman at Living Bridges Ministry. For this single-subject research design, the two operational measures (Beck Depression Scale and a 1 to 10 stress scale) were used to assess the level of postpartum depression faced by the Hispanic woman. The intervention chosen for this SSRD was Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy. The intervention phase was completed within 3 weeks. The SSRD results concluded to prove how effective Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy was to decrease postpartum depression symptoms for the Hispanic woman. Through this SSRD, the use of Cognitive-Behavioral therapy was found to be an effective psychological treatment for postpartum depression symptoms.

Social Work

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TALK THERAPY FOR A THERAPIST DISPLAYING COMPASSION FATIGUE SYMPTOMS

Savanna M. Finney

Dr, Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor Department: Human Services (Master of Social Work Program)

This Single Subject Research Design (SSRD) examines the effectiveness of talk therapy as an intervention for reducing the symptoms of compassion fatigue for a child and adolescent therapist working at Choices for Life of Georgia LLC in Valdosta, GA. The client has been experiencing symptoms of compassion fatigue, burnout, and secondary trauma stress (STS) while being at his current job. Using the Compassion Fatigue Scale-Revised, the MSW student asked the client to rate his symptoms for three weeks prior to introducing the intervention. After establishing the baseline, talk therapy was introduced for the next three weeks to discern if it decreases the symptoms of compassion fatigue. Intervention was given once a week and at the end of the week. The Compassion Fatigue Scale-Revised was completed at the end of each week (during both the A and B phases) to gauge the symptoms from the last weekly sessions and after talk therapy was given. By the end of the six weeks, there were decreases overall in the symptoms of compassion fatigue. The SSRD provided moderate evidence that talk therapy helped to decrease symptoms of compassion fatigue, burnout, and STS.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PLAY THERAPY FOR IMPROVING ATTENTION AND SOCIAL INTERACTION IN A MALE CHILD

Lilia Graham

Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor
Department of Human Services (Master of Social Work Program)

Children have those growing pains (feelings of distress) where the development of attention and social interaction are new phases within their lives. One of male children that I took care of at a church nursery had some growing pains. This Single Subject Research Designs (SSRD) used the AB design in which phase A (baseline phase) focused on assessing his response to instruction and his social interaction with his peers and the world around him. Phase B (intervention phase) was run for two days of every week starting October 26, 2022, going through to November 20, 2022. I implemented different play therapies such as the slow-motion game and the tea party game. The SSRD results indicated that the play therapies were effective in productivity of peaking the male child's interest while having fun in allowing him the chance to build the skills needed in responding to instruction and communicating with his peers.

Social Work

USING INDIVIDUAL THERAPY TO REDUCE ANXIETY AND DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS OF AN INMATE

Amber N. Magsanay

Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor
Department of Human Services (Master of Social Work Program)

A client who I met in jail as a social work intern is diagnosed with anxiety disorder, and her incarceration has led to her depressive state. An AB design was used for this Single Subject Research Design (SSRD) study. Two operational measures with two different scales were used to measure the frequency of anxiety and depression. The Beck Anxiety Inventory scale and the Beck Depression Inventory scale were used for rating the frequency of the client's anxiety and depression symptoms. The effectiveness of individual therapy was examined in this SSRD study. The individual therapy allowed the client to express her feelings and debrief about the struggles of being incarcerated. The therapy lasted for eight weeks. This SSRD was designed to examine the effectiveness of the individual therapy for reducing overall anxiety and depression symptoms. The results show a decrease in the frequency of both anxiety and depression in the client.

Social Work

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SAVE US: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Loriann B. Merritt

Dr. Katharine Adams, Faculty Mentor Department of Human Services

Due to the traumatic nature of their job, first responders are at higher risk for developing compassion fatigue, burnout, and mental health disorders. Additionally, first responders are less likely to receive mental health services due to stigma, lack of provider knowledge, cost, and availability. A systematic review of the literature indicates that counselors can best support this population by using culturally sensitive and trauma-informed practices. Further research is needed for this specific population as implications are often generalized from military studies. Having knowledge of these best practices will allow for counselors to effectively treat first responders.

Social Work

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PLAY AND MUSIC THERAPIES ON A CHILD'S BEHAVIOR WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD)

Nia S. O'Neal

Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor Department of Social Work

Several children's behaviors are negatively affected by attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). This research was done on a 6-year-old African American little boy that has been having troubling behaviors at home and at school because of his ADHD diagnosis. He acts out in his classes, does not like to listen to his teachers, and he throws temper tantrums with his mom when she commands him to do anything. His mom has said his medicine has not been helpful, and complaints have been made to his doctor. So, during this study play and music therapy was experimented on him just to see if there would be any more decline or progress in his behavior. Studies showed that these two therapies became beneficial to his behavior and big improvements were made both at home and in school.

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction for Treating Symptoms of Anxiety and Depression in an African American Male

Christian F Pittman

Dr. Hanae Kanno Department of Social Work

This single-subject research design (SSRD) aimed to alleviate symptoms of anxiety and depression experienced by an African American male due to difficulties in romantic relationships using mindfulness-based stress reduction (MBSR). The study was conducted over a 16-week period and involved subjecting the client to 15 dates. The client's anxiety and depression levels were measured using a numeric rating scale ranging from 1 to 10. The study found that MBSR was effective in reducing the client's anxiety and depression levels, as evidenced by the significant decrease in anxiety and depression levels after each date. The study's implications suggest that MBSR can be an effective intervention in reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression in individuals struggling with dating experiences, thereby preventing the development of social anxiety disorder.

College of Humanities & Social Sciences

English

THE VICTIMS WHO GO UNNOTICED IN RUSHDIE'S HAROUN AND THE SEA OF STORIES

Brandon D. Cooper

Dr. Ubaraj Katawal, Faculty Mentor Department of English

While it is a common occurrence in fairy tales, the idea of good versus evil is problematic in a number of ways. Not only does it simplify the complexities of each side, it also ignores anyone and anything that falls outside of either of these sides. In Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, I found this problem to be quite notable in multiple facets and sections of the story. My goal is to focus on those that go ignored by the characters and perhaps even Rushdie. While people tend to focus on the binary forces in a conflict, I want to bring any other groups affected into the discussion of the text. While some might not be as prominent as others, such as Mrs. Segupta and her position after her husband runs off with Soraya, there is one that demands attention: the Shadow people. When Haroun overcomes the evil Khattam-Shud in the Old Zone, an entire people is wiped from Kahani with only a brief acknowledgement. This lack of consideration comes after it is revealed that the Gups are the cause of the Chups' plunge into darkness for their own benefit.

NATIVE ACCULTURATION AND POWER IN JOHN ELIOT'S NEW ENGLAND MISSIONS

Tyler E. Daniels

Dr. Dixie Haggard, Faculty Mentor Department of History

In the mid-1600s, the Puritan pastor John Eliot established many missions called praying towns in New England with attempts to convert Native Americans into the English Puritan religion. While some Massachusetts and Wampanoags embraced the English way of life, they did not always completely abandon their cultural worldviews during their conversion process. Eliot's missionary literature provides another way of navigating native agency in the seventeenth century that is not strictly limited to narratives of resistance or assimilation. This presentation seeks to show how Native American processes of acculturation within the Puritan missions often incorporated connections between Puritan practices and religious ideas and their own traditional categories of health, religion, and spiritual power.

History

REDISCOVERING SILVER SPRINGS AND PARADISE PARK: A STUDY OF TOURISM IN FLORIDA

B. Cordell Moats

Dr. Dixie Ray Haggard, Faculty Mentor Department of History

Silver Springs, now a state park located just east of Ocala, Florida, no longer holds the same distinction it once commanded as "...the monarch of all the state's many attractions." Only a few academic level studies have been conducted on the history of Silver Springs from its era as a tourist park. Primary sources, including newspapers and photographs, provide further insights into the operation of Silver Springs Park in the twentieth century. Despite the success of the growing tourism market, the laws and customs of the Jim Crow south left a major portion of the population out. Efforts to include African Americans in tourist efforts at Silver Springs in the mid-1900s led to the opening of Paradise Park in 1949. Paradise Park became a major success, especially because at the time there were few competitors for African American tourism in the region. Silver Springs and Paradise Park developed and defined the tourism industry of Florida for nearly a century. By analyzing the history of Silver Springs, especially during the middle of the twentieth century, this paper will showcase the importance of the park as a major point of development in the state of Florida.

Political Science

A PRODUCTIVE DILEMMA: AN ANALYSIS OF PRO-NATAL POLITICS IN THE U.S.

Elizabeth Rivera

Dr. Keith Lee, Faculty Mentor
Department of Political Science (Public Administration)

This research focuses on the analysis of Pro-Natal Politics in the United States. Pronatalism views reproduction to be an essential objective in life. Policies are put into place and can impact the way people view reproduction and reproductive health. These policies shape the view that individuals have on reproduction and the resources available to them. Analysis was performed on policies that the U.S. government put into place that affect the people that live there. Findings show that pro-natal policies that are put into place impact the birth rates and accessibility of resources (contraceptives, abortion, healthcare, information, etc.). This research hopes to explore policies that are put into place regarding pronatalism and the effect that it has on women and their reproductive health.

Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminal Justice

TRUE CRIME PODCAST CAREFUL CURATION OF PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF CRIME

Morghan A. Craven

Dr. Anne Price & Dr. Ellis Logan, Faculty Mentors Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

As reported by ABC, "44% of podcast consumers have listened to a true crime podcast, up 30% in 2017 (McMahon, 2019)." Crime reporting has been a part of American crime culture since the 1600s. Originally, crime reports informed the community of property rights. Now, podcasts are a popular way for the public to be informed about crime. Crime podcasts narrate crimes, but also shape the way the public perceives crime. Many listeners are unfamiliar with the official crime reports conducted by the FBIs Uniform Crime Report and the National Crime Victimization Survey. Without the knowledge of the true overview of U.S. crime, listeners fall victim to the careful curation of selected crime reports through true crime podcast. The purpose of this study is to emphasize the false representation and curation of true crime by comparing popular true crime podcast to UCR and NCVS data reports.

Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminal Justice

"THAT'S NOT NATURAL!": SOCIAL PERCEPTIONS OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMO's)

Esther Darko, Samantha Duerring

Dr. Ellis Logan, Faculty Mentor Department of Sociology

Concerns regarding nutrition, food safety/toxicity, and environmental effects drive the public debate about genetically modified organisms in food. These biological and health concerns intersect with various religious, philosophical, and political concerns related to gene transfers between distant species, ownership and patenting of genetic material, the sanctity of life, and other bioethical issues. The questionnaire included a range of questions to assess independent predictors of GMO perception, including respondents' sociodemographic information, their sources of information about GMOs, knowledge of basic science, perception of the term "natural" to describe foods, and their self-perception of GMO knowledge. To assess perceptions of GMOs, the questionnaire included eight dimensions of "concern" over GMOs related to toxicity, the environment, religion, cost, nutrition, taste, use in medicine, and an overall assessment of concern. The study aims to investigate the various viewpoints held by the public concerning GMOs in food and the factors that explain these perceptions.

Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminal Justice

GROCERY STORES' EFFECT ON FOOD SECURITY IN ELDERLY COMMUNITIES

Tanisha K. Goldsboro

Dr. Ellis Logan, Faculty Advisor
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

In 2020, around 13.8 million families experienced food insecurity, defined as limited or insufficient access to food. Income, employment status, race/ethnicity, housing status, age, and cognitive or physical impairment contribute to risk of food insecurity. This study examines whether supermarkets' growing reliance on self-service technology has an unintended impact on food insecurity. Does the replacement of employees by technology disproportionately affect groups already vulnerable to food insecurity? For those who are elderly, have impairments, or rely on cash, self-checkout can present barriers. I conducted a mixed-method study in a medium-sized southeastern city. I observed shoppers at three different grocery stores (Walmart, Sam's Club, and an Airforce Base Commissary) and recorded their use of checkout method (traditional or self-checkout), age, and gender. I also analyzed the public forum Reddit using the thread "Why do older people struggle with self-checkouts?" and categorized responses. This is needed exploratory research to understand food insecurity.

HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Jerry Hatley

Dr. Anne Price, Faculty Mentor Department Sociology and Anthropology

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) 2022 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, on a single night in 2022, there were approximately 600,000 individuals experiencing homelessness in the United States. People experiencing unsheltered homelessness (e.g., those sleeping outside or in places not otherwise meant for human habitation) were typically concentrated in large cities, followed by suburban areas. Over 60 percent of all people experiencing homelessness in 2022 were males while African Americans comprised nearly four in 10 homeless individuals, and 37,252 people experiencing homelessness were veterans (HUD, 2022). Those experiencing homelessness have high rates of chronic and co-occurring health conditions, mental and substance use disorders. Preventive services, including mental health, substance use, medical care, and social supports, are needed for people who are homeless, irrespective of whether they present with diagnosable conditions.

Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminal Justice

THE RACE TO VACCINATION: PREDICTORS OF COVID-19 VACCINATION RATES ACROSS GEORGIA

James C. Lane

Dr. Anne Price & Dr. Ellis Logan, Faculty Mentors
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

The efficacy, safety, and necessity of COVID-19 vaccines have been politically polarizing. Using an original county-level data set covering all 159 Georgia counties and OLS regression, we analyzed a variety of factors influencing COVID-19 vaccination rates, using flu vaccination rates as a less politicized comparison point. The results of this statistical analysis show a strong, highly significant connection between COVID-19 vaccination rates and the overall political alignment of the county, as well as age and racial demographics. Results also showed significant relationships between county-level COVID-19 vaccination rates and high school education rates, as well as obesity rates per county. The rural designation of the county was also very significantly related to higher COVID-19 vaccination rates, due to the larger 65+ population in rural counties. However, the politics of the county remained the strongest predictor across all COVID-19 analyses.

Modern & Classical Languages

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE IN SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION: IMPLICATIONS

Venu Aindley

FOR CLASSROOM PRACTICE.

Dr. Victoria Russell, Faculty Mentor Department Of Modern And Classical Languages

This poster presentation examined the role of Communities of Practice (CofP) in second language learning. The objective of this review of literature was to identify features of successful CofPs that could be built into second language classrooms to provide space for communities within them. The five empirical studies reviewed here demonstrated that participation of adolescent English language learners (ELLs) in communities of their interest both within and outside of school contributed to expanded language learning opportunities through mutual engagement, sharing a joint enterprise, and constructing a shared repertoire. The findings of these studies suggest some features that can become the basis for creating communities that encourage second language learning in classroom settings. The poster also provides an overview of the studies examined, key words, and practical implications for teachers of English as a second language.

Modern & Classical Languages

A CULTURAL ANALYSIS THROUGH THE ORIGINAL FILM "LA FAMILLE BELIER" (THE BELIER FAMILY) AND ITS AMERICAN REMAKE "CODA"

Marie Audefray

Dr Ofelia Nikolova, Faculty mentor Department of Modern and Classical languages

What we know with certainty is that the remake has been much discussed, both in France and across the Atlantic. As soon as a new remake comes out in movie theaters, magazines, newspapers, etc. ask the same question: is the original version better than the remake (and vice versa)? But in this study, we will not compare and play the game of "similarities and differences" found in the original French film and its American remake, but rather understand and analyze the cultural transposition that takes place. Indeed, in their desire for Americanization, directors and/or producers cannot simply make a simple linguistic translation of the original screenplay. The film must speak to the eyes of American spectators; for this, it is sometimes necessary to change the places, the historical period, the genre, or even to remove certain scenes that could offend their sensitivity. This is what we will see in the comparative cultural analysis of the original French film: La Famille Bélier (2014) by Lartigau, and its American remake: CODA (2021) by Sian Heder.

Modern & Classical Languages

MODES OF COMPREHENSIBLE INPUT FOR DEAF STUDENTS WITH COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

Brittany A. Barker

Dr. Victoria Russell, Faculty Mentor **Department of Modern and Classical Languages**

This research poster focused on the communication approaches used in the provision of comprehensible input for language students who have recently received a cochlear implant (CI). The studies examined in this literature review investigated oral communication (OC), total communication (TC), and the benefits of being a bimodal bilingual versus a unimodal bilingual. The focal points of these studies are the effects of dual comprehension in speech and sign, processing abilities, and the organization of spoken and signed input. The findings showed that the activation of two methods of input—positive interference of speech over sign and the access of linguistic knowledge in the working memory (without requiring a sequential switch) were beneficial for language learning. This poster provides an overview of the research in this area, a list of practical implications gleaned from these studies, key terms, visual aids, and references.

Modern & Classical Languages

USING MUSIC TO ENHANCE SKILL ACQUISITION IN SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING

Fidelle Hopper

Dr. Victoria Russell, Faculty Mentor **Department of Modern & Classical Languages**

Research shows that singing songs in a second language (L2) facilitates the language acquisition process. Looking through the lens of skill acquisition theory, the studies explored in this review of literature demonstrate the relationship among musical expertise, L2 retention, and sound recognition, as well as the relationship between untrained singing and faster learning speeds. Although there is a paucity of studies in this area, the findings indicate that music accelerates the three steps of skill acquisition in an L2: (1) declarative knowledge, (2) procedural knowledge, and (3) automatic knowledge. The research shows that the same areas of the brain that process music are also responsible for linguistic and verbal processing. This poster provides an overview of the research in this area, key terms, practical classroom implications, and a conclusion that synthesizes the research findings.

Modern & Classical Languages

DOES PROCESSING INSTRUCTION IONCREASE LEARNER RETENTION IN ONLINE LANGUAGE CLASSES?

Phillip S. Hoskins

Dr. Victoria Russell, Faculty Mentor Department Of Modern And Classical Languages

This research project investigated the effects of processing instruction (PI) on learner success and retention rates in the online foreign language classroom. PI is an input-based technique for teaching second language grammar. The goal of PI is to help learners make a correct form-meaning connection, which is the connection between a grammatical form and its referential meaning (e.g., -ed = past in English). The research studies that were examined in this literature review explored various models of instruction and how visual input enhancement (VIE) may affect online language learning when combined with PI. The practical implications that were drawn from examining this body of research show how PI can be integrated into the communicative language teaching approach. This poster provides an overview of the research, key terms, classroom applications, as well as a conclusion that synthesizes the research findings.

3MT Presentations College of Science & Mathematics

Biology

EFFECTS OF HEAVY METALS ON THE FEEDING RATE OF ISCHADIUM RECURVUM

Miracle O. Mgbeahuruike

Dr. Cristina Calestani, Mentor Department of Biology

The extensive industrial, agricultural, domestic, and technological applications of heavy metals have led to their wide distribution and consequent pollution in the environment. Environmental pollution studies have been championed by mussels as their filter-feeding nature lends them to be excellent biomonitoring agents. *Is-chadium recurvum* collected from the St. John's River was used to investigate the effects of heavy metal exposure on the feeding rate of mussels and their ability to recover from it. Histological sections of the gills, which normally help move food particles to the mouth, revealed structural tissue damage in mussels exposed to 100 µg/L of copper. The filter-feeding rate was analyzed by measuring water turbidity and water particle clearance rate using a FLOWCAM. During the post-exposure recovery, the filter feeding rate was slower in mussels exposed to copper, as compared to control. Since mussel gametogenesis is active only in the presence of abundant energy reserves, the detrimental effects of high levels of copper on feeding rate might not only compromise mussel survival, but also mussel reproduction.

College of the Arts

Music

HEINRICH SCHENKER AND RACISM IN WESTERN MUSIC THEORY: THE CONTROVERSY THREE YEARS ON

Lindsay Miller

Dr. Zhong B. Lin, Faculty Mentor Department of Music

The teachings of Austrian music theorist Heinrich Schenker (1868-1935) have long formed the basis for the analysis of Western tonal music, but are they inherently racist? In 2019 Philip Ewell of Hunter College claimed that Schenker's concept of a hierarchy of pitches is related to his concept of a hierarchy of human races. The appropriateness of the use of Schenker's musical theories in academia has been under debate since Ewell's presentation. This presentation will explore the state of the controversy three years on and discuss possible paths forward.

College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

GAPS IN WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND PAY ACROSS 26 UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA INSTITUTIONS

Tanisha K. Goldsboro

Dr. Anne Price, Faculty Advisor
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

About 60% of college students in the U.S. are women. To see if these demographics are reflected in the leadership of 26 University System of Georgia (USG) institutions, and if there are any gender pay gaps, we used publicly available data from openGA.gov for the year 2020. We collected name, position, and salary and combined it with a gender variable we created by inferring gender using names and faculty biographies. In the USG, women hold 7 president positions, 33% of the highest paid positions, 47% of dean positions, and 45% of department heads. Male full professors earn on average \$7,110 more than women; the average salary for women full professors is \$97,000, compared to \$104,000 for men. We found that universities with more highly paid women have less of a gender gap in full professor pay. Additionally, universities with more highly paid women are associated with more African American students.

SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC: WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS? Journey M. Perkins Dr. Anne M. Price The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminal Justice

Social media is a tool many people around the world use to feel connected to one another. However, it can be very addictive. Social media addiction has many negative affects on one's mental health. During the pandemic, people were more isolated and felt more alone than ever. Many turned to social media in order to feel connected and less alone. Young adults were also more likely to become addicted to social media during the pandemic than older adults. I can relate to this since I was still a teen when the pandemic began. I definitely relied on my phone to feel less alone and experience some kind of relief during such stressful times. We need to look at how mental health and social media addiction was impacted by the pandemic, and what we can do now to treat those negative effects so that we don't unnecessarily suffer down the road.

Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminal Justice

THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN YOUR KITCHEN

Sandra E. Stevens

Dr. Anne Price and Dr. Shelly Yankovskyy, Faculty Mentors
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

The effect humans have on the earth is a chain reaction that not only affects communities at large, but negatively impacts the physical environment as well. The environment that individuals experience heavily impacts their worldview which goes on to impact their physical health. As a result of this chain reaction, individuals have become more susceptible to disease and illness due to nutritional deficits. Climate change has negatively affected individuals across the world and the nutritional value of our food can fill in the nutritional deficit that many individuals across the world are experiencing. Local farmers have been forced to adapt to the effects of climate change and a changing economic demand with the added worry of providing for themselves. This study aims to investigate the impact that climate change has on local farmers and their produce and how this may impact the nutritional value as well. This study's research will also take into account other perspectives in literature as well and is still in its preliminary stages. To fully understand this concept I will be conducting personal interviews with farmers, or those who have personal agriculture practices, and observing these changes as well.

Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminal Justice

HOW DO SOCIETY SOCIALIZE GENDER IDENTITY EXPRESSION AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION THROUGH INSTITUTIONS?

Nashie Wesley

Dr. Anne Price **Department of Sociology**

Gender fluidity on a college campus is gaining popularity. Concepts and definitions that refer to sexual orientation, and gender identity are an ever-evolving field. This study investigates how social institutions socialize and reinforce the constraints of gender and one's performance. This study uses mixed methods to investigate gender expression; specifically, the study used a participant observation to collect qualitative data and refine and frame the quantity analysis in a survey. The study will employ sociological concepts such as idioculture, anomie, some theoretical insights from Emile Durkheim using Kimberle Crenshaw's intersectional framework. In terms of institutional influences, the project focuses on three main social institutions: family, religion, and education. These three main institutions are at the core of both societal functioning and our individual lives which create overlapping structural and individual influences which serve to restrain and reinforce the dominant gender hegemony.

GA of the Year Recognition

Lauren Bontrager

Supervisor: Analisa McCarty Department: Campus Recreation

Lauren is graduating with a Master of Education in Higher Education Leadership. Her decision to attend VSU was prompted by the positive reviews of the Higher Ed Leadership program and the opportunities presented in the available Graduate Assistant role within Campus Recreation; not to mention getting a break from the Midwest snow. Her time at VSU was unlike most GA experiences. As professional gaps within the department arose, Lauren willingly took on multiple non-traditional GA roles. Some of these include facility reservations, risk management, and representing Campus Recreation at division events. She has also become the primary facilitator for the department scholarship golf tournament, which includes reserving the course, gathering sponsors and teams, creating day-of timelines, and being the event lead at the tournament. Furthermore, her GA position promoted development in her program organization skills, her trustworthiness with professionals, and her ability to communicate with students and staff. One highlight she has in her role is being able to manage a large student staff and interact with VSU undergraduates in a unique way. She attributes a lot of her success to Annalisa McCarty as she has trusted Lauren to take on all the roles she has while balancing a full graduate course load. Lauren is graduating in May 2023 and plans to move to North Carolina to continue in the Campus Recreation field. Some of her interests outside of academics include sewing, watching basketball, and taking care of plants.

Leann Brown

Supervisor: Heidi O'Connor Department: Counseling Center

Leann is pursuing her Master's degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She found that VSU was one of the select few colleges in Georgia that offered a major in Speech-Language Pathology. Valdosta State is also highly rated in the program offering bachelor's and master's degrees as well as onsite clinical experience during graduate school, so her decision was easy. Her graduate assistantship at the Counseling Center has tremendously improved her personal and professional skills which will carry over into her future career. Working with students in their greatest time of need and providing them with an empathetic yet professional demeanor in all circumstances will provide a great foundation for working with her own clients in the future. Leann is expected to graduate in December 2023, and she plans to work with the pediatric population in either the public school setting or private practice. Outside of academics, Leann enjoys spending time with her friends and family. Leann would like to thank Heidi O'Connor and Lee Yarbrough for not only the opportunity of working with the Counseling Center, but for always providing constant support, and encouragement, and creating an incredible workplace environment.

Summer Dee

Supervisor: Dr. Crystal Randolph Department: Communication Sciences & Disorders

Amiah Hartman

Supervisor: Kennesha McBride Department: Housing & Residence Life

In 2017, Amiah chose Valdosta State to start her college career due to the beautiful campus and welcoming environment, and she felt that she would leave a lasting impact on the VSU community. As an undergrad, Amiah served as a member and e-board representative for several organizations including: SGA, Fire Pit, Young Democrats, the Emerging Leadership Program, and Deep Release Poetry Society. For two years, Amiah worked as a math tutor at the Academic Support Center, and served as a resident assistant within both Brown and Reade halls. After graduating with her bachelor's degree in business administration in accounting, she decided to continue her education in both the MACC and MBA programs at VSU while serving as a residence hall director for housing. Working in the housing department has had a major impact on Amiah's personal and professional journey. Within her diverse role as a hall director, she has gained many strong connections with both staff and students, and she has acquired an array of skills. Amiah will graduate this Spring with two master's degrees. Her plans are to utilize her skills from housing and her education in business to work either in property management or hotel management. This summer, she will be learning Spanish, French, and Sign Language to be more accessible to people, and she will also be embarking on her first road trip through Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Amiah will continue to enjoy people and experiences, and she attributes all her growth and success to God, her parents, her friends and family, and her housing and CGL family!

Hanna Ivey

Supervisor: Dr. Tamara Hardesty Department: Music

Hanna is pursuing a master's degree in music performance in voice. She found that the music department at VSU would allow her to have many performance opportunities, as well as give her the tools and attention she would need to succeed in the field of music. Her assistantship has allowed her to have the experience of teaching voice at the college level. She has gained experience teaching various voice types and various genres of music. She plans to graduate in May 2023 and to pursue teaching and performing opportunities. She eventually plans to pursue a doctorate degree in music and become a college voice professor. Hanna would like to thank her supervisor and voice teacher Dr. Tamara Hardesty for her support and guidance and for helping Hanna become a graduate assistant. In her free time, Hanna enjoys spending time with her family and her cat.

Emily Martinez

Supervisor: Amanda Thompson Department: Housing & Residence Life

Emily is pursuing a degree in Accounting, she graduated in December with her Master of Business Administration and wanted to broaden her knowledge in accounting. She decided to come to VSU in 2016 for her undergrad program when she fell in love with the campus where it felt like home. She went on to graduate with her bachelor's in accounting and finance. Once she leaves VSU in May, Emily plans on moving to Jacksonville, Florida, and getting a job in management. Emily felt that the assistantship opportunities here at VSU helped her further pursue higher education and expand her portfolio while doing so. She has worked in the Housing and Residence Life department since 2017 and it has played a huge role in who she is today, there were many development opportunities that it provided her. She wants to thank everyone in the housing department who has helped along the way but a special shout-out to her boss Amanda Thompson who believed in her always and pushed her to flourish in this position and in her future career.

Ruth O. Mensah

Supervisor: Dr. Sandra Y. G. Jones Department: Student Diversity & Inclusion

Ruth received her Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies in May 2021 from VSU. She is pursuing a master's degree in public administration and hopes to graduate in May 2023. She chose to pursue her master's degree at VSU because she recognized she can initiate change and that the program will assist her in serving the public by teaching her how to lead and serve, as well as helping her understand the people she chooses to serve. She intends to travel abroad after graduation to experience new cultures and foods and to discover what the world has to offer. As the Graduate Assistant for the Office of Student Diversity and Inclusion, Ruth has been able to make a significant difference on campus and in the lives of students. The assistantship has given the abilities that will help her navigate diverse professional spaces. She would like to express her gratitude to her parents for their consistent encouragement and support. She would like to thank Ms. Sandra Y.G. Jones for her guidance during her time at Valdosta State University. Outside of her academics, Ruth enjoys writing and dancing. She also enjoys going to the beach. Hearing the ocean noises brings her comfort and clarity.

Bryan Cordell Moats

Supervisor: Dr. Lavonna Lovern Department: Undergraduate Research

Cordell is a second-year graduate student working towards his master's degree in History. Mr. Moats is the Graduate Assistant for Dr. Lavonna Lovern, Professor of Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Native American and Indigenous Studies, and the coordinator for the Undergraduate Research Symposium. He began attending Valdosta State University in the fall semester of 2018 as an undergraduate student. He was awarded his Bachelor of Arts in History with minors in Political Science and Native American and Indigenous Studies in 2021. Following the completion of his undergraduate studies, Cordell chose to pursue the master's program because of the experience and support of the VSU faculty. Among his many graduate assistant duties, Cordell is active on the Undergraduate Research Council and assists in organizing campus events including the VSU Undergraduate Research Symposium, and the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference. He also works on promotional materials for the Undergraduate Research Council including designing flyers, tabling for VSU Open House events, running the VSU Undergrad Research Instagram page, and updating the URC website. Cordell also serves as the President of the Association of Graduate Students and the VSU chapter of the history honor society Phi Alpha Theta. Cordell is planning to complete his master's degree in the spring semester of 2023, after which he hopes to pursue a doctoral degree in history. His long-term goal is to become a history professor and researcher in Native American History. The experience Cordell has gained from working with faculty and students while serving as a graduate assistant is central to his motivation to find a career in higher education. Cordell is originally from Ocala, Florida. In his free time, he enjoys kayaking on the Silver River and traveling the southeastern part of the country with his family.

Sebastian Moreno

Supervisor: Harold Jones Department: Housing & Residence Life

Sebastian is pursuing a degree in higher education leadership. Sebastian decided to come to VSU after hearing about the program through a previous coworker and seeing that he could both earn his degree in higher education and get experience working in Housing while doing so. His assistantship has allowed him to gain an immense amount of experience in housing that has truly prepared him for the profession and allowed him to learn about many different aspects of Housing and Residence Life. Although working and completing a master's program has been hard at times, Sebastian feels that his assistantship helped him grow in ways that would not have been possible solely in the classroom. Sebastian expects to graduate this May. He has accepted an offer to Georgia Tech as a Residence Hall Director. He will be moving there with his wife, cats, and soon-to-be-born daughter. The leaders that supervised him in Housing were instrumental to Sebastian's success including Amanda Thompson. Harold Jones, and Erin Earley. Sebastian could not have been successful without the support of his wife Kaleigh Moreno who cheered him on the whole time. Sebastian enjoys reading and watching tv shows and movies with his wife on his off time.

Dawn L. Renner

Supervisor: Dr. Deborah Davis Department: VSU Archives & Special Collections

Dawn is pursuing a master's degree in library and information science. She has found VSU's MLIS program to be the perfect fit for her undergraduate studies in history and her love of libraries and archives. Her graduate assistantship has provided valuable training and work experience in librarianship and archival theory. As a GA, Dawn has gained confidence in herself professionally and developed important skills in several areas of archival work including mastering Archives Space, the most used archival software. Dawn expects to graduate in December 2023. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career as an archivist, possibly in a museum setting. Dawn wishes to acknowledge Deborah Davis, Director of Archives and Special Collections for her support and guidance every step of the way and Doug Carlson, VSU archivist for his day-to-day instruction and encouragement. When not studying, Dawn enjoys relaxing with a good book, sewing, crocheting, and spending time with family and friends.

Dalila Sanchez

Supervisor: Dr. Emily Rose Department: Biology

Dalila is currently pursuing a master's degree in biology. She decided to continue her education from her undergrad at VSU because of the encouragement of her professors. With her Graduate Assistantship, Dalila has been able to continue her research on the Dwarf Seahorses that will go into her thesis. She is now working on analyzing data on the juvenile seahorses that were raised with the help of the Rose Lab at VSU. She has also been given the opportunity to mentor many undergraduates who are new to the Rose Lab and help them gain new experiences as well. Dalila can be expected to graduate in May 2024. She is starting to look at internship opportunities and careers in the ecology field, specifically dealing with wildlife. She plans to use her time at VSU to decide exactly where she's going next, whether it be the Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or something else entirely. Dalila owes all of her success to her faculty advisor, Dr. Emily Rose, who has truly changed her life for the better. Without Dr. Rose and the Rose Lab, Dalila would never have started looking into master's programs or even into research. Now, it seems like her life revolves around the research she has been doing, and she knows that it has helped her improve every aspect of herself.

Gracia Velasquez

Supervisor: Dr. Zhong "BeiBei" Lin Department: Music

Gracia is pursuing a Master's Music Performance in Collaborative Piano. Gracia met her current mentor and applied teacher Dr. Joshua Pifer in a masterclass at her native country, Honduras. That is how she learned about VSU, where she has been playing with various chamber groups and soloists in recitals. She also plays the piano at Trinity Presbyterian Church. This assistantship has helped her develop her skills as a collaborative pianist, which would not have been possible in Honduras. Gracia is planning to graduate in December of 2023. After which she will return to Honduras to work as a professional Collaborative pianist and help young musicians grow. She is also planning to pursue a doctorate in collaborative piano in the near future. During her free time, Gracia likes to cook.

Friend of the Graduate School

Bailey Raffield

Bailey has been an integral part of Valdosta State University and specifically within the Information Technology department. He started working at VSU August 2016 with the inbound call center known as the Solutions Center where he has become the "go-to answer guy" for all issues. His intimate knowledge of the Solution Center's processes has been honed to perfection because of his natural tendency to help people and genuine desire to make them more efficient. During this time, Bailey has also been an advocate for the Graduate School and instrumental in re-designing our admissions application portal (Slate). He has worked with the Graduate School to ensure the functionality of Slate for our applicants, program coordinators, and Graduate School staff. We commend him for his commitment to the graduate applicants' first experience with VSU, the needs of our graduate programs in the application process, and an amazing resource for the Graduate School staff. Bailey has a unique perspective of these processes because he has gone through them himself. He not only works here as a valuable team member but he also attended VSU, obtaining his bachelor's degree, and is working on his Master's degree. Thank you, Bailey!

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