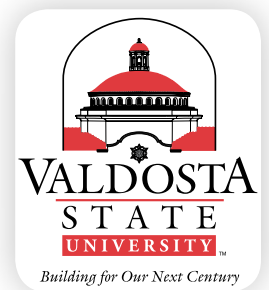


# GRADUATE RESEARCH & Scholarship Symposium

May 1, 2009 • 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. • UC Magnolia Room







**The Graduate School at Valdosta State University**

**Graduate Student Research & Scholarship Symposium**

**May 1, 2009 • 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. • UC Magnolia Room**

Welcome:

**Dr. Karla Hull,  
Interim Dean, the Graduate School**

Opening Remarks:

**Dr. Patrick Schloss, President**

Introduction of Faculty Mentors:

**Dr. Anita Hufft, Dean College of Nursing**

**Dr. John Gaston, Dean College of the Arts**

**Dr. Connie Richards, Dean College of Arts  
& Sciences**

**Dr. Philip Gunter, Dean Dewar College of  
Education**

**Dr. George Gaumond, Director Division of  
Library & Information Sciences**

**Dr. Martha Giddings, Director  
Division of Social Work**

Presentation of Graduate School  
Appreciation Awards:

**Dr. Louis Levy,  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Special Recognitions/Poster Viewing

**Dr. Karla Hull**

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## College of Arts & Sciences

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### TIME BUDGET ANALYSES OF WILD NINE-BANDED ARMADILLOS

Kier Ancona

Dr. Jim Loughry, Faculty Mentor

Department of Biology

Nine-banded armadillos (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) exhibit obligate polyembryony, whereby they produce litters of genetically identical quadruplets by repeated twinning of a single fertilized egg. High levels of kin-selected altruism have been predicted among these clonal littermates, yet intensive long-term field studies have revealed no evidence of this. The “time constraints” hypothesis attempts to explain these findings by arguing that armadillos are precluded from evolving complex social interactions, such as altruism, because of unique features of their biology. Specifically, armadillos have very low metabolic rates, eat low quality, widely scattered prey, and have very short active periods. Consequently, they may not have the time to be social. I collected data relevant to this hypothesis from May-July, 2007 and 2008 at Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge, Hollandale, Mississippi. As predicted from the time constraints hypothesis, I found that armadillos spent almost all of their active time feeding. A comparative analysis of time budgets in other mammals indicated armadillos spent more time feeding than virtually every other species. I also found limited variation in time budgets due to individual identity (age, sex, female lactational status), time (daily, seasonal, and year-to-year differences), or the environment (various weather conditions). These results might also support the time constraints hypothesis. My study represents the first detailed description of armadillo time budgets and provides an initial evaluation of the validity of the time constraints hypothesis.

### EFFECTS OF COMMERCIAL POULTRY OPERATIONS ON DISEASES IN WILD TURKEYS (MELEAGRIS GALLOPAVO) IN SOUTH GEORGIA

Dallas Ingram

Dr. J. Mitchell Lockhart, Faculty Mentor

Department of Biology

Wild turkeys are susceptible to many diseases that affect domestic poultry. Turkeys from south Georgia were submitted to the Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory in Tifton, Georgia from 2005-2008 to determine if introduction of commercial poultry production to southwest Georgia could adversely affect the health of wild turkeys, and, if so, how widespread this effect might be. Turkeys were examined for lesions and tested for parasites, bacteria and viruses. Significant differences between years were seen for Eastern equine encephalitis virus, West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis virus, protozoan prevalence, parasite intensity, NDV, and health score. Significant change was also detected between control group (Madison County, FL) and test group with parasite intensity and health score. When comparing locations, a significant difference was noted for Salmonella sp. bacterial culture, nematodes, and degree of parasite infection. This is the first report of avian encephalomyelitis antibodies and parvovirus from wild turkeys.

### EL CHE: A SEEMINGLY INHERENT SERIES OF CONTRADICTIONS

Matt Brown

Dr. Deborah Hall, Faculty Mentor

Department of English

Ernesto “Che” Guevara – his name evokes all sorts of images and words in our minds: a pop-culture icon of rebellion emblazoned on t-shirts, a revolutionary in his beret and army fatigues, a saint-like figure in parts of Latin America, an encapsulation of the sentiment, “hasta la victoria siempre,” or even a man who really took to heart his convictions—as “wrong” or “right” as they were. But who was this enigmatic “Che”; what made him who he was? Critics and historians have painted of El Che a picture that has been both flattering and demonizing to his legacy. Guevara’s *Motorcycle Diaries* provides a barometer of his nascent impetus to incite revolution to free the oppressed proletariat of Latin America, and through his travelogue, we learn that Che was an idealist, dreaming of more for humanity beyond exploitation and poverty.

**(RE) INVENTING ORIGINS: HOW THE MIGRANT AUTOBIOGRAPHER (RE) IMAGINES HOMELANDS****Shane Wilson****Dr. Deborah Hall, Faculty Mentor  
Department of English**

To look at certain hyphenated contemporary authors—Salman Rushdie, Michael Ondaatje, and Maxine Hong Kingston—is to pick out a common theme in the life narratives of such authors: migration. Rushdie and Ondaatje make migrations West early in their lives, while Kingston is born in the United States to first generation Chinese immigrants. There exists a common desire among these migrant authors to recapture some semblance of their homeland. However, the familial homeland is not always easily reclaimed. When historical facts come up short, these migrant authors re-invent the past to fill the gaps. The desire to revisit and claim the familial homeland at any cost—whether through accurate historical investigation or creative invention—is the thread that holds migrant non-fiction together as a genre.

**‘TALK STORY’: NARRATIVE AS CENTRAL FIGURE IN MAXINE HONG KINGSTON’S THE WOMAN WARRIOR****Travis Dular****Dr. Deborah Hall, Faculty Mentor  
Department of English**

Life narratives, regardless of the specific form they take, complicate themselves with questions of truth and authenticity. Maxine Hong Kingston’s book The Woman Warrior privileges storytelling, both fictional and confessional, as the vehicle by which “truth” emerges. Combining both imaginative and retrospective narrative seamlessly, Kingston produces a text that addresses truth-telling through fiction and historical narrative simultaneously. This paper argues that Kingston’s interruptions of overt fiction and active fictionalization results in a more “real”—that is, more palpable and visceral—transmission of truth and experience than a purely historical narrative can provide. By employing the tools of cultural and social memory in tandem with creative memory, Kingston’s The Woman Warrior functions as a heteroglossic example of the intersection between how events happen and what those events mean. If as Lacan states, “The truth is structured like a fiction,” is it possible to tell the truth with fiction? It is my contention that Kingston’s truth relies on her fusion of fiction and history.

**THE TWO QUENTINS: PSYCHIC TRAUMA IN *ABSALOM, ABSALOM!* AND *THE SOUND AND THE FURY*****Stephanie Cook****Dr. Michael J. Davey, Faculty Mentor  
Department of English**

Quentin Compson, one of William Faulkner’s most complex and intriguing characters, comes of age in the post-Civil War South, a turbulent and difficult time. He suffers from a form of psychic trauma, the result of a break with his sister, Caddy, which results in the loss of his moral center. Quentin’s mental state deteriorates from traumatic neurosis in *Absalom, Absalom!* to a suicidal psychosis in *The Sound and the Fury*. By studying Quentin and the development of his trauma over two of Faulkner’s novels, *Absalom, Absalom!* and *The Sound and the Fury* through a psychoanalytical reading of Quentin’s character and beliefs in light of contemporary trauma theory, it is possible to better understand the nature of Quentin’s trauma and the implications of the novels for our understanding of trauma, especially when that trauma is not properly confronted or incorporated into a unified understanding of the self and the world.

**“YOUR WAYS ISN’T MY WAYS”: NATTY BUMPPPO, INDIGINEITY, AND EDMUND BURKE****Peter C. Failor****Dr. Michael J. Davey, Faculty Mentor  
Department of English**

At the end of James Fenimore Cooper’s The Pioneers, frontiersman Natty Bumppo, whose own skills have enabled the “march of the nation across the continent” (405), tells us that he looks to “the great day when the whites shall meet the red-skins in judgment, and justice shall be the law, and not power” (464) This paradox—that Natty both condemns and enables white expansion—reveals the challenges Cooper faced in employing American themes to foster a uniquely American literary national identity. Cooper’s narrative search for an American indigineity, or sense of differentiation from English colonial identity, is reflected in the Leatherstocking novels in the ways Cooper contrasts Natty with the other characters. In my thesis, I use Burkean discourses on revolution, colonialism and natural law to illuminate how in his novels Cooper explores the disruptive social consequences of expansion and revolution for American national identity and the future of American empire and civilization.

## **A COMPARISON STUDY: DISEASE-MODEL AND FAMILY-BASED TREATMENT APPROACHES TO THERAPY AMONG SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN ADOLESCENTS**

**Misty Lamb, Emily Vickers, & Dwan Hutcheson**

**Dr. Jennifer Lambert-Shute & Dr. Martha Laughlin, Faculty Mentors  
Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, Anthropology,  
& Marriage and Family Therapy**

In the following study, we sought to identify effective therapeutic interventions for adolescents with substance abuse. We reviewed the literature, interviewed practicing clinicians with experience treating this population, and compared how the findings in the literature compared to the experiences of practicing clinicians. Prevalent research existed supporting both the disease-model and the family-based treatment model. Our interviews regarding the treatment of substance abuse among adolescents, three themes surfaced: Treatment, relationships, and environments. Our research revealed, when working with this population the most effective approach was the disease-model used in congruence with family based therapeutic interventions.

## **EXPLORING LINEAR AND SYSTEMIC APPROACHES TO TREATING POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER**

**Portia Smith, Laiel Winder, Taqueilla Ivey**

**Dr. Jennifer Lambert-Shute & Dr. Martha Laughlin, Faculty Mentors  
Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, Anthropology, and  
Marriage and Family Therapy**

In our research study we sought to explore and identify effective linear and systemic approaches to treating Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). We conducted a review of literature to familiarize ourselves with PTSD treatments and determined how past research findings can help us in our practice as future Marriage and Family Therapists. We interviewed three practicing clinicians working with PTSD clientele from different treatment approaches (i.e. Hypnotherapy, Emotionally Focused Therapy, and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy). After conducting interviews, we compared clinician responses to literature findings. We found four themes from our interviews they were: 1) therapeutic stance 2) holistic view 3) language and 4) overcoming stereotypes.

## **TREATING INFIDELITY IN COUPLES**

**Racine Henry & Megan Fox**

**Dr. Jennifer Lambert-Shute & Dr. Martha Laughlin, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, Anthropology, and  
Marriage and Family Therapy**

In the following study, we explored the empirically validated methods of treating infidelity and examined current methods of working with infidelity by reviewing empirical literature and interviewing two practicing clinicians who have experience in treating infidelity. The literature revealed three specific treatment methods: Forgiveness-based approach, behavioral couples therapy, and emotion-focused couples therapy. In our interviews, three themes became apparent: therapist process/approach, therapist experience in treating infidelity, and therapist stance. While the interviewees did not subscribe to the empirically promoted models, they both found that methods they had developed over time were more effective. Implications for therapists and researchers are included.

## **A QUALITATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE USE OF HORSES FOR THERAPY**

**Meagan Callahan , Jamey Seman, and Chrissy Able**

**Dr. Jennifer Lambert-Shute & Dr. Martha Laughlin, Faculty Mentors  
Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, Anthropology, and  
Marriage and Family Therapy**

In this presentation we will discuss our research project on the use of horses in psychotherapy. To find information about the use of horses in therapy we reviewed the literature and interviewed three professionals who are in the field that use horses therapeutically. Our findings in our literature review and interviews displayed that the use of horses in therapy is an effective tool that can be used to treat a spectrum of different issues within the therapeutic word.

**THE JUVENILE PSYCHOPATH**  
**Jenelle Bell**

**Dr. Shani Gray**, Faculty Mentor  
**Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, Anthropology, and  
Marriage and Family Therapy**

“Juvenile psychopaths” are adolescents with charisma who manipulate others and pursue in dicey deeds designed to satisfy their desires. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century society has been unable to create innovative ways to address the modern psychopath. In this study, content analysis was used to classify how juveniles psychopaths are identified and provided treatment through media outlets and scholarly sources. Findings revealed, that most psychopaths show unprecedented coldness and brutality toward humanity. They fear nothing and no one and their reasons for doing so are not always their fault. Findings also demonstrate labeling controversies describing juvenile psychopaths and how there is no formal treatment for them. However, it is suggested by researchers that the criminal justice system can attempt to help the young offenders by getting them in therapy like behavior modification, intensive cognitive therapy, and more. Future research, should focus on the development of treatment models and evaluating its effectiveness.

**MESO-AMERICAN LANGUAGES AMONG US: A STUDY OF LANGUAGE USE AND MAINTENANCE IN SOUTH  
GEORGIA/NORTH FLORIDA**

**Kristi Steltenpohl**

**Dr. Ransom Gladwin**  
**Department of Modern & Classical Languages**

Using oral survey methods, this study examined the linguistic diversity present among Meso-American language speakers in the South Georgia/North Florida region “the Wiregrass.” Also, this study examined the potential language maintenance or loss of Meso-American languages among these speakers. Among dislocated immigrants and their children, the language of the dominant socio-economic forces often displaces other languages (Fishman, 1967). This study was a replication of a 2004 study done among the Guatemalan-Maya communities of Southeast Florida, which predicted eventual intergenerational Mayan language loss. The findings of the present study highlight the incredible linguistic diversity among the respondents (sixteen languages reported). Also, the present study predicts eventual intergenerational Meso-American language loss/shift, unless contexts for strong legitimacy of the languages are developed among the speakers (Fishman, 2000).

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## **Dewar College of Education**

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### **AFRICAN AMERICAN MALES AND EDUCATION: A STUDY OF SUCCESSES AND FAILURES**

**Darrell Seldon**

**Dr. Richard Schmertzing, Faculty Mentor**

**Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

This study investigated the educational and social plight of African American males reared in poverty. The focus of this study was on a particular low-income neighborhood located in Columbus, Georgia. I was interested in this neighborhood because I, an African American male, lived there for 7 years. I researched and recorded the lives of eight Black males, including myself, who were raised in this low-income neighborhood. This project investigated our life experiences, with emphasis on educational and race issues. Within the context of this neighborhood, emphasis was placed on understanding why some of my African American male peers succeeded in school and life and others did not. This was accomplished by conducting life history interviews, and the data collected were used to construct first-person narratives of each participant. The results showed that the participants longed for: personal success, a fatherly support/relationship, fair treatment and a better lifestyle.

### **A CASE STUDY OF RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION IN PRESCHOOL**

**Donna H. McClain**

**Dr. Richard Schmertzing, Faculty Mentor**

**Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a method of manipulating instruction to improve student performance through intense monitoring, which provides feedback on the effectiveness of the instruction. Recently released special education regulations in Georgia require the use of RTI for determining eligibility for all disability categories, including categories used for placing preschool children in special education. Current research provides minimal guidance for implementing the process of RTI in a preschool setting. This case study examines the implementation of RTI, and the subsequent process of change in a preschool program. Perspectives of professionals involved in the RTI process, changes in professional roles, and modifications in everyday instructional practices are examined. Vignettes of preschool students moving through the RTI process are shared, and parent perspectives are discussed. As a result of this case study, a rudimentary process for implementing RTI in an actual preschool setting is revealed.

### **AN INVESTIGATION INTO FACULTY EXPERIENCES DURING A COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CONVERSION PROCESS**

**Amanda J. King**

**Dr. Lorraine Schmertzing, Faculty Mentor**

**Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

The purpose of this research was to systematically investigate the experiences of faculty users during a course management system, WebCT Vista to Blackboard Vista 8 (BlazeVIEW) transition, in order to improve the effectiveness of future training efforts. A pilot group of faculty users ( $n = 8$ ) participated in a three phase intervention process: (1) face-to-face training, (2) open hours, follow-up, use of group discussion and reflection, and (3) unit presentation and interviews. Participants completed pre and post-intervention surveys focused on their knowledge and skills as well as beliefs towards BlazeVIEW. Finally, faculty experiences were addressed through direct observation, participant journals, and select interviews. Overall, faculty participants expressed positive feedback regarding improved features in BlazeVIEW but time commitment concerns were evident.

### **THE EFFECT OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN DATA DISAGGREGATION ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

**Derald C. Jones**

**Dr. Don Leech, Faculty Mentor**

**Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

This study addressed the relationship between teacher professional development in data analysis and student achievement in mathematics, as measured by the Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT). All participants were fourth grade teachers and students in two South Georgia school districts. One district (A) served as the control group and other (B) was the experimental group. District B's fourth-grade teachers received treatment in the form of professional development in data disaggregation using the Georgia CRCT data. Findings indicated no significant difference between the system which participated in professional development in data disaggregation and the system that did not. There was also no significant difference between genders within the system receiving the treatment. However there was a significant positive effect on Black students compared with White students within the district receiving the treatment. Finally, data from the focus groups revealed that the professional development received was not pervasive throughout the system.

**PERFORMANCE LEARNING CENTER EFFECT ON GRADUATION RATES****Lilli Drawdy****Dr. Don Leech, Faculty Mentor****Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

The study was part of a program evaluation of a specific type of alternative education program, a Performance Learning Center. With a graduation rate hovering around 50%, a school system in rural Georgia decided to implement the Performance Learning Center to operate as an alternative education program within the system. The Performance Learning Center, a type of nontraditional high school was implemented in an effort to improve the system's graduation rates and to offer assistance to those students struggling in regular classrooms. Many of the components of the Performance Learning Center model are shared by other successful alternative education programs. These components include lower student-teacher ratio, active student involvement in the learning process, and a caring, nurturing staff. In three years, the school system experienced an increase in graduation rates from 57.5% to 82.9% between the 2005-06 and 2007-08 school years. The Performance Learning Center itself has also graduated 82 students during this same time period. Results of the study indicate that this school system's graduation rates were positively influenced by the implementation of a Performance Learning Center within the system.

**TRAINING PODCASTS FOR STUDENT WORKERS:  
FINDING TIME FOR LEARNING WHEN SCHEDULES CONFLICT****Vincent M. King-Spezzo****Dr. Lorraine Schmertzling, Faculty Mentor****Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

The purpose of this research was to compare the experiences of student workers who attended a live training with those who received a similar training online via Podcasts. A group of student workers ( $n = 10$ ) were given access to the Podcasted training and instructed to use them on their own. Participants completed a pre and post-intervention test, a survey focused on their attitudes about online learning, a survey about their training, and one-on-one interviews focused on their experience and types of behaviors they engaged in while using the Podcasts. These were compared with the results gathered from the latest face-to-face training sessions of student workers ( $n = 15$ ) who also completed a pre and post-intervention test, surveys, and were directly observed during their training. Overall, students who took the Podcasted training showed similar test scores, similar attitudes, and better behavior than those in the face-to-face training session.

**TAPESTRY WEAVINGS: COMBINING ART AND SCIENCE TO INVESTIGATE  
AND ILLUMINATE THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS IN GEORGIA****Barbara L. Hannaford****Dr. Richard Schmertzling, Faculty Mentor****Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

This qualitative study weaves phenomenology, symbolic interactionism, feminist theory, and grounded theory as conceptual frameworks for understanding the phenomena of being a female high school principal in South Georgia. In-depth interviews, conducted with five current and former female high school principals, will explore what effective female high school principals *do*, whether and in what manner their experiences shape their leadership practices, whether commonalities exist as they negotiate their leadership roles at a male-dominated level of the profession, and what can be learned from their contextual practices and experiences. The arts-based qualitative technique of portraiture will be used to create holistic portrayals of the participants, and a personal narrative of the researcher's experiences as a high school administrator will be included. Separate and cross-case analyses will facilitate deeper understanding of themes, theories, and phenomena and provide the foundation for creating a blended, collective portrait of an effective female high school principal.



## **EVALUATING THE EFFECTS OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS WITH “WH” QUESTIONS**

**Maria Venn**

**Susan Miller, M.Ed., CCC-SLP & Dr. Robert Johnston, Faculty Mentors**  
**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

This study describes an investigation to determine if digital photographs would increase a child with pervasive developmental disorder's (PDD) ability to answer “wh” questions. The subject was a seven-year-old boy with PDD. The researcher, in collaboration with the family, created a digital photograph book of pictures that were related to the child's environment. Each page of the photograph book had a written question, the photograph prompt for answering the question and a written response to the question. The results demonstrated that digital photographs improved the child's ability to answer “wh” questions, thus being a helpful visual stimulus tool during language intervention. Future implications and research are discussed.

## **INFANT VOCALIZATIONS OF FIVE MONTHS**

**Leah A. Yates**

**Dr. Corine Myers-Jennings, Faculty Mentor**  
**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

The purpose of this research project was to see if a normally developing five month old infant chose to produce more vocalization with his mother or in another context. The infant was placed in three contexts: with the mother, in front of a mirror to see his reflection, and with a peer-infant. The vocalizations were taped using a video recorder and then manually counted and analyzed. The results indicated that the infant more vocalization with the peer-infant than with the mother.

## **LISTENING COMPREHENSION AS A FUNCTION OF PROSODIC STRESS**

**Mary Craig**

**Susan Miller, M. Ed., CCC-SLP: Faculty Mentor**  
**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

The purpose of this investigation was to determine if applying contrastive stress to key words in a short story would improve an autistic person's listening comprehension. The results indicated that when contrastive stress was applied, the subject's listening comprehension improved. When baseline procedures resumed, the subject's performance was better than during the first baseline but not as high as during the treatment. Implications and recommendations are presented.

## **SUBJECT INTEREST EFFECT ON TASK COMPLETION FOR A PERSON WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME**

**Kristen Hamilton**

**Susan Miller M.Ed., CCC-SLP**  
**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

The purpose of this investigation was to determine if the subject would be able to complete a given task on both a topic of strong interest as well as a mildly interesting topic. The number of redirections necessary to complete the task as well as the task completion time were recorded for both topics. The topics were chosen based on the subject's previously expressed personal interest in the Presidential 2008 election. The results indicated that the subject was able to complete the task for both the subject of strong interest as well as the mildly interesting topic with minimal redirections and task completion time. There was no significant increase in redirection based on interest level of topic choice. More specific findings included in presentation.

## **THE EFFECTS OF SMOKING CESSATION ON THE VOICE**

**Elizabeth D. Cheek & Keith D. Williams**

**Dr. Robert G. Johnston, Faculty Mentor**  
**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

This study examined the effectiveness of short-term cessation of smoking as a treatment for vocal abuse. One male subject and one female subject ceased all smoking behaviors for a twenty-four hour period. Measurements were obtained on vocal fundamental frequency and pitch perturbations before the cessation and after the twenty-four hour period to determine if there was a reduction in vocal edema. Both subjects showed an increase in vocal fundamental frequency; pitch perturbation measurements were determined unreliable.

## **USING MNEMONIC DEVICES TO INCREASE ACCURACY OF MULTIPLICATION FACT RECALL FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES**

**Sarah Tatum**

**Dr. Philip Gunter, Faculty Mentor**

**Department of Early Childhood and Special Education**

Fluent use of multiplication facts is necessary to insure success in mathematics. In this study, a multiple baseline across students design was used to evaluate a mnemonic device intervention for teaching basic multiplication facts. Students were taught to use the SIMPLE math program to learn a simple song for memorizing multiplication facts. The students were taught the mnemonic, practice the song, and then they are assessed for one minute with a randomly generated probe. The goal of the students was determined by their IEP objectives, and all three students who participated in the study met and exceeded the goal for the intervention. The results from this study show a positive relationship between mnemonic devices and learning multiplication facts.

## **EFFECTS OF STUDENTS GRAPHING THEIR PERFORMANCE DATA ON CALCULATIONS OF MATH FACTS**

**Patty Figarola,**

**Dr. Philip L. Gunter & Dr. Julie Reffel, Faculty Mentors**

**Department of Early Childhood and Special Education**

The purpose of this study was to determine the impact of students' participation in their own formative evaluation procedures. Participants were three students with mild disabilities in the first- and second-grades; two of the three students were also identified with Attention Deficit with Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). They were taught to use Microsoft Excel® software to graph their rate of correct calculations when completing timed, independent practice sheets presenting single-digit mathematics problems. Results of this study revealed differential effectiveness in that two of the three students' rates of correct calculations almost always met or exceeded the aim line established for their correct calculations. For the third student, additional interventions were added to allow her to achieve the goal established. The results are discussed in terms of implications for increasing formative evaluation use in classrooms for students at risk for behavior disorders and academic failure and future research needs.

## **STORY MAPPING STRATEGY**

**Jordan Cayton**

**Dr. James Ernest, Faculty Mentor**

**Department of Early Childhood and Special Education**

This research project used the story mapping strategy to increase my students' overall reading comprehension through identifying the main character, setting, time, problem, solution, outcome, reaction, and theme in a multiple AB experimental design. The purpose of this study is to determine the effects of using story map instruction on increasing reading comprehension with three fifth grade students with learning disabilities. From just observing informally, the three students in my 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading class are having a difficult time with recalling the story elements, as well as, comprehending the texts as a whole. Once students master identifying the elements of the story, then they will be able to reinforce core information that was important throughout the text to allow them to comprehend more information and gain reading comprehension. This strategy was proven effective and beneficial for increasing reading comprehension through constant data and analysis of using the story mapping strategy with single-subject studies.

## **EFFECTS OF FITNESS BASED ACTIVITIES AND GAMES ON AEROBIC ABILITY OF PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

**Harlie Foremes**

**Dr. Michael Griffin & Dr. Sonya Sanderson, Faculty Mentors**

**Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education**

This study examined the effects of fitness-based physical education class activities on students' cardiovascular endurance. The target population was first grade students from a local primary school in Georgia. The sample consisted of a randomly selected first grade physical education class made up of two first homeroom classes (N=31) 13 male and 18 female students. All 31 students participated in a 1/5 mile linear run for time as a pre-test. After sixteen physical education class periods, 27 students participated in the post-test. The intervention consisted of fourteen days of fitness based activities prior to the beginning of the main lesson. Each day the students were engaged in 15-20 minutes of activities and/or games that required moderate to vigorous physical activity levels. Results showed a medium to large positive effect size of .73 from pre-test to post-test. Positive effect sizes for first grade girls and boys were similar.

## A COMPARISON OF THE EFFECT OF DEFINITIONAL AND CONTEXTUAL INSTRUCTION ON VOCABULARY ACQUISITION

Dottie Griffis

Dr. Anthony Pellegrino, Faculty Mentor

Department of Middle Grades, Secondary, Reading & Deaf Education

The purpose of this study was to determine if fifth-grade students ( $N = 19$ ) learned more vocabulary through a definitional method or a contextual method. The group included both regular and special education students. Student attitudes towards the two methods were also measured. During the first half of the 9 weeks, students were taught vocabulary using the definitional method. During the last half, they were taught through context. Results were compared through vocabulary tests, attitudinal surveys, and teacher observation field notes. There was no significant difference in achievement. Also, attitude surveys showed a negative reaction to use of the contextual method. It was concluded that the contextual method of learning vocabulary did not increase achievement for these students.

## THE EFFECT OF TUCKER SIGNING STRATEGIES FOR READING ON LETTER-SOUND NAMING

Sheta Coachman

Dr. Ellice P. Martin & Dr. Anthony Pellegrino, Faculty Mentors

Department of Middle Grades and Secondary Education

This study examined whether the *Tucker Signing Strategies for Reading* program by Bethanie H. Tucker increased letter-sound naming scores of regular education Kindergarteners in the southeastern United States. Student feelings toward Tucker Signing Strategies were also measured. Tucker Signing Strategies were implemented in one class and traditional activities were used in another class. Results were obtained by using a teacher-created sound-naming checklist for pre and posttest scores of each student in both classes. An attitude survey and journals of student drawings were used to collect data of the experimental class. Results indicated letter-sound naming increased, though not significantly with use of Tucker Signing Strategies, student attitudes were positive, and students could draw pictures of items when given the letter name.

## EFFECTS OF PEER TUTORING ON VOCABULARY ACHIEVEMENT

Ansley Minson Carmichael

Dr. Ellice Martin, Faculty Mentor

Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education

The purpose of this study was to determine if peer tutoring among fourth grade students increased vocabulary achievement. It also examined how peer tutoring affected students' attitudes about learning vocabulary. Fourth grade students ( $N = 20$ ) in the southeastern United States participated in the study. As part of the research, peer tutoring was implemented for four weeks and withdrawn for four weeks. Results were determined using vocabulary assessments, pre and post attitude surveys, and field notes. Results indicated a significant increase of vocabulary achievement scores. Moreover, student attitudes were exceptionally positive during the intervention. The results of this study concluded that peer tutoring is an effective way to gain higher achievement scores and increase positive attitudes towards learning vocabulary skills.

## IMPROVING PHONICS SCORES WITH *FOCUS ON PHONICS*

Kathy L. Lee

Dr. Ellice Martin, Faculty Mentor

Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading and Deaf Education

The purpose of this study was to determine if phonics achievement scores of first grade students ( $N = 36$ ) would improve with *Focus on Phonics*, a program created and developed through a partnership with an educational consultant and a team of five first grade teachers. Professional responses and attitudes of the teachers toward the new phonics program were also examined. Results were determined by the BLT (Basic Literacy Test), which compared phonics achievement scores of the participants to achievement scores of first grade students from the prior year. Field notes of the process and teacher attitudinal surveys were recorded. Results indicated no significant improvement in achievement scores; however, teachers remained positive in the value of the new program.

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## College of Fine Arts

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### CHORAL COLLABORATION: SYNTHESIS BETWEEN CONDUCTOR, COMPOSER, AND SCHOLAR

Jessica Israel

**Dr. Paul Andrew Neal**, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Music

Choral conductors must prepare in several ways and on several levels in order to have a successful choir and an effective program. This presentation will address some of the challenges choral conductors face. Three areas will be discussed: the role of conductor, composer, and scholar. The study of rehearsal techniques and conducting methods is needed in order to have a successful performance. The presentation will discuss ways in which a conductor must prepare – not only for the performance, but for the rehearsal process as well. When the opportunity arises, collaboration between the conductor and composer can provide many benefits, but also several questions. In this presentation, potential problems will be discussed and solutions will be offered. Scholarly research in the choral genres is paramount for putting together an effective program. The presentation will focus on the methods by which a conductor chooses repertoire, performance-practice concerns, and other scholarly obstacles. Video examples from both rehearsals and performances will accompany the presentation.

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## College of Nursing

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### IDENTIFYING BARRIERS TO ACCESS FOR RURAL HEALTHCARE

Cindy Waters

**Brenda Dyal**, Faculty Mentor  
College of Nursing

Rural Americans face disparity in health care. Unique barriers to accessing health care in rural areas may account for these disparities. The purpose of this project is to identify access barriers to health care for a local community. A possible outcome of the project is to provide evidence of the benefit a local Nurse Practitioner clinic provides for the health of a community. Long and Weinert's Rural Nursing theory was utilized as a conceptual framework for completing a literature review and identifying access barriers. Data was collected through the use of questionnaires. Results indicate barriers to accessing health care in a local community were consistent with those reported in literature.

### HEALTH RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE OF WOMEN WITH SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN SOUTH GEORGIA

Jeannie T. Paulk  
**Dr. Anthelyn Temple**, Faculty Mentor  
College of Nursing

At least 2 million individuals in the United States have been diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE). Women can be as much as ten times more likely to be affected than men. Improved treatment strategies have increased the projected lifespan of individuals living with SLE, so that the number of individuals living with SLE-related disabilities continues to increase. These disabilities affect physical and mental health, as well as the ability to perform activities of daily living, resulting in significant impairments in quality of life. This cross-sectional study evaluated the relationship between components of quality of life, including physical, emotional and social function, and individual characteristics of 30 women in South Georgia with SLE, such as age, weight, BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>) and employment status. Quality of life was measured using the Rand 36-Item Health Survey. Weight and BMI were positively associated with only the physical health component of quality of life ( $P=0.026$  and  $P=0.044$  respectively), while age and length of years since diagnosis with SLE had no relationship with any component of quality of life. There was a significant difference in physical functioning based on employment status ( $P<0.001$ ) with the greatest effect noted between women reporting full time employment versus unemployment ( $P<0.001$ ) or disabled status ( $P=0.001$ ). Overall, there was a strong and consistent relationship between physical, emotional and social functioning ( $P=0.01$ ). Pain was strongly related to all components of quality of life ( $P<0.001$ ) as were limitations in the ability to participate in activities of daily living due to physical and emotional health problems ( $P<0.01$ ). Based on these data women living with SLE in South Georgia demonstrate similar relationships between the physical, emotional and social components of quality of life as have been observed in other populations. Additionally, since pain was found to have a potentially confounding relationship with quality of life variables it should be taken into consideration when planning care in order to maximize improvements in function as well as physical status.

## **MEDICAL EMERGENCIES IN PRIMARY CARE: PREPARATION IS THE KEY**

**Joy Gainous**

**Brenda Dyal, Faculty Mentor  
College of Nursing**

Medical emergencies are a major concern in patient care settings across the spectrum establishing the need for preparation, which can be filled by an emergency protocol. Operational definitions and a conceptual framework lay the ground work for a protocol proposal, and the impact of the nurse practitioner role can also help make a change in practice. An emergency protocol was created to fulfill an urgent need of a local medical office. To support the proposed protocol, an extensive review of the literature was completed using several databases. Evaluation of the protocol included two different components: 1. evaluation of implementation of the protocol into practice and 2. evaluation of the protocol itself. The protocol is interrogated based on the findings of the review of literature and how well it exemplifies evidence-based practice.

## **HOW WOMEN CHOOSE TO FEED THEIR NEWBORN INFANTS: IDENTIFYING DETERRENENTS TO THE INITIATION AND DURATION OF BREASTFEEDING IN A RURAL SOUTH GEORGIA HEALTH CARE SETTING**

**Kathy C. Sheperd**

**Dr. Susan J. Wold, Faculty Mentor  
College of Nursing**

The benefits of breastfeeding are universally acknowledged in the health care community, and backed by years of research. Despite the support and endorsements, the rural south continues to trail the rest of the country in breastfeeding initiation and duration. This study was conducted in a rural South Georgia community hospital in order to determine the deterrents to consideration of breastfeeding prior to delivery, initiating breastfeeding after delivery, and continuing to breastfeed after discharge from the hospital. The convenience sample consisted of women at least 18 years old having a singleton gestation at term without neonatal or maternal complications. For inclusion, all three parts of the survey had to be completed. In order to better illustrate differences between formula and breastfeeding, only those infants receiving no more than two supplemental feedings per day were included in the postpartum assessments as being breastfed. Data was collected and assessed at four time frames: pre-delivery, at discharge from the hospital, and at 1 and 2 weeks postpartum. Demographics, hospital practice, obstetrical practice, staff and family influences, partner support, living arrangements, and outcomes were assessed for trends. An original, 45-item survey form was used that included answer prompts, however, additional participant explanations or comments were noted on the form. The breastfeeding initiation rate was 44.4% with the study group, considerably less than the target goal of 75% initiation set by Healthy People 2010. At two weeks postpartum, the study group had only 29.6% qualifying as breastfed (no more than 2 supplemental feedings per day) compared to the Healthy People 2010 goal of 50% still breastfeeding at 6 months. The participants posted breastfeeding rates below the state and national averages as well. The demographics followed known trends; women who were married, Caucasian, and of higher socioeconomic status chose to breastfeed and tended to be successful through the second week postpartum. Obstetrical factors (vaginal versus cesarean section delivery, perineum trauma, etc.) did not appear to influence the decision to breastfeed. Identifying the sources of education utilized by the participants did not prove insightful, with many of the participants reporting not seeking or receiving information about feeding methods. In fact, the educational void was an unexpected and enlightening discovery. Only two of the 54 participants attended childbirth classes even though a fourth of the group were having their first baby. The educational void explained why women were not aware of breastfeeding benefits, why they did not value breast milk as the superior food option for their child, and why they did not breastfeed in larger numbers. It also illustrates the need for education to help provide staff and health care providers with the tools they need to help their clients initiate lactation and deal with problems as they arise. Based on the findings of this study, the target facility can implement changes in the clinical setting to better prepare these women for breastfeeding, and provide follow-up support to encourage longer duration of breastfeeding.



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## **PRISONER'S PERSPECTIVES ABOUT NON-ADHERENCE WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS MEDICATIONS**

**Martha J. Ansley**

**Dr. Nancy Redfern-Vance, Faculty Mentor  
College of Nursing**

Non-adherence to prescribed medications is a major problem among prisons. Medication adherence is considered essential for managing chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and infectious diseases like hepatitis C and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Non-adherence contributes to increased incidence of complications, hospitalizations, emergence of resistant organisms, and increased treatment costs. To successfully raise adherence rates, it is critical to discover the barriers to medication adherence directly from the prisoners themselves. Goffman's Theory of Total Institutions was used as a framework to examine unique obstacles to medication adherence that are present in the prison environment. Objectives of this research project were to: (1) identify barriers to medication adherence within the prison environment; (2) describe prisoners' stated reasons for not regularly taking prescribed medications for chronic disease conditions; and (3) discover potential institutional strategies for increasing medication adherence in prison settings. Eighteen male prisoners in a southeast Georgia all-male prison volunteered for individual interviews and for record reviews of their Medication Non-Adherence Counseling Forms. Data were analyzed thematically. Themes included inconvenience, staff and peer treatment, prisoners' explanatory beliefs, and institutional process barriers such as privacy, scheduling, and computer glitches. Several recommendations are offered to prison administrators as well as to prison health personnel to help improve prisoner adherence to medications for their chronic illnesses.

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## **Division of Library and Information Science**

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### **THE CROSSOVER NOVEL: ITS MARKETING AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT IN YOUNG-ADULT LITERATURE**

**Candace Craig Walton**

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

Since 1997, the world has seen the rise of a new and popular segment of book publishing most often labeled as the "crossover." One need only read the bestseller lists or journal reviews and award lists since then to see that there has been a growth of "crossover" titles enormously popular with both young and old alike. This paper strives to give modern definition to the term crossover novel, while discussing its rise in popularity as a distinct literary genre as well as its use as a marketing tool particularly with regards to young-adult literature. The paper also discusses the positives and negatives of the genre and its marketing, lending guidance to young-adult specialists and others with regards to collection development.

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## **Division of Social Work**

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### **BROTHERS ADVOCATING SERVICE AND INSPIRATION IN THE COMMUNITY, INC.**

**Vonzelle Johnson**

**Dr. Michael Meacham, Faculty Mentor  
Division of Social Work**

Brothers Advocating Service and Inspiration in the Community, Inc. is a non-profit community action organization of youth-oriented professional men. These men invest their time to make a positive difference in the lives of young men. Collectively, this organization is committed to: providing hands-on initiatives that improve social, academic, and economic opportunities; improving the overall quality of life for young men of the community; and assisting these young men in reaching their full potential as children of God. Mr. Vonzelle Johnson founded this organization.

## **PROFESSIONALS, GET TO KNOW YOUR MILITARY COMMUNITY**

**Erika Anglehart**

**Dr. Diane Holliman, Faculty Mentor**  
**Division of Social Work**

The military lifestyle is distinct from any other institution in America. The intention of this analysis is to incorporate a thorough understanding of those identifying with the military community and professionals seeking to aid military families. This multicultural community encounters stressors such as repetitive deployments, frequent relocation, and raising children in a transient environment. Adaption to constant transitions is a characteristic of military families which requires unique relationships with agencies. Constant mobility deters developing and sustaining rapport between professionals and military families. Early intervention strategies and a competent understanding of the military lifestyle are necessary to providing assistance to the military community. Distinguishing factors of military families are examined. Intervention strategies are suggested.

## **LOSS AND BEREAVEMENT ISSUES IN THE CYCLE OF ADDICTION**

**Thalia Diggs**

**Dr. Michael Sanger, Faculty Mentor**  
**Division of Social Work**

Anecdotal evidence suggest that when working with substance abusers, social workers must often address issues of loss, grief and mourning, yet the social work literature provides little guidance in this area. In this presentation, addiction is conceptualized as a form of dysfunctional mourning. Before addiction occurs, many people who need to address significant losses do so through substance abuse in an effort to avoid psychological or physical pain. Once addicted, the individual continues to experience additional losses in finances, relationships and mental capacity. During treatment, the individual must address the initial losses as well as the loss of their drug of choice. In recovery, additional bereavement issues from Bowlby (1980), Rando (1993), and Stroebe (1999) give a different perspective of the cycle of addiction. In the case of relapse, the cycle of mourning continues.

## **LOWNDES COUNTY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT**

**Georgia G. Oropeza**

**Dr. Carol L. Hart, Faculty Mentor**  
**Division of Social work**

An assessment was conducted to identify weak and vulnerable populations within the general community as a source of future social work practice. This research investigated community strengths, resources, and assets as well as needs and barriers that promote or hinder personal growth and quality of life within the community of Lowndes County, Georgia. Primary and secondary data collecting methods were utilized including observation, key informant interviews with community leaders, and demographic data. Identified strengths and assets as reported are growing industry, educational and social opportunities, and volunteer and spiritual organizations. Observed barriers and needs include substandard housing, lack of transportation and employment, lack of handicapped-accessible sidewalks, and social isolation. Investigative results identified several oppressed subpopulations in need of community social interventions. Interviews reported mixed attitudes toward, levels of participation of, and interventions for oppressed populations. Future research implications suggest a need for greater community education, collaboration and social work involvement.

## **MINIMUM WAGE IN AMERICA – IS IT ENOUGH?**

**Lillian B. Carpenter**

**Dr. Michael Meacham, Faculty Mentor**  
**Division of Social Work**

Earning the minimum wage in America, is it really enough? This presentation takes a look at the reality that individuals face making minimum wage. The presentation begins with a look at the book by Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed (On Not Getting by in America)*, and looks more in depth at the facts around those that make minimum wage, their responsibilities, housing, health, and nutrition. In 1996, many recipients of AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) were faced with taking minimum wage jobs because of the work requirements resulting from the passage of PRWORA (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act). Were they better off? What about the middle aged individual rejoining the work force? What is the impact on the role of social workers?

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