Kentucky Honors Roundtable
Spring 2017 Conference
February 24th- 25th 2017

University of Kentucky
Lewis Honors College
# Kentucky Honors Roundtable – Spring 2017

## Friday, February 24th, 2017

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<td>6:15pm – 7:15pm</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<td>7:15pm – 9:00pm</td>
<td>STUDENTS: Film Screening of <em>Ivory Tower</em></td>
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<td>7:15pm – 9:00pm</td>
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## Saturday, February 25th, 2017

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<td>8:30am – 9:00am</td>
<td>Conference Registration</td>
<td>The 90 (2nd Floor)</td>
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<td>(coffee and donuts provided)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am – 10:00am</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
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<td>10:15am – 11:15am</td>
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<td>11:30am – 12:15pm</td>
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<td>2:45pm – 3:30pm</td>
<td>Panel Presentation “What Good is College?”</td>
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<td>2:45pm – 3:30pm</td>
<td>KHR Business Meeting</td>
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SESSION 1: 9:00am – 10:00am

Room 202 (The 90)

**Why Representation in Media Matters**  
*Alan Vo – University of Louisville*

From the stores we are told to the television shows we watched, media shaped our perception of the world and the world’s view on us. With topics such as #OscarsSoWhite and several celebrities of color advocating for more diversity in the entertainment industry becoming prevalent, the discussion of representation in media has become pertinent in society. To see is to believe and for many people from minority groups, they can only ever see themselves as the viewers instead of the characters. For us to grow into embracing ourselves and celebrating diversity, the creation and encouragement of inclusive media is imperative. Representation is more than having a few actors in the background for diversity points, representation means inspiring people and empowering them. It’s a reminder to ourselves that we are not as alone as we thought. In short, representation matters.

**Diversity in Video Games**  
*Casey Johnson – Northern Kentucky University*

This research focuses on the issue of diversity in modern video games, how representation helps us accept others and feel important, and how Blizzard's new game "Overwatch" has done in comparison to recent video games. People all over the world want to see themselves represented in media. When they aren't, they can begin to look at themselves in a negative light. In addition, when the majority group only sees themselves represented, they adopt the outlook that minority groups are not important.

This project compared the data collected from current popular games regarding diversity to data I collected from "Overwatch." The game has become extremely popular worldwide, and its incredible cast of characters may be one of the reasons why. I show how the female characters are positively represented, the male characters are given personalities beyond the "brooding hero" archetype, and people of color make up most of the cast.

**Applying Culturally Relevant Pedagogy in Education to Effect Social Change**  
*Diana Lalata – University of Louisville*

"Culturally relevant pedagogy" is an extension of the "critical pedagogy" concept, theorized by Paulo Freire in his book "Pedagogy of the Oppressed." It encourages students to participate in the classroom and community by questioning dominant beliefs and practices of education posited by oppressors. Freire aimed to inspire individuals to use education as a way to inform the oppressed of their dehumanized situation and, thus, strive for humanization. This presentation discusses the pedagogy in practice. By observing an English Language Arts class that engages in culturally responsive pedagogical activities, this project examines the positive and negative effects of this pedagogy on the diverse identities of students. The project examines culturally relevant pedagogy as a way to question the dominant beliefs of canonical texts in order to bridge cultural differences and allow students to find their voice.
Room 203 (The 90)

Handling Anxiety in College
Chelsea Fry – University of Louisville
In this presentation, the mental health and wellbeing of honors students will be discussed. We will address stereotypes in mental illnesses such as anxiety and depression. Through sharing of personal experience and research that has been done on the topic, we will look into what resources are on campuses, how to self-advocate and some mental illness coping mechanisms when in a University setting.

Self-Harm in Honors vs. non-Honors Students
Cailin Wile – Morehead State University
Through a series of surveys and personal interviews, the rate of self-harm in Honors students is compared to that of their non-Honors counterparts. Specific triggers for self-harming behavior will be explored in detail as a way to pull apart the issue of self-harm as it occurs on college campuses. This information will be used to better understand what resources should be made available to students who are at risk of self-harming, especially those with intense academic schedules and pressures, such as Honors students. Specific methods of self-harm will be covered, deviating from the well-known, and the role of drug and alcohol use as a more socially-acceptable form of self-harm will be explored.

The 2.1- A Documentary on Heroin Addiction
Sarah Wells – University of Kentucky
House Bill 1 was passed in 2009. This allowed physicians to monitor if patients were going from physician to physician to get pain prescriptions. Because of this change, physicians have not written as many prescriptions for opioids and many pain clinics have shut down- hence a decrease in abuse of opioid prescription medicine. Many addicts who used pain pills now have to search for an alternative. Heroin is cheap and easily accessible making it the new drug of choice. As a native of Kentucky, the county I am from has one of the highest rates of drug overdose deaths. I decided to investigate the adverse economic and health consequences of this epidemic by making a documentary. Hearing from health professionals, researchers, counselors, and people in recovery that I interviewed helped me learn more about this increase in heroin use. I want to bring awareness to this growing issue and understand the struggles in which workers in healthcare and in the community have when trying to deal with this epidemic.

Room 211 (The 90)

Clonal Reproduction Potential in Restoration Populations of Running Buffalo Clover (Fabaceae)
Claire Kelley – Eastern Kentucky University
Running buffalo clover (Trifolium stoloniferum Muhl. ex A. Eaton) is a federally endangered species found in Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio and West Virginia. Running buffalo clover (RBC) is a clonal species that uses its stolons to spread out and root down and disconnect to create new plants. RBC is endangered because of competition and habitat loss from succession, urbanization, and agriculture. I focused on two successful restoration populations of RBC planted at Taylor Fork Ecological Area at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, KY. Individual plants were tagged and monitored for the production of new clones. The data collected shows the yearly clonal reproduction of each original plant. These data can inform restoration and
conservation efforts by documenting the variation in fitness from individual lineages and the spacing for restoration populations that would prevent lineages from competing with each other.

**Bioengineering: Designing the Future of Human Life**
*Danyal Bhutto – University of Louisville*

As computers become an integral part of our lives, the union between humans and technology seems inevitable. A new field is leading this charge into the 21st century, bioengineering. Today, bioengineers are using the power of the human brain to make prosthetic arms move. Using microfluidics, bioengineers are designing ways to sort single cells. They are designing software that can diagnose diseases without the use of doctors. In this presentation, we look at the revolutions in medicine and technology that will occur in our lifetime, transforming the way we experience life itself.

**The Theoretical Application and Comparison of the Olfactory Sensory Organs in Swine vs Canines for Accelerant and Explosives Detection**
*Naomi Sigler – Eastern Kentucky University*

Swine may be able to work alongside scent detection canines in the field. Miniature pigs are the focus of this study since their larger counterparts can cause damage to potential evidence the scene. Ignitable Liquid Residues (ILRs) are searched for in post-fire conditions, and unconsumed explosives are searched for in transportation hubs. Swine have more functional olfactory genes and less pseudogenes than humans and canines. Swine have a highly functioning and exceedingly organized olfactory system. Swine can bond with a distinct handler. Their memorization skills show they can follow basic commands and learn tasks quickly. Swine can be trained in much the same way as canines are currently being trained for these careers. Swine are receptive to play rewards, but work much harder for a treat. There was not enough pre-existing research to conclusively state whether swine have more superior odorant detection capabilities over canines in a working capacity.

**Room 215 (The 90)**

**Mechanistic Insight into Vinyl Chloride-Induced Liver Injury: Role of Dietary Fatty Acids**
*Brenna Kaelin – University of Louisville*

Vinyl chloride (VC) is a relevant chemical toxicant and an important occupational/environmental pollutant. Most studies on the risk of VC exposure to human health have focused on the effect of VC alone (high doses) and not taken into consideration VC interactions (low doses) with risk-modifying factors. It has been shown that certain types of dietary fat such as polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA), linoleic acid (LA) in particular, exacerbate fatty liver diseases. The purpose of the current study was to determine the role of LA metabolites in sensitizing the liver to VC via molecular, organelle, and cellular effects.

**In vivo identification of DnaA binding sites of Borrelia burgdorferi**
*Elizaveta Khenner – University of Kentucky*

The causative agent of Lyme disease is the tick-borne spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi*. If untreated, Lyme disease can lead to neurological deficits, carditis, and chronic joint inflammation. Previous research has determined that tick feeding and the resulting increase in replication rate of the bacterium induces expression of proteins involved in vertebrate colonization, including the Erp family of lipoproteins. Regulation of the Erp
genes is modulated by several transcription factors, Bpur, BpaB, and EbfC, which are themselves modulated by a change in growth rate. Recently, we found evidence that expression of these regulatory factors may be modulated by DnaA, the master regulator of DNA replication in bacteria. We hypothesize that due to this role and its role as a transcription factor, as well as its binding near the promoter region of bpur in \textit{B. burgdorferi}, DnaA has numerous binding sites throughout the borrelial genome and is an important regulator of transcription in \textit{Borrelia burgdorferi}. In the current study, we seek to identify these binding regions \textit{in vivo} using chromatin immunoprecipitation. Identification of such binding sites may play an important role in determining potential drug and therapy targets.

**Characterization of gene expression and glucose responsiveness in a pancreatic beta cell hybridoma cell line stably overexpressing the transcription factor Glis3**

\textit{Abigail Steck – Murray State University}

The BRIN-BD11 cell line is a rat pancreatic hybridoma beta cell line that, while expressing Ins1 adequately, fails to express Ins2. Hypothesizing there is a transregulatory factor responsible for the lack of gene expression, we elected to study the effects of the stable overexpression of Glis3 because of its established role in the regulation of insulin. RT-PCR analysis showed Ins2 levels dramatically increased. However, the levels of the other transcription factors were insignificantly altered, suggesting that Glis3 directly regulates the expression of Ins2. Interestingly, when grown in the presence of high concentrations of glucose, BRIN-BD11 cells demonstrated only modest decreases in Ins1 and Ins2 expression, suggesting a resistance to the effects of glucotoxicity. Collectively, these data indicate that BRIN-BD11 cells may have reduced Glis3 expression due to being in a constitutive glucotoxic-like state, and that Glis3 may play a central role in mediating beta cell dysfunction due to chronic hyperglycemia.

**Room 217 (The 90)**

**United States Surveillance, Its Allies, and Trust in Contemporary Foreign Policy**

\textit{Deserae Lane – University of Louisville}

I will be giving a presentation of trust in international relations and how it is built, broken, and rebuilt on an international level. Using the United States administrations' breach of trust with its allies by monitoring the communications of Germany and Brazil's government officials and citizens, I will demonstrate how the Obama administration broke and rebuilt its trust with Brazil and Germany. I will also cover further implications of trust in relation to American foreign policy under a new presidential administration.

**Perceptions of Muslims in the UK: A Quantitative Framework for White-identifying Populations' Views**

\textit{Ashley Gilliam – Western Kentucky University}

Currently Western society is brimming with populist movements, changing the face of modernity, with many nations specifically focused on immigration. The United Kingdom (UK) finalized its election decision in 2016 to leave the European Union (Brexit) and stands in a unique position. This research asks how UK citizens perceive Muslims at a time when many are either moving away from or actively fighting against multiculturalism. While several studies provide a view of how Muslims in the West define their own identities, there is little on how Muslims are perceived as a group by majority non-Muslim populations. In 2016, I traveled to the UK and conducted qualitative and quantitative research about white-identifying populations' perception of Muslims.
In this presentation, I will focus on my quantitative findings, utilizing the data I collected from card sorts and free lists as it provides one type of analysis framework for how Muslims are perceived.

**United States vs. China! Who will win?**  
_Alejandro Espinosa – Kentucky State University_  
I will offer a PowerPoint presentation of a possible war between the United States and China. I will discuss what issues could possibly spark the war and the objectives each nation could possibly set forth in order to win. Additionally, I will offer my own speculations as I examine each nation’s strength, politics, governing structure and possible strategies. Discussion is highly encouraged!

**Room 219 (The 90)**

**Colonization and the Gender Binary in Ruth Ozeki’s “My Year of Meats”**  
_Cortney Patterson – University of Louisville_  
My paper is an analysis of Ruth Ozeki’s novel “My Year of Meats” that focuses on examining her use of the Jungian theory of Anima & Animus in relationship with current discussions of existence (or lack thereof) of the gender binary. My paper also involves outside essays that look at the creation of the gender binary, the antiquated Western patriarchal & colonizing source ideologies of this socially constructed system, and its relevance to modern social movements and Ozeki’s texts.

**La-Di-Dude: Gender Roles in Annie Hall**  
_Rachel Kazee – Northern Kentucky University_  
This project involves changing gender roles in 1970s American culture due to second-wave feminism and how Woody Allen's 1977 film Annie Hall reflected and altered these roles. The goal was to discover positive influences that works of cinema at the time, especially Annie Hall, had on socially acceptable femininity and masculinity. Most of the research comes from examining the film itself and scholarly articles examining gender roles, Woody Allen as an artist and performer, and the second-wave feminist movement of the 1970s. This project came to the conclusion that although these changing gender roles still upheld feminine submissiveness and masculine dominance, what exactly was included as femininity and masculinity grew to be more inclusive as evidenced and stimulated by Woody Allen's Annie Hall. The research shows the importance of art and film in defining and changing a culture and its social norms and roles.

**Beyond Letters: From Rachael to Riley**  
_Kendall Norwood – Western Kentucky University_  
Everyone seeks acceptance in one way or another throughout his or her life, and for Riley McCracken this desire for acceptance is no different. Beyond Letters: From Rachael to Riley is a photojournalistic look at the life of a young individual who has recently entered the phase of physically transitioning from female to male. Through documentation of Riley’s journey, I showcase a humanizing and personal face to the relevant discussion of LGBTQ rights that are being fought for nationally as well as in Kentucky locally with the Fairness Ordinance. Riley's story is one that echoes the struggle that many trans and gender dysmorphic individuals face, but it is not a struggle that has been understood by a large segment of the population. This project shares a story that does not fit the confines of cisgender identification, and adds a face to an ongoing issue through a unique perspective.
Auditorium (William T. Young Library)

**The 2016 Election: Reflections and Consequences**

*J. Tyler Syck, Jonathan Dean, Max J. Prowant – Morehead State University*

*Joe Moore – Eastern Kentucky University*

**PANEL PRESENTATION**

An indication of a prosperous liberal democracy is the peaceful transition of executive authority whether it be from the election of an individual president or the triumph of a collective party over another. Since the transfer of authority from John Adams to Thomas Jefferson in 1800, the American Republic has upheld this necessary tenant. Once again, we as Americans have witnessed this transfer of power as Barack Obama relinquished control to President Donald Trump. This panel will seek to examine two core questions, why did Donald Trump emerge victorious this election cycle and what are the ramifications of that victory?

Alumni Gallery Room (William T. Young Library)

**Shaking up Shakespeare: Teaching for the Contemporary High School Classroom**

*Megan Sampson – Western Kentucky University*

Contemporary high school English students find Shakespeare distant because they believe Shakespeare is hard to understand. Pairing Shakespeare with thematically-similar contemporary texts can make his works more accessible to students. Using different angles on the same theme shows students that Shakespeare presented some universal issues that still have relevance today. The Literacy Design Collaborative module Race Through Time: Teaching Othello and Native Son is my example of a unit plan for teaching Shakespeare that will be the focal point of this presentation. The module’s structure organizes the unit’s overarching goals and includes all handouts and necessary materials for teaching the unit. This structure of design incorporates literacy-centered practices in order to ensure the students can present a well-written argument after reading the texts. The final writing task and use of additional contemporary texts allow for students to make connections to the theme of racial tensions in both Shakespeare’s Elizabethan era and Richard Wright’s 1930s Chicago.

**The Power to Make the Intangible, Tangible: a Reflection on Art through the Writings of Homer, Shakespeare, Augustine, and Plato**

*Alia Chowdry – Murray State University*

This paper explores art throughout various literary works, from Homer and Plato to Augustine and Shakespeare. One of the unique characteristic of the human race is our fascination with portraying reality, emotion, and experience through various artistic mediums. Art is not limited to paintings; instead it can take on many forms including visual, literary, or performance. Each of these aforementioned authors uses art within their writing to catalyze major turning points in their characters, highlighting how it has the power to change people. This can be seen in the way they chose to portray their characters’ reactions to viewing different art mediums. Whether it was Odysseus’s reaction to the Siren’s song in The Odyssey or a pivotal theatrical play in Hamlet, art is a force to be reckoned with, striking the viewer’s very heart, refusing to leave them unchanged.

**Education in Antiquity: How the Ancient Roman Republic Shaped the American Founders**

*Bryana Shumate – Morehead State University*

This paper will explain the impact of Rome on the Founding Fathers during the creation of the United States of
America. First, I will explain how the Founding Fathers learned about Rome, including the use of the everyday vernacular and the school systems of the time. Second, I will explain why they viewed Rome as valuable, including the various problems and goals that the founders believed mirrored their own political situation. Third, I will explain what the founders specifically learned from Rome, including the use of public virtue and other Roman constructs. Finally, I will consider the relationship between Modern America and Rome, and the implications of such a relationship. Overall, this presentation will show that the Founding Fathers looked towards Rome as a most useful model for the creation of their own government.

SESSION 2: 10:15am – 11:15am

Room 202 (The 90)

Tesla’s Self-Driving Cars: A Self-Driven Sci-fi Dilemma
Andrew Thibaudeau – University of Kentucky
The conflict between man and machine is not just a science fiction, plot-driving concept. The advent of self-driving cars, produced by Tesla and others, and the fatal crash of one such self-driving car prove the real world relevance of this archetypal conflict. The 2016 crash of a Tesla self-driving car tangibly manifests the conflict between man and machine by revealing a chaotic state of technological ambiguity in America. Who is to blame for the failure of self-driving car technology? Who has the moral authority to craft a solution for its deficiencies? Corporation, government, and individuals are all agents in this technological crisis but presently all have competing interests, thwarting resolution to the conflict between man and machine. However, science fiction films like Blade Runner, having already explored this conflict for decades, provide valuable caution and insight into how American society can end it.

Ethics in Cars
Madan Subheeswar – University of Kentucky
Sometime this year, Tesla will release an update that fully autonomizes the Model S. Self-driving cars are no longer a concept of the future, but rather a concept of the past, a product in the present, and a ubiquitous reality in the future. If society is to adopt autonomous cars on a widespread basis, these cars “and the computers that control them” will have to react to life-threatening scenarios, including those where will have to decide between who to kill and who to save. We have to plan and program for those scenarios in advance, no matter how controversial the verdicts may be. The decision-making process will be immensely complicated and fraught with unintended consequences, so we as a humanity must start pondering now. By presenting, I hope to illustrate the general public on just how important this topic is and provide a uniform solution to the dilemma we face.

Star Wars: The Moral Status of Droids and Other Life Forms
Colton McCloy – Northern Kentucky University
This research is an analysis of the moral status of droids, namely the artificial intelligence droids R2D2 and C3PO in StarWars Episode IV (A New Hope). The primary research question posed is, “At what point does artificial intelligence and self-awareness qualify as life, and what are the moral implications of this in life?”
Amidst a culture captivated by the ever-progressive field of technology, addressing this question is vital, as artificial intelligence droids are on the verge of stepping out of science fiction and into reality. The inquiry adopted an interdisciplinary approach, comprising research from multiple fields of study, including biology, morality, philosophy, and technology. The importance of worldview to defining what constitutes a life form, determining the moral status of a life form, and how to treat a life form in a morally correct manner is emphasized.

Room 203 (The 90)

An Investigation in the Accuracy of Parallel Analysis for Determining the Number of Factors in a Factor Analysis
Mandy Matsumoto – Western Kentucky University
In common factor analysis, it is vital that researchers have a way of determining which factors are valid. One of the best ways to attain accuracy in common factor analysis today is through parallel analysis. However, parallel analysis is not perfect. There are many components that can lead to under factoring, which will cause errors in the research results. How can parallel analysis be improved to reduce error in determining which factors are valid in common factor analysis? Is there a specific distance between the sample eigenvalues and the random eigenvalues that can serve as a measure of validity in determining the correct factors in the analysis process? We are currently researching the possibility of determining the exact distance between the sample data eigenvalue and the random data eigenvalues in a factor analysis where a factor is either valid or invalid. This may improve the ability to solidify the accuracy of future research results, which could lead to less error in research and more stability in the field of psychology.

The Effects of Perceived Socioeconomic Status on Helping Behaviors
Tiffani Peel – Eastern Kentucky University
This study examined the effects of perceived socioeconomic status on helping behaviors. Past research on factors related to helping indicate that perceived socioeconomic status will affect likelihood of helping. Social class is important to individuals helping behavior because they can create an identity based solely on the social class. The class identity created includes its own culture and norms. Helping behaviors are potential norms in social classes. We administered a survey to participants that contained four helping scenarios; the participants were asked what level of help they would offer to the fictional people. We predicted that the lower class individuals would be the most helpful, and middle class individuals would receive the most help. We also predicted that individuals would help those in their social class, and the lower class would receive the least amount of help. An ANOVA analysis supported only the last hypothesis.

The Evolution of Women in Pro Wrestling: From Pillow Fights to Main Events
Duncan Adams – Kentucky State University
Wrestling, pro wrestling included is a male dominated field and often the strongest and largest people are at the top. In pro wrestling, women for decades have been faced hyper-sexualization and not given proper time or story lines, rather it be the WWE in the United States or other promotions overseas. In the past few years however, that has been changing. Women are performing in main events, match stipulations that men have historically only participated in, being taken seriously, performing match of the year candidates, and even in some promotions in the world they are contending for and/or winning the world heavyweight title, historically reserved for men. The tide is shifting for women in pro wrestling.
Room 211 (The 90)

**How Inadequate Treatments Affect Female Veterans**  
*Shirley Ransdell – Murray State University*

My oral presentation covers the differences between female and male PTSD in the military. I will start with the general facts and effects of PTSD on the individual, and end with the specific details on why female and male PTSD is different in the military. I did not do my own research on this topic, however, I did look at many scientific papers when formulating my conclusion on why female and male PTSD is different. I discovered that the main differences had to do with body image, and also the causes of PTSD.

**Application of the Whole Person Assessment in Multiple Healthcare Professions**  
*Lillian Kopsolias – University of Louisville*

Misdiagnosis causes thousands of deaths annually. Whole Person Dementia Assessment can aid in reducing this with potential dementia patients. This assessment focuses on additional domains other than cognitive symptoms including quality of life, activity level, and depression. Upon implementation, this assessment can be applied to benefit all patients. This study investigates how the Whole Person Assessment (WPA) is currently applied to various areas of health care. I conducted a qualitative pilot study consisting of interviews with two doctors in Southern Indiana and Louisville, KY. I found that these professionals agree that WPA is beneficial in clinical practice and there are similarities in application. However, with treatment, there are differences in utilization of WPA between various health professionals. Overall, WPA leads to a better understanding of patients, their conditions, and their treatment. Strategies that incorporate WPA in all healthcare professions will be most effective in preventing inaccurate diagnoses and ineffective treatment.

**Single Parenting: Does Mother Know Best?**  
*Kayla Manley – University of Louisville*

An outlook on single fathers versus single mothers and how they impact the lives of the children they raise. In today's society, single parenting is a large reality of many children's lives. From the point of academics, parental accessibility, and income level, there are significant differences. Women are seen as nurturing and caring, and so they are often portrayed as playing a pivotal role in a child's development. Single fathers are often put down and seen as “less masculine”, and people often believe the child would fare better with the mother. This presentation tackles these stereotypes and academically looks at the differences between these single-parent households.

Room 215 (The 90)

**Dystopian Literature from Modern to Postmodern**  
*Sarah Pennington – University of Louisville*

This project considers the recent boom in dystopian fiction marketed to the young adult crowd, comparing the trend to previous trends of dystopian fiction. “Dystopian Literature from Modern to Postmodern” defines two separate periods, the modern and the postmodern, that utilized the dystopian novel as a cathartic production intended to negotiate intellectual anxieties. Utilizing empirical data, it will determine trends in political culture to verify the political activities of the modern and postmodern groups, as well as their primary political concerns from coordinating qualitative data. The project will culminate by deconstructing the narratives of
dystopian literature to understand how they satisfy the intellectual anxieties of each distinguished period. Presently, the literature scrutinized by this analysis includes If This Goes On-, Fahrenheit 451, and Harrison Bergeron for the modern period, and Uglies, The Hunger Games, and Divergent for the postmodern period. This project blends resources and analytical methods used by both Political Science and English students.

**True Crime as Advocacy Literature: Erle Stanley Gardner’s The Court of Last Resort**

**Leslie Rowen – Bellarmine University**

Though the scholarship surrounding true crime suggests the genre is hyper-conservative and formulaic, my paper argues that the literature is more ambiguous than that. Rather than strictly conforming to pro-establishment ideas of policing and justice, true crime often does subvert these concepts, calling into question the very system upon which it focuses. One example is Erle Stanley Gardner’s true crime serial The Court of Last Resort, a monthly column published in the 1940s which investigates wrongful conviction cases with the intent of exonerating victims of the justice system. Though the writing is heavily focused on ideals of democracy and the government, it pushes back against the genre’s conservatism by daring to question the efficacy of the justice system. Gardner’s work, among others, counters the claim that true crime is mainly interested in containment and conservatism, and is evidence of a much more ambivalent and complicated trend in the genre itself.

**“Little Petty Places”: Dante’s Inferno and Complicated Women**

**Grace Therrell – Western Kentucky University**

The women of Dante’s Inferno frankly appear stereotypical. They are punished for sexual sins and are carried away by their emotions and desires. But these assumptions only arise through a casual reading of his text. This presentation provides a deeper reading that complicates our understanding of gender in the text. True, Dante’s views about gender sometimes reflect the traditional rigid norms of the fourteenth century. However, digging into Dante’s women reveals their complexities not just as characters but as models of the female sex. For example, Dante actually reveres the women in Limbo, and he creates a new, complex female character in Francesca. Although Dante’s text and viewpoint are far from perfect, this presentation argues that the complexity he develops through Inferno’s women forces us to examine not just our opinions of Dante but also of our own society.

**Room 217 (The 90)**

**The Francophone Suitcase: Learning French through the Study of Francophone Cultures**

**Sydney Meaux – Western Kentucky University**

The hardest thing to do as foreign language instructor is teaching culture. I experienced the difficulties first-hand as lifelong learner of the language and now, while student teaching, as an educator. I have scoured the darkest depths of the internet and found nothing to help me with my struggle. Culture is not as tangible as grammar exercises or dictionaries full of vocabulary words and so frequently many language students are simply never exposed to any cultures affiliated with the languages they are studying because it can be too hard to find ways to integrate it into the lesson. This presentation focuses on my work to address this problem with the “Francophone Suitcase” Program. In doing so, I discuss examples such as learning the command verb tense while studying how goods are made in Guadeloupe and learning the near future tense while delving into
Malian culture. These experiences with the “Francophone Suitcase” open up new ways to think about language instruction.

**He Hou Hawai’i: Polynesian Transformation in the Face of the West**  
*Jonathan Dean – Morehead State University*

This presentation will present an analysis of Hawaiian culture with special attention paid to how that culture was present in its original, pre-European form and how it changed under cultural and economic pressure from the West. Additionally, why those particular changes occurred will be used to examine how societies change with cultural interaction.

**La diáspora africana en América Latina: A look into the past and present lives of Afro-Peruvians**  
*Raven Byars – University of Louisville*

As a result of the African Diaspora, afro-descendants from all over the world have diverse histories, cultures, and challenges. Although Latin America is a close neighbor to the United States, the countries of the Caribbean, Central America, and South America possess their own unique narratives to tell about their people of African descent. Starting with slavery and ending in present day, we will take a very small glimpse into the history, culture, and challenges of black people in Latin America, specifically in the country of Perú.

**Room 219 (The 90)**

**Justification for Vulgarities in British Humor**  
*Benjamin Bardgett – Northern Kentucky University*

Through interdisciplinary research, obscenities found in British humor are discussed as having great cultural value in British Society as seen in the primary example of Trainspotting’s use of the Scottish black comedy. Specifically, the works of British comedy with a bevy of vulgarities are specifically found to work as a device of for social commentary and a critique of British society. As social commentary, British humor is able to bring taboo subjects to the attention of many by showing what are considered serious subjects in the light of comedy, as seen in Trainspotting’s depiction of heroin addiction by stylized means. As a critique for British society, obscene comedy puts emphasis on the various issues that face British society through the use of satire as seen in Trainspotting’s depiction of Scottish nationalism. With comedy and its use of various vulgarities, British humor is argued to be a valid form of cultural expression as it gives valid insight on the British world.

**Monty Python: How Christianity Impacts Comedy**  
*Kerry Stephens – Northern Kentucky University*

Monty Python is known for impacting modern British comedy with films such as Monty Python’s Life of Brian that pushed taboo subjects such as religion and atheism into mainstream media. However, Monty Python were some of the first comedians to do so only due to a specific religious shift in the early twentieth century. Pre-1960â€™s, Britain maintained a culture based on its Christian background, and thus media only portrayed religion respectfully. It wasn’t until several events around this time that changed Britain’s religious identity, and encouraged secularization in both the household and the media. During this time, Monty Python, a group of educated comedians, were also rising in fame due to the general appeal of their TV show. Monty Python saw the change in religious society, and used this window to create a series of successful films that were able to touch on these previously unsaid topics.
**Wendy’s Story in J.M. Barrie’s Peter Pan**  
*Jessica Hedrick – Murray State University*

This paper explores J.M. Barrie's famous children's story from Wendy Darling's perspective, taking particular interest in the narrator's contradictory stance on her agency in the original novelized text. Peter Pan may be the most well-known of Barrie's characters, but the novel is Wendy's story. Without Wendy, without her relationship with her own mother and her desire to play grown-up, there is no story. Peter Pan's core is about the necessity of adulthood and the dangers of nostalgia. Peter embodies childhood's contrariness, but without Wendy's practicality he faces no real temptation beyond his own inherent mirth. Wendy bridges reality and Neverland; her internal conflict over either growing up or living forever in childhood make-believe is the story's central conflict as well. The paper, then, is an examination of Wendy's story and her importance both within the novel and outside it as a classic character now famously embedded in popular culture.

**Auditorium (William T. Young Library)**

**The Invisible Wound Project**  
*Alex McGrath, Praneeth Goli, Zach Fowler, Zack June – University of Louisville*

PANEL PRESENTATION

Children are incredibly susceptible to traumatic agents. Prolonged exposure to these traumatic agents, also known as toxic stress or chronic trauma, has been shown to warp the developmental processes of children, which in turn can lead to the development cognitive dysregulations, as well as deficient brain architecture. To understand the gravity of the issue, we can look at the effects of neglect, a state of chronic trauma due to “a failure to provide minimum standards of care as well as active supervision” (Cicchetti and Valentino, 2006), on the cognitive and psychological states of developing children. According to data from the American Psychiatry Association, 184/1000 children are affected by emotional neglect, given the following definition of neglect: A 1999 study, done by Dr. Cathy Widom, found that 31% of group of neglected children met symptoms for lifetime PTSD diagnosis. In more recent research, “significantly lower IQ, reading, mathematics, and selected differences in complex visual attention, visual memory, language, verbal memory and learning, planning, problem solving, and speed naming were seen in Neglect Groups” (DeBellis et al., 2014). The Invisible Wound Project, a nonprofit startup, is focused on chronic trauma mediation in neglected youth populations. We will explain, in our presentation, our attempt at creating a preventative approach, when centered around resiliency building practices based on elements of psychotherapeutic science, to effectively mediate the effects of chronic trauma in at-risk youth populations.

**Alumni Gallery Room (William T. Young Library)**

**Integrating Art into the Classroom: A Necessary Component of a Well-Rounded Education**  
*Kate Latham – Western Kentucky University*

Integrating visual art into the general education classroom is useful for differentiating instruction in order to expose students to a variety of educational benefits. Not only does this practice allow students to gain those educational benefits, but it is also necessary to introduce art to students who could excel in the subject, possibly leading them to their future careers. Not all students will go into the art profession, but everyone will use the creativity and problem solving skills gained from art education throughout their lifetime. Because integration can be used to strengthen existing teaching practices and engage students in the learning process,
it is beneficial for all classrooms. This presentation will show research about the benefits of integration, which, along with a selection of lessons, can be used by a variety of teachers (with little to no art experience) in order to integrate art into their classroom.

**Student-Teacher Relationships**  
**Braden Sperry – Murray State**  
This presentation will provide the results of a qualitative research project that involved interviews with area high school teachers about the importance of developing strong teacher-student relationships at the high school level. The presentation will be especially important for education majors because it will address how an educator can get to know students better and why such strategies are important. This presentation will also address the importance of extending those relationships at the university level, and will include strategies for encouraging college students to take a more active role in getting to know their professors and advisors.

**Christmas Letters as Eulogy and Redemption**  
**Stella Childress – Murray State University**  
Letter-writing is becoming an extinct form of written communication, but the Christmas Letter is still hanging on. Examining the content of Christmas letters shows how significant they are in today's technologically driven culture. Looking at Christmas letters as interpersonal communication shows how families need relational interaction to move on from one part of life to another. Based on the content and form of a Christmas letter, they are like eulogies. Families mourn the passing of a year, by sending a letter filled with the highlights of their year to someone who is distant. First, relationships must be redeemed. By using ÒI-YouÓ language, the communication channel between the receiver and sender opens. Christmas letters are different from Christmas newsletters because they include dialogue that rekindles a relationship rather than a monologue to self-present. The distinction between these two forms sheds light on the self-centered quality of social media.
SESSION 3: 11:30am – 12:15pm

POSTER SESSION

LOCATED IN DONOVAN HALL
(Basement Classrooms)

An Analysis of the Presence of Invasive Plant Species in Powell, Wolfe, and Menifee Counties of Kentucky
Calvin Andries – Eastern Kentucky University
Powell, Wolfe and Menifee counties are home to the Red River Gorge Geological Area, one of the most bio diverse areas of our State, and a major tourist hub for Eastern Kentucky. This poster analyzes the presence of invasive plant species within these three counties and discusses the impact that these species could have on the area.

The Effect of Encoding Modality and Rehearsal Strategy on Foreign Language Vocabulary Recall
Danielle Bestfelt – Bellarmine University
Experience with foreign languages is considered a valuable skill in today’s society. However, psychological studies exploring the acquisition of a second language have limited applicability for native English speaking adults. This study sought to explore the relation between encoding modality (based on Baddeley’s model of working memory) and rehearsal strategy (based on Craik and Lockhart’s Level of Processing approach and Roger’s Self-Reference Effect) in the recall of foreign language vocabulary words. Adult participants were assigned to one of six conditions based on the interactions between the different encoding modalities and rehearsal strategies. It is hypothesized that participants in the combined auditory/visual condition that are given active rehearsal instructions will recall the highest number of words. Although data collection is still in progress, an initial inspection of the data suggests a main effect for encoding modality (p=.031); currently, participants in the visual conditions are recalling the highest number of words.

Germination Rates and Viability for Liatris Species
Theodore Brancheau – Eastern Kentucky University
The rate of species extinction has risen exponentially in recent memory. In order to combat the possibility of certain plant species from going extinct, the maintenance of healthy seed banks is critical to the future survival of certain species. However, seeds can only survive being frozen for so long. In order to test to see if the stored seeds of certain species need replaced, it is important to conduct viability and germination studies on stored seeds. This experiment’s purpose is to determine whether or not the stored samples of Liatris squarrosa, Liatris bracteata, Liatris cymosa, and Liatris tenuis are still viable. These species are important because they are all flowering plants and important to the survival of bee populations, which are critical to the entire ecosystem.
Nitrogen in Surface and Groundwater at Eastern Kentucky University’s Meadowbrook Farm
Reid E. Buskirk, Hunter Evans and Walter Borowski – Eastern Kentucky University
Agricultural activities often contaminate watersheds with excess nutrients leading to poor water quality and eutrophication. At Eastern Kentucky University’s Meadowbrook Farm, we assayed dissolved nitrogen levels as ammonium and nitrate in surface waters and groundwater leaving the farm into the Muddy creek watershed. Nitrate was the dominant nutrient contaminant, while ammonium was often absent in water samples. Springs and some tributaries exhibited the largest nitrate values. Ammonium experienced sporadic concentration spikes. Dissolved nitrogen concentrations responded to rainfall. Generally, nitrate concentrations increased more significantly than ammonium during wetter periods. Springs maintained high levels of nitrogen despite rainfall conditions. We compared the nitrogen dataset from Meadowbrook Farm to national values. We found the median nitrogen concentration as nitrate was approximately 1.8 mg/L N-NO3- lower than the national average, 2.8 mg/L, and the median nitrogen concentration as ammonium was approximately equal to the national average, 0.1 mg/L (Dubrovsky et al., 2010).

The Journey of Homeschooling Special Needs Children
Jessica Carlotti – Eastern Kentucky University
Homeschooling is a controversial topic in the world of education, especially with special needs students. There are multiple ideas about the approaches that should be taken in teaching these individuals. Parents who are becoming educators for their special needs children can use the works of philosophers to create successful educational practices. Therefore, special needs children are benefiting from practices being implemented during home school that will only create positive outcomes for promoting a quality education. Nel Noddings and Plato are two philosophers whose ideas can contribute to successful educational practices that are suited for each child. These practices include helping special needs children learn through the concept of networking, creating an enriching environment, and exhibiting the importance of customization. Therefore, homeschooling special needs children can be beneficial with the correct educational practices that can create a positive learning environment, which enhances these children’s lives, and secures a successful future.

The Novel Bacteriophage Lunahalos as a Potential Antibiotic Alternative
Megan Dillingham – Western Kentucky University
It is commonly believed that Tuberculosis is no longer a significant concern in the present, that it’s merely a disease of the past. However, with the rise of antibiotic resistance, it is in fact a threat to the future. How can this future be avoided? In this presentation, I will discuss my research on a promising candidate for the rapid death of disease-causing bacteria: the bacteriophage (bacteria-infecting virus) Lunahalos. I will share the unique characteristics of this particular bacteriophage, and explain how promising research related to it should alleviate concerns about a return to a pre-antibiotic world that antibiotic resistances threaten to bring us.

The Genetic Link between Autism and Savantism
Cheyenne Gibson – Eastern Kentucky University
After watching a documentary over a savant with autism, I conducted research to see if any parallels could be made between individuals with autism and those labeled “savants”. My results concluded that there are genetic links between the two groups in terms of brain function and neural pathways. This can result in autistic individuals exhibiting genius qualities. This shows that our notion of who or what defines a genius needs to be broadened for a better understanding of not only those around us, but also the idea of intelligence as a whole.
**Analysis of cranial sensory neuromasts in the Mexican cave tetra, Astyanax mexicanus**

*Stephanie Hacker – University of Kentucky*

When surface-dwelling fish invaded cave environments millions of years ago, the fish encountered consistently dark environments, guiding the development of extreme adaptations in the cavefish including evolutionary loss of pigmentation and eyes and constructive adaptations such as an increase in taste buds and neuromasts. Cavefish have also evolved fragmentations and fusions within the craniofacial bones. The cause of these morphological changes is unknown, but increased cranial neuromasts could prohibit normal bone development. Thus, we explored cranial neuromast development in cavefish and surface fish using numerical and size quantification. We found that early in development, cavefish and surface fish had no significant difference in neuromast area when controlled for SO3 bone area. At 12 weeks post-fertilization, cavefish neuromast area peaked around three times the neuromast area of surface fish. Further study is required to assess the spatial development of neuromasts in conjunction with craniofacial bone fragmentation.

**Comparison between Single and Double Upright Ankle braces on Ankle Range of Motion, Functional Performance, and Satisfaction of Brace Characteristics**

*Ashley Jefferson – Bellarmine University*

**Background/Purpose:** Braces are often used prior to return to activity following ankle sprains and prophylactically in sports. The purpose of this study was to compare range of motion (ROM) limitations, functional performances, and satisfaction of rigid double upright and single upright braces. **Methods:** Participants (n=30) were recruited from a University setting involved in moderate to vigorous physical activity. Participants underwent ROM assessment and testing in 3 conditions: one unbraced and two braced conditions. Braced conditions involved completion of a questionnaire rating characteristics of the braces and overall satisfaction. **Results:** The double upright brace limited ROM more than the no brace or the single upright brace. There was no difference on most functional tests. There were differences between the no brace and double upright brace conditions on the side hop and the vertical hop. Single upright brace ranked highest in comfort and application, and lowest in stability. There were no differences between the braces in other characteristics and overall satisfaction. **Conclusions:** The ankle braces had minimal effects on limiting active ROM. Functional performance was not negatively impacted by the ankle braces with the exception of the side hop and vertical hop tests, in which results were deemed negligible.

**Redefining the Canon: Jazz and the Challenge of the Western Art Music Tradition**

*Stuart Jones – Eastern Kentucky University*

Jazz music challenged the work-concept that dictated the Western Art Music tradition by reducing the authority of the score, removing audiences from the concert hall, abandoning traditional concert etiquette, and increasing the cultural relevancy of music to more diverse audiences.

**Anglo-Irish Relations and the Black Death**

*Rachel Lachut – Eastern Kentucky University*

This poster discusses the effect of the Black Death on Anglo-Irish relations from the 14th century forward. England and Ireland have frequently been at war with each other over their centuries-long history. Although it is not often studied as such, the Black Death may have spurred many of the issues that would come to dominate Irish conflict with England, such as Irish nationalism and the value of land to the Gaelic-Irish. The Black Death encouraged the tension between England and Ireland that would define much of Irish history as it allowed greater Irish autonomy before ultimately benefitting the English.
Understanding Diverse Learning Styles in Honors Mathematics
Simon Mikulcik & Katie Clark – Eastern Kentucky University

Honors students have the obligation to critically consider various viewpoints in college, and in society. However, mathematics is often taught as a rigid sequence of topics. At Eastern Kentucky University, we provide interdisciplinary courses that introduce mathematical topics through discussions in literature and art. This allows students who are not as mathematically inclined to gain an appreciation of complicated structures and ideas. We hope to increase understanding and inclusion of the many diverse learning styles with Honors Mathematics.

My Drawings Speak
Ronalyne Pascua – Kentucky State University

My art involves creating characters from the inner workings of the mind and give them a role in a story or whatever my mind must offer. They often serve as a reflection to real life experiences and train-of-thought or to use as imagination for what could have been-- more-or-less sewn up with surrealistic settings and abstract concepts. My drawings speak for what my mouth could not and it’s my own form of self-expression. I also like to experiment with my art style from time to time, where it can shift from a cartoon-y look to realism depending on the mood. The cartoon style is fantastic due to the expressiveness it can achieve through exaggeration and stylization not found in nature but realism has those organic and intangible qualities that cartoons do not. In time, I hope to achieve the aspects of both worlds and find my own artistic niche and leave behind an impression that indicated I was here.

Functional characterization of the Treponema pallidum TpuR nucleic acid-binding protein
Allison Pecaro – University of Kentucky

Treponema pallidum changes its protein composition during infection processes, evidently as means to adapt to different niches. Despite the significance of this disease, essentially nothing is known about how the bacterium regulates gene expression. In our studies of Borrelia burgdorferi, we discovered a DNA- and RNA-binding protein named BpuR, which controls expression of numerous genes and proteins. Mutant B. burgdorferi that are unable to control BpuR levels are severely attenuated for mammalian infection. The protein's name derives from its PUR-domain, a motif also found in crucial regulatory proteins of humans and all other higher eukaryotes, as well as many pathogenic bacterial species. T. pallidum encodes a single PUR-domain protein, which we named TpuR. We have demonstrated that TpuR is a site-specific nucleic acid-binding-protein. We will present biochemical and computational insights on binding-sites throughout the T. pallidum genome, and the potential effects of TpuR on gene expression.

Effects of Private Citizens and NGOs on Government Behavior
Morgan Pulliam – Murray State University

The recent global Women’s Marches illustrate how the interference of private citizens and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) impact the behavior of government. I will explore the different platforms represented in current civil movements, why there is more diversity in contemporary movement platforms, and how civil protest and strife result in government policy decisions. To highlight future research, I look to how the most recent protests may play out in our current administration's policy making.
Exercise Mitigates Cognitive Function through Mitochondrial Remodeling in Mouse Brain During Alcoholism
Kennedy Richardson – University of Kentucky

Alcohol (C2H6O) is the most commonly used addictive substance in the United States. 17.6 million people suffer from alcohol abuse or dependence (NCADD, 2015). Excessive alcohol consumption is known to induce homocysteine levels in plasma. These elevated plasma homocysteine levels are correlated with cognitive dysfunction, dementia, and white matter damage. Auto oxidation of the thiol group of Hcy can also generate reactive oxygen species, which in turn can cause oxidative stress when ROS production exceeds capacity. Exercise produces Hydrogen Sulfide (H2S), an antioxidant, which improves the oxidant system, as well as helps memory. Clinicians have recommended exercise as a secondary therapy to reduce neurotoxicity. Alcohol affects on brain mitochondrial integrity, quality, and functions hasn't been studied much. Exercise improvement on brain function through mitochondrial remodeling hasn't been explored either. The purpose is to find exercise is an effective measure to slow neurodegeneration when alcohol is used frequently.

Setting Precedents for a Nation on Trial: Selection of Defendants for the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg
Delia Root – Murray State University

The International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg, commonly known as the Nuremberg Trials, is credited with indictment of the major Nazi war criminals of the Second World War. But, were all of the individuals who were indicted in 1945 actually major war criminals? Through the use of historical and legal means, my research looks to why the twenty-four defendants were chosen to be indicted in an era which hosts scores of persons who could be labelled major war criminals. Reasons including the groups that these defendants were connected with and the government positions they held both formally and informally within the Third Reich. These defendants were chosen in order to be used as a first impression which would be used as legal precedent against the rest of post-Nazi Germany in the criminal cases that followed the fall of the Third Reich by both international and national powers.

The Regeneration of Renal Tissue
Hannah Thompson – University of Kentucky

As of today, there are hundreds of thousands awaiting for a kidney transplant. Treatments for renal failure and kidney disease are limited to dialysis, renal replacement therapy, or transplantation. However, advancements in renal regeneration diminish the need for these transplants. Several techniques allow for kidney recovery after development of renal disease: Bioengineering mechanisms, stem cell therapies, drug therapeutics, and renal regenerative techniques. Researchers have been able to identify the methods followed by the embryo to develop the kidney, allowing them to recreate self-organizing renal tissue and nephrons by using human pluripotent stem cells. Although kidneys have a limited regenerative ability, understanding the mechanisms of developmental biology and kidney morphology have allowed researchers to identify the process of self-renewing damaged renal tissue. The role of regenerative medicine in repairing damaged kidneys serve as a model of hope for the hundreds of thousands affected by kidney illnesses.

Expressions of Life
Christa Watson – Kentucky State University

The word photography literally means to paint with light. Light is what allows us to see the world for what it truly is. One of the greatest responsibilities of a photographer is to document truth. However, when
photographing people, illumination is not all it takes to capture the truth. I have often made it my goal as a photographer to not only take photographs of people, but about them. To me, capturing an image that truly encapsulates a person’s being is one of the most rewarding things about this profession. The key to capturing such photographs is to create a personal experience with the subject. I often talk to them about their lives and experiences, hoping to catch that flash of raw emotion in their eyes. A photograph of a person is more than an image. It is a photograph of a life. Each person has a story to tell, and that story is beautiful. Before starting this project I knew I wanted to create something that displayed the raw beauty of the human face, and how it transcends both race and gender. In an effort to do this I began painting the faces of my subjects and concealing their hair. The end result was a series of photographs depicting seemingly androgynous figures, each expressing unique and genuine emotions. My lofty goal was to capture the beauty of life in my images, and I hope I have done it justice.

**Timing of Parental Divorce and Romantic Relationships in Adulthood**

_Adrian Weldon – University of Kentucky_

A literature review was conducted to determine what age children are most vulnerable to the impact of parental divorce on their romantic relationships in adulthood. Fourteen articles were included in this review. Results of the review showed different outcomes based on stage of life. Parental divorce in infancy, early childhood, late childhood, and adolescence resulted in the most negative long-term effects on the children's intimate relationships later in life. Children in middle childhood and young adulthood at the time of their parents' marital dissolution appeared to be most resilient to its impact on their romantic relationships in adulthood. Literature on this association is still very limited. This review can be used as a starting point for future research.

**Hear Me Roar: The Lives and Issues of Modern Women and Minorities**

_Kathryn Wilkerson & Lin Huang – Morehead State University_

Hear Me Roar is a Morehead State University TV production that uses a talkshow-style format to amplify the voices of modern women and minorities. Each episode addresses a different theme (e.g. LGBTQ+, disability, racial diversity, gender roles, etc.) and features guests offering perspective related to that theme. Additionally, the show includes pre-recorded segments on various issues and aims to spotlight local artists and musicians from the Morehead area. The producers explore all the talent and insight the community has to offer by attending local events and conducting interviews. Researchers, in addition to team-producing the live shows, took on their own individual projects: the science behind home remedies and activism through art. Hear Me Roar is available to unlimited potential viewers online through MSU’s website, msu-tv.net.

**Diving into Disability: Understanding the Voices of Elementary School Students with and without Specific Learning Disabilities**

_Morgan Wood – Eastern Kentucky University_

Elementary school is a pivotal time during development in cognition, social behaviors, relationships, and of self. For students who may have a diagnosis of a Specific Learning Disorder, this time can be more difficult than their typical learning peers. Little research has been done regarding these students’ emotional and social success within their prescribed intervention technique, of which much research has been done. It was the aim of this study to strive to understand the voices of students with specific learning disabilities and see how their educational experience as a whole compare to those of their peers without specific learning disorders.
Diving into Diversity: An Analysis of EKU Honors Students  
Morgan Wood – Eastern Kentucky University

As the Eastern Kentucky University Honors Program strives to increase our diversity, various academic and socio-economic demographics are compared from 2013 to the current class of 2020.

Don't Keep a Good Man Down: Intervention Strategies for Common Causes of Anger and Aggression  
Samantha Wright – Murray State University

Seclusion and Restraint have been often used as intervention strategies in public schools for many years, and were not limited by law in Kentucky until 2012. 704 KAR 7:160 was the first legislation to respond to dangerous interventions being used in Kentucky’s public schools. This presentation summarizes common causes of anger and aggression in our students, and provides research-based strategies for intervention in all three phases of a behavior: antecedent (prior to the behavior, the escalation of a situation), behavior (during the aggressive behavior itself), and consequences (subsequent actions that occur as a response.) The concept is to provide strategies for educators and paraprofessionals to aid in the de-escalation of their student’s aggressive behaviors. Literature reviewed has offered insight into the prevention of escalation of angry and aggressive behavior by giving students choices between positive action and consequence, maintaining eye level with the student rather than standing in a dominating position, and keeping level and calm tone of voice. Further, literature has suggested that one contemplate the motive behind the behavior and proactively act to prevent further behavior of the aggressor. These and many more verbal and nonverbal actions can aid in the de-escalation or further aggression.

12:15pm – 1:15pm: LUNCH

Use the KHR lunch voucher provided in your registration packet (1 voucher per attendee). Provide the voucher to the cashier as you enter the Fresh Food Company located on level 1 of The90, below the KHR presentation classrooms.

PRIVATE DINING ROOM (optional)

There is a Private Dining Room that seats about 120 located within the Fresh Food Company that has been reserved for KHR participants. Look for the KHR sign outside the door and feel free to enter and eat your food there. You are also welcome to eat anywhere within the dining area as well.
SESSION 4: 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Room 202 (The 90)

Let's Talk REDTalks: How UofL Honors Student Council facilitated student and faculty interaction by modeling the renowned series, TED Talks

Emilie Cornett, Ajit Deshpande, Amy Cherry, Danyal Bhutto, Danielle Graves – University of Louisville

PANEL PRESENTATION

REDTalks took faculty-student interaction to a whole new level by breaking down the content barrier built by classrooms and starting conversations about exciting and challenging topics. Students were encouraged to explore new ideas by attending 30 minute presentations by some of our University’s most distinguished and beloved faculty. Professors were able to speak on a topic of their own choosing, the best presentations being those outside of their every-day classroom lectures. Orchestrating REDTalks and bringing it to life has been a truly transformational experience and a panel of students behind this event want to share it with fellow Kentucky schools in hopes of inspiring new adaptations!

Room 203 (The 90)

Perinatal Nicotine Exposure and Offspring Adiposity

Joshua Preston – University of Kentucky

This project examines mechanisms behind increased offspring adiposity from our previous perinatal nicotine exposure study in mice. Dams were exposed to vehicle +/- nicotine before and during pregnancy and nursing. Skin fibroblasts were isolated from the pups, grown in culture, stimulated with an adipogenic cocktail, and allowed to differentiate for 10 days. Lipid levels and markers of adipogenesis, chemerin and adiponectin, were quantified. Trends toward greater lipid staining and chemerin and adiponectin expression levels were observed in nicotine exposed offspring, suggestive of increased adipogenesis. However, these differences did not reach significance (p>0.05) so future studies will increase sample sizes.

The Creation of an Atlas of Xenopus laevis Neuroanatomy

Jessi Eskridge – Morehead State University

Xenopus laevis is a model organism utilized by developmental biologists around the world. Currently, there is no published atlas of neuroanatomy for this species; however, a similar book exists for Rana esculenta (Kemali & Braitenburg, 1961). This discussion will focus on the imaging/ staining/ dyeing methods practiced in Dr. Kurt Gibbs's (Morehead State University) lab to compile sufficient data to create a lab manual of X. laevis neuroanatomy.

Poly(curcumin) Nanogels as Drug Therapy for Type B Niemann-Pick Disease

Park Huff – University of Kentucky

Type B Niemann-Pick Disease is a lysosomal storage disease characterized by peripheral organ dysfunction, including the respiratory and skeletal organ systems. Specifically, the epithelial cells of the lungs experience oxidative stress and chronic inflammation. Curcumin proves an effective therapy due to its potent antioxidant properties. Curcumin, in the form of curcumin multi-acrylate (CMA), is incorporated into the backbone of the polymer-network of the nanogel via Michael Addition chemistry at a feed concentration of 5 mg/mL CMA, resulting in nanogels of 310 Å± 10.3 nm. This novel drug delivery method allows for controlled drug release
upon hydrolysis. The aim of this study is to synthesize stable, protein-coated poly(curcumin) nanogels (CNGs) for drug specific targeting of epithelial cells. This study presents the current methods for CNG synthesis as well as explores the use of bovine albumin serum (BSA) for protein incubation and its effect on CNG stability after purification.

**Room 211 (The 90)**

**Where Words Fail: An Examination of Music and Deaf Culture**  
*Madison Harris – Eastern Kentucky University*

Music is an integral part of everyday life and cultural, but is the same true for the Deaf community? This presentation highlights research on Deaf musicians and their contribution to music, such as Evelyn Glennie. It also examines the role of music in Deaf culture, and strategies that persons with hearing impairments use to make music. Finally, this presentation features a creative work composed with a simulated hearing impairment.

**A Starry Night**  
*Morgan Sydnor – Northern Kentucky University*

This HNR 101 project is an interpretive product synthesizing personal observations and research. Work on this project began by observing the night sky over several weeks. These observations guided an exploration, looking at research journals and historic pieces of art, about the relationship past cultures have had with astronomy. After this research, I created an interpretive video. The video uses paintings and photographs to urge people to turn their minds to astronomy, to use the night sky as a way to define themselves, and to fall in love again with the stars of the night sky.

**Before you get what you need, figure out what you want**  
*Umair Bhutto – University of Kentucky*

What does it mean to want something? When do we truly have a choice in the matter? I will be presenting a self-reflection of my life from my humble beginnings in Pakistan to where I am now: both how I have come to be here and why I am here.

**Room 215 (The 90)**

**Exploring the Unknown: Partners in the Park and the Ever Changing Landscape of Honors**  
*Claire Kelley – Eastern Kentucky University*

Partners in the Park is a program that is hosted by the different National Parks and is sponsored by the National Collegiate Honors Council. In May of 2016, I had the chance to travel to Volcanoes National Park in Hawaii; this opportunity gave me the ability to travel to a new place and gain new experiences. The purpose of this trip at first was because the prospect of going to Hawaii was unique, but I learned a lot of things from the trip that have helped me reflect on the ever changing landscape of an honors student’s college experience and how it will shape my future beyond the four walls of the university.

**The Inspiration of the Conservation Movement**  
*Theodore Brancheau – Eastern Kentucky University*

The era of the conservation movement was a critical time in the United States’ history that lead to the
founding of numerous national parks and the conservation of both natural resources and wildlife. Without these protections, iconic American landmarks such as Yellowstone National Park would not be in their current, pristine condition. This movement may not have been successful if it were not for the works of writers and artists in the early to mid-1800s. During this time period, Americans were beginning to explore outside of known territory, discovering places such as Yellowstone and Yosemite. The only fitting way to capture the beauty of these locations at the time was by sketching, painting, and writing about them. Therefore, this paper aims to analyze influential pieces of art and literature from the time and to assert that these pieces of work are responsible for the conservation movement by inspiring Americans.

Analyzing the Seventeenth Amendment: A Brief Historical Overview a Progressive Reform
Max J. Prowant – Morehead State University

Lying towards the less-acknowledged end of the thorough list of Progressive accomplishments is the passing and ratification of the Seventeenth Amendment. This Amendment altered Article 1 Section 3 of the Constitution by proscribing that Senators be elected directly by the citizens of the respective states. The Amendment stands as one of the most profound changes inflicted upon the American political institution despite its being overshadowed by more remembered Progressive achievements. The Seventeenth Amendment was intended to correct the influence of parties in the selection of U.S. Senators. This project argues that in addition to largely failing in its intended purpose, the seventeenth amendment contributed to a rise in the selection of un-qualified and demagogic Senators, degraded the system of American federalism, and failed to acknowledge the proper role of the American version of an upper-house of the national legislature.

Room 217 (The 90)

"Welcome to Eastern Kentucky, I'll Be Your Guide Today": A Comparison of General Admissions Recruitment and Honors Program Recruitment
Jessa Hay – Eastern Kentucky University

A lot is involved when it comes to recruiting potential students to any university. But is there a major difference between recruiting for general admissions and recruiting for the Honors Program at EKU? This presentation is a comparative study of both kinds of recruitment opportunities for current students at Eastern Kentucky University, presented by a student involved in both organizations.

Investigating the Student Enrollment Decision at WKU
Alec Brown – Western Kentucky University

The purpose of this research is to investigate the relationships between the amount of financial aid awarded--as well as demographic information--and the enrollment decisions of first-time, first-year students admitted to WKU. The Division of Enrollment Management has provided a SAS dataset containing various information about all WKU students admitted from 2013, 2014, and 2015. The data has been analyzed in SAS Enterprise Miner, and a decision tree has been created that can be used to predict a student’s enrollment decision based on key characteristics of their application. Additional research with this data is currently being conducted with specific focus on areas of marginal benefit to WKU’s goal of enrolling more students. The focus of this talk will be presenting the decision tree, its impact on WKU’s recruitment strategies, and its ability to predict the enrollment decision for future incoming classes. While the focus is on WKU, audience members should be able
to extrapolate research methods and approaches suitable to all universities facing similar needs for data collection.

**Encouraging community engagement on college campuses**

*Brooke Moody – University of Louisville*

College students are encouraged to be actively engaged in the community through service and volunteering, but students often struggle to find accessible organizations or causes that they are passionate about. U of L’s Honors Student Council’s Service Committee facilitated an event to bring non-profit organizations and volunteer opportunities to campus. The Non-Profit Fair brought over 50 organizations to campus, serving over 300 students. This event can easily be replicated at any college, in any town to encourage community engagement. Learn how you can facilitate service through hosting this event on your campus.

**Room 219 (The 90)**

**Doctors Inc.: The Business of Medicine in Modern American Society**

*Catherine Graham – University of Kentucky*

My topic is Medical Sociology, specifically the culture of medicine as a business instead of the science of healing. My personal experiences within healthcare have shown to me firsthand that over the past hundred years medicine has shifted somewhat from its original selfless and patient-oriented purpose to one of a modern business, with patients seen like customers in a capitalist system. The questions I explored investigated if medicine is a necessity and basic human right or a more of a commodity. Since the introduction of the ACA in 2010 and the discourse over whether or not the US should adopt universal healthcare, as most other first-world nations have done, this issue has become more pertinent than ever. We must look carefully at all sides of the field to find an answer: Is it a matter of economics, sociology, or science? Or is it a mixture of all three?

**Ambulance Transport as Means for Undergraduate Medical Involvement**

*Troy Sterling – University of Louisville*

As a pre-medical student, opportunities to gain real world experience in the medical field are often sought after. Out of these different options, ambulance transport is often one that goes unrecognized. Ambulance transport, contrary to its name, requires much more than simply transferring patients; it requires constant analysis, assessment, and interaction with the patient. Transport offers the opportunity to provide strong patient care in an environment that the pre-medical student can be prepared for. Additionally, it provides students the ability to acquire a better understanding of medicine. Perfectly suited as a way to become involved in medicine and improve your skills, ambulance transport is a unique alternative to be considered.

**Auditorium (William T. Young Library)**

**Battling Rape Culture through Rites of Passage**

*Professor Rachel Zlatkin, Emily Jones, Marie Ann Mendiola, Nicole Giesbers – Northern Kentucky University*

PANEL PRESENTATION

This panel explores the growth that occurs through the rites of passage depicted in such fairy tales as Red Riding Hood and Bluebeard. Each of the three presentations focus especially on the influence rape culture has on a heroine’s “coming of age” and the gendering of the body. Together the students contemplate the
following contradictions within the genre and found in rape culture: the loss of innocence required for a young woman’s purifying “rebirth,” the celebration of her consequent pain or violent death, the focus on her fault over that of any perpetrator, and the susceptibility of the human psyche to cultural and political forces. The panel’s interdisciplinary presentations are informed by research into the fields of psychology, literary studies, women and gender studies, and feminist theory. By making art out of research, each presentation finally proposes a passage out of the culture that first shapes it.

Alumni Gallery Room (William T. Young Library)

**Environmental Ethics, NIMBY, and Gentrification: A Case Study of Louisville's Butchertown**
*Jared McNeil – University of Louisville*

This talk considers the relationship between the related fields of environmental ethics, environmental activism, and environmental justice, through a case study of the gentrification occurring in the Butchertown neighborhood in Louisville, and the JBS Swift meat packing plant located there.

**Racial Passing**
*James Brown – Kentucky State University*

My presentation focuses on the theme of racial passing and its relevance today. More specifically, I will reflect on my personal experience, while closely reading two African American novels about this topic. My argument is that racial passing begins in elementary school, and continues throughout educational settings, as evidenced by these texts. This paper builds upon my research the honors seminar on racial passing that I took last semester.

**Nutritional and Behavioral Repercussions of Food Insecurity and the Impact of Nutrition Education**
*Kelly Burgess – Western Kentucky University*

Food insecurity occurs when individuals do not have consistent access to fresh, nutritious food in safe, socially acceptable, and affordable ways. In Kentucky, one in six adults and one in four children experience some degree of food insecurity. Various studies have examined the relationship between nutrition education and food insecurity. This study examines the effectiveness of customized nutrition education with food-insecure individuals. Two case studies are being conducted with individuals from a household with and without children. There is a three-step process of pre-assessment, customized nutrition education, and follow-up. The study will ultimately reveal if nutrition education is an effective method for improving behaviors associated with food insecurity. Though small in scope, the results will represent a sample strategy that may be effective for nutrition and health professionals to pilot with individuals in their communities. Ideally, this will encourage dietetic professionals to engage more actively in fighting food insecurity.
2:45pm – 3:30pm
PANEL PRESENTATION

ALL STUDENTS: Attend Panel Discussion held in Auditorium (William T. Young Library)

What Good Is College?
Frannie Roorda, Lucas Taylor, Megan Stinnett, Jack Schaller – University of Kentucky
With skyrocketing tuition, crippling levels of student debt, rumors of low academic achievement, dubious cultural diversity on campus, unresponsive faculty and administrative bloat, it is imperative that students themselves be conversant on the state of the American university. The topic must not be the preserve of politicians and policy experts. It concerns anyone with a stake in the connections between egalitarian democracy, national security and the need for an educated citizenry.

*Students will remain in the auditorium and will be joined by KHR Faculty/Staff at the conclusion of the KHR Business Meeting.

ALL FACULTY/STAFF: Attend KHR Business Meeting Alumni Gallery Room (William T. Young Library)

3:30pm – 4:00pm
PLENARY MEETING / CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

ATTENDED BY KHR ALL STUDENTS/FACULTY/STAFF
Auditorium (William T. Young Library)