

# CSU STANISLAUS

## **HONORS CAPSTONE CONFERENCE**

***John Stuart Rogers***  
***Faculty Development Center***

***Friday May 20, 2005***

***12:00-7:00pm***

**12:00-12:30pm**

*(Refreshments)*

**Capstone Research Proposal Poster Displays**

*(Honors Juniors)*

**12:30-6:30pm**

**Senior Capstone Research Presentations**

*(Honors Seniors)*

**Presentation of Selected Capstone Research Topics**

*(Honors Juniors)*

**Presentation on Service Learning Project**

*(Honors Sophomores)*

**6:30-7:00pm**

**Reception**

*(Refreshments, Conversation & Poster Displays)*

*Sponsored by the University Honors Program*  
*801 W. Monte Vista Ave. • Turlock CA 95382 • (209) 667-3180*

## FEATURE PRESENTATIONS (12:30-6:30PM)

### **12:30-12:50pm**

#### **Methodologies for Teaching Spanish to Native and Non-Native Speakers**

Brandon Ramazzina (Spanish)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Helena Janes (Teacher Education)

### **12:50-1:10pm**

#### **Alternative Hypotheses for Group Foraging in Wolves**

Katie Shadden-Westerman (Biology/Environmental Sciences)

Faculty Mentor: Ms. Tommi Lou Carosella (Biological Sciences)

### **1:10-1:30pm**

#### **Separation of Church and State: Where Do the Ten Commandments Fit?**

Caleb Couchman (Political Science)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Routh (Political Science)

### **1:30-1:50pm**

#### **Social Loafing in Interacting Groups and Interpersonal Compatibility: A Bicultural Study**

Martin Lanik (Psychology)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jamie McCreary (Psychology)

### **1:50-2:00pm**     *Refreshments and Short Break Capstone Research Posters*

### **2:00-2:20pm**

#### **The Pigeonhole Principle**

Dan Westerman (Mathematics)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tom Abram (Mathematics)

### **2:20-2:40pm**

#### **Exploration of a Lung Cancer Cell Line: Resistance and Sensitivity to Taxol**

Eliza Hyatt (Biology)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janey Youngblom (Biological Sciences)

**2:40-3:00pm**

**Service Learning Panel: Issues for Civic Engagement**

Elizabeth Conaway, Matthew Moberly, Jason Shaw, Lindsay Davis  
Faculty Mentors: Dr. Helena Janes (Honors Program) & Julie Fox (Service Learning)

**3:00-3:20pm**

**Effectiveness in the Employment Interview:  
Gender Differences in Nonverbal Cues**

Becca Vickers (Business Administration/Management)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vickie Harvey (Communication Studies)

**3:20-3:40pm    *Hors d'oeuvres and Short Break*  
*Capstone Research Posters***

**3:40-4:00pm**

**Development in California's Cities:  
Assessing the Value of Sustainable Practices**

Christina Walley (Biology/Environmental Studies)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ida Bowers (Geography)

**4:00-4:20pm**

**Child Maltreatment: Challenges Faced by Teachers**

Natalie B. Morejohn (Cognitive Studies)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lin Myers (Psychology/Cognitive Studies)

**4:20-4:40pm**

**1950's and Now: Women's Stereotypes in Advertising  
and the Creation of Ideal Types**

Jennifer Holt (Sociology)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tamara Sniezek (Sociology)

**4:40-5:00pm**

**Estimating The Effects of Aging on Short-term  
Visual Memory Loss**

Cheryl Jacobson (Psychology)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. James Wakefield (Psychology)

**5:00-5:10pm**     ***Refreshments and Short Break  
Capstone Research Posters***

**5:10-5:30pm**

**Sexcrime? I Paid For It (Coming of Age  
in a Consumerist Sexual Democracy)**

Robert Land (Liberal Studies/Credential Program)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Elsaree Murray (Communication Studies)

**5:30-5:50pm**

**Religion and Polarization: Rhetorical Methods  
and Purposes of the Bush Administration**

Ann Marie Ursini (English)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Helena Janes (Honors Program)

**5:50-6:10pm**

**Reflections on the Declining Involvement of Hispanic Students  
in Higher Education: Evaluating College Entrance/Graduation  
Rates Among Latinos at CSU Stanislaus**

Mariel Zamora (Liberal Studies)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Helena Janes (Teacher Education)

**6:10-6:30pm**

**Blue Water Sailors and the Network Society: Exploring the  
Unifying Effects of Electronically Mediated Communications  
Technology on the Ocean Cruising Subculture**

James D. Dyer (Sociology)  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. James Payne (Sociology)

**6:30-7:00pm**     ***Hors d'oeuvres and Reception  
Capstone Research Posters***

## **Additional Capstone Research Proposal Poster Displays**

***The Mathematical Mindset: A Woman's Perspective***

Maree Agafa (Mathematics) Faculty Mentor: Dr. Viji Sundar

***Women Balancing Family and Career***

Jenny Allen (Accounting) Faculty Mentor: Dr. Steve Filling

***Assessing New Models of Corporate Leadership***

Alejandro Ayala (Accounting) Faculty Mentor: TBA

***California's Immigrant Population: Benefit or Detriment?***

Laurence Butler (Business Administration) Faculty Mentor: TBA

***Perceptions of Academic Tracking Among Latino High School Students***

Gabriela DelaMora (Sociology) Faculty Mentor: Dr. Helena Janes

***How Magazine Images Affect Perception of Body Image  
Among Hispanic Girls and Women***

Areli Dohner-Chavez (Psychology) Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lin Myers

***"They Misunderestimated Me." – Reflections on the Rhetorical Voice  
of President George W. Bush***

William Eshagh (Political Science) Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Routh

***Tutoring Students with Dyslexia***

Danielle Guzman (English/Psychology) Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dawn Strongin

***Factors Affecting a Woman's Quest for the US Presidency***

Sulma Guzman (Political Science) Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Routh

***Outsourcing: Where Are All the Jobs Going?***

Julie Hancock (Accounting) Faculty Mentor: Dr. Steve Filling

***US and USSR: Nuclear Arms and the Cold War, 1945-1969***

Nicholas Martinez (History) Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tom Carter

***Accounting, Politics and Stock Options***

Thomas Sites (Accounting) Faculty Mentor: TBA

***Building a Healthy Sense of Community in the Foreign Language  
Classroom: Recognizing and Reducing Communication Barriers  
Caused by Cultural Differences***

Brenda Wherry (Spanish) Faculty Mentor: Dr. Teresa Bargetto-Andrés

## ***ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESES FOR GROUP FORAGING IN WOLVES***

***Katie Shadden-Westerman***

Major: Biology and Environmental Science

Faculty Mentor: Ms. Tommi Lou Carosella (Biological Sciences)

Wolves live within highly complex, and often quite large, packs. Previous research, based on observations of wolves in captivity, has suggested that pack behavior is caused by the inability of small packs to kill large prey, the need to defend territory, and injury of members of small packs during a hunt. More recent research on wolves in their natural habitats contradicts these claims, and asserts that pack behavior is due to a combination of kin selection and competition with scavengers.

## ***SOCIAL LOAFING IN INTERACTING GROUPS AND INTERPERSONAL COMPATIBILITY: A BICULTURAL STUDY***

***Martin Lanik***

Major: Psychology

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jamie McCreary

The present study examined the relationship between interpersonal compatibility and social loafing using American and Slovak samples. Social loafing is the tendency to exert less effort when working with others than when one works alone. Seventy-five Slovak and seventy-eight American participants were assigned to compatible or incompatible triads based on their FIRO-B (Schutz, 1966) inclusion interchange compatibility. Triads were assigned to identifiable or unidentifiable conditions. Each triad completed a jigsaw puzzle in a limited time and individual outputs were measured. It was predicted that social loafing would occur in the incompatible triads involving American participants, but not among Slovak participants. None of the hypotheses were supported. Instead, the findings of the present study suggest that the social loafing phenomenon is less robust in interacting groups, that the effects of group compatibility on performance are associated with coordination rather than motivational losses, and that Slovakian culture is becoming more individualistic.

## ***SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE: WHERE DO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FIT?***

***Caleb Couchman***

Major: Political Science

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Stephen Routh (Political Science)

This study offers a basic overview and background to the separation of church and state reflected in the U.S. Constitution. Analysis is focused on specific issues of constitutional interpretation that apply to current cases directed against efforts to display the Ten Commandments in public spaces and institutions. Special attention is addressed to the theme of original intent.

## ***THE PIGEONHOLE PRINCIPLE***

***Dan Westerman***

Major: Mathematics

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tom Abram (Mathematics)

I use a fundamental theorem from set theory to provide a glimpse into the way mathematicians approach problems and view the world around them.

## ***EXPLORATION OF A LUNG CANCER CELL LINE: RESISTANCE AND SENSITIVITY TO TAXOL***

***Eliza Hyatt***

Major: Biology

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Janey Youngblom (Biological Sciences)

My experiment involves very specific regions of DNA. A549 is a lung cancer cell line isolated from a patient in 1958, and A549-T24 was grown to develop a resistance to Taxol, a drug commonly used for treating various types of cancer. I am testing the DNA of each cancer strain to check for differences in the expression of Alu sequences, which are a form of repetitive DNA. I will discuss the significance of my findings and reflect on further research that might be conducted to learn more about the nature of these cells.

## ***DEVELOPMENT IN CALIFORNIA CITIES: ASSESSING THE VALUE OF SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES***

***Christina Walley***

Major: Biology and Environmental Studies

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ida Bowers (Geography)

I focus on sustainable practices in different types of California cities. Using the indicators of economic, societal and environmental health, I compare cities that have and have not been utilizing sustainable practices. On my reading, the facts indicate that the way many cities function today is simply not sustainable in the long run. I argue that it is time to search for a more beneficial way to operate on level of city planning and development. My research is composed of information from government web sites and literature on sustainable practices, and draws on statistics related to eight pairs of cities located in different counties of California.

Among other things, the findings show that, although cities with sustainable practices have lower average travel times to work, they also exhibit higher crime rates and higher percentages of residents beneath the poverty line. This may be due to the fact that more troubled cities have decided to turn to alternative practices; or it could indicate that the initial investment in sustainable practices has not yet paid off (if it ever will). I

also discuss examples of cities within California that have had success with sustainable practices, and recommend some further research that might lead to better knowledge of how sustainability might affect a city in positive ways.

***EFFECTIVENESS IN THE EMPLOYMENT INTERVIEW:  
GENDER DIFFERENCES IN NONVERBAL CUES***

***Becca Vickers***

Major: Business Administration/Management

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Vickie Harvey (Communication Studies)

This study compiles and synthesizes current research on gender differences in nonverbal communication in the employment interview. The purpose of the study was to find areas of nonverbal behavior that are under particular scrutiny in the employment interview situation, and to compare the behavior of men and women in these areas. Research was taken from psychology, communications, and business journals and reviews. I found that high immediacy behaviors, eye contact, and vocal cues are three areas that impact the success of the interview. These are also areas in which men and women differ in their nonverbal behaviors. While men tend to be better vocal communicators, women tend to be more effective in the use of their face and expressions. This research identifies an area of nonverbal gender differences that warrants more extensive research with respect to impression management techniques utilized during employment interviews.

***WOMEN'S STEREOTYPES IN ADVERTISING  
AND THE CREATION OF IDEAL TYPES:  
THE 1950'S & NOW***

***Jennifer Holt***

Major: Sociology

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tamara Sniezek (Sociology)

This presentation examines advertisements in popular women's magazines from the 1950's and compares and contrasts these with contemporary advertisements in popular women's magazines published in the past year. The purpose of this study was to examine whether the roles of women reflected in advertisements have changed since the "Ideal Woman" model of the 1950's, and if so, to see whether these changes have resulted in a positive or negative impact on women with regard to their social construction of self and identity. Content analysis of the advertisements in contemporary women's magazines revealed stereotypes consistent with the perpetuation of the "Ideal Woman" of the 1950's, which may now be described as the "Superwoman" model of American women today.

***ESTIMATING THE EFFECTS OF AGING  
ON SHORT-TERM MEMORY LOSS***

***Cheryl Jacobson***

Major: Psychology

Faculty Mentor: Dr. James Wakefield (Psychology)

With recent increases in life expectancy, more and more research is focusing on the effects of aging. In this study, the correlation of the variables of age, gender and ethnicity and their effect on short-term visual memory were studied. One hundred and thirty-five male and female students from CSU Stanislaus participated in the study. Ranging in age from 18 to 53, participants were asked to memorize a series of pictures, which after a short period of time they were asked to recall. The purpose of this study was to examine whether the variables of age, gender and ethnicity have differential effects on short-term visual memory. The results showed no significant variation across age, gender and ethnicity in terms of the number of pictures recalled correctly. This study appears to support the work of researchers (e.g. Gregoire & Van Der Linden, 1997) who have found that the effects of aging on short-term memory might be over-estimated.

***CHILD MALTREATMENT:  
CHALLENGES FACED BY TEACHERS***

***Natalie B. Morejohn***

Major: Cognitive Studies

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Lin Myers (Psychology and Cognitive Studies)

Child maltreatment is a problem in today's society that needs to be addressed more effectively in public elementary schools. The purpose of this study has been to identify the barriers to accurate detection and reporting of child maltreatment by public school teachers. To determine these barriers, I utilized a voluntary survey of Stanislaus County elementary school personnel. The findings show deficits in the training and subsequent knowledge of teachers regarding child maltreatment issues. They also reveal associated fears and inhibitions in teachers regarding the reporting process. The results of this study could be valuable in planning programs to ease the discomfort of teachers and enhance their efficiency in detecting and reporting child maltreatment. I consider how improvements in the knowledge and preparedness of teachers to recognize child abuse and neglect might lead to more effective systems of response, and to more streamlined and efficient approaches for dealing with specific cases when they arise.

***SEXCRIME? I PAID FOR IT (COMING OF AGE  
IN A CONSUMERIST SEXUAL DEMOCRACY)***

***Robert Land***

Major: Liberal Studies (Credential Program)

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Elsaree Murray (Communication Studies)

This study examines the role that modern media and advertising play in the promulgation of social attitudes in America, with special regard to possible effects on children. Adopting a multidisciplinary approach to this complex issue, and a linking theme involving “the politics of language,” this presentation opens with a philosophical perspective regarding our fascination with sex, followed by a brief history of twentieth century media-growth as it pertains to sexually-based messages. Sociological ramifications of this phenomenon are explored in the context of an emergent “consumerist sexual democracy” and with respect to the psychological implications of overexposure to sexual messages as they are currently employed in popular media. Acknowledging that sexually charged messages are now a fixture in our society and that our greatest challenges are directly linked to sexual behavior, I recommend greater scrutiny with regard to the role of media in shaping our attitudes toward sex and suggest some changes to improve our educational system.

***REFLECTIONS ON THE DECLINING INVOLVEMENT  
OF HISPANIC STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION:  
EVALUATING COLLEGE ENTRANCE/GRADUATION  
RATES AMONG LATINOS AT CSU STANISLAUS***

***Mariel Zamora***

Major: Liberal Studies

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Helena Janes (Teacher Education)

Are the retention, enrollment, and graduation rates for Hispanic students at CSU Stanislaus comparable to declining nationwide Hispanic enrollment, retention and graduation rates? As a concerned Hispanic student, my goal is to identify college attendance patterns that may be specific to this ethnic population. My research methods included interviews with Hispanic and minority administrative personnel in student support programs, a review of related studies on Hispanic students and other minorities, statistics from recent CSU Stanislaus Fact Books, and personal conversations with CSU Stanislaus students and faculty. My findings indicate that CSU Stanislaus is generally succeeding in its efforts to create an environment in which the involvement of Hispanic students is maintained and supported. However, this research also shows that although CSU Stanislaus is doing well compared with other colleges, there are still gaps in the education pipeline for Hispanic students that need to be carefully assessed. The study concludes with suggestions for implementing improvements in the current student support programs at CSU Stanislaus.

***BLUE WATER SAILORS AND THE NETWORK SOCIETY:  
EXPLORING THE UNIFYING EFFECTS OF ELECTRONICALLY  
MEDIATED COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY ON  
THE OCEAN CRUISING SUBCULTURE***

***James D. Dyer***

Major: Sociology

Faculty Mentor: Dr. James Payne (Sociology)

The purpose of this research is to document the effects of electronically mediated communications technology on the lives and ethnomethodology of members of the Ocean Cruising Subculture. My hypothesis is that advances in communications technology (particularly the proliferation of cellular phone service and readily available and portable wireless internet access throughout the world) have dramatically affected the very nature of interaction between members of this subculture.

I postulate that the effect has been to facilitate community building and shared ideology amongst a largely marginal, nomadic subculture. I suspect I will be able to document a greatly increased interconnectedness amongst the scattered nodes (individual boats and ports) of this subculture, and between these nodes and the dominant world societal system of late capitalism, based on efficient and rapid data transfer between peripheral nations and core states.

I will rely heavily on recent dissertations to demonstrate that the Cruisers are indeed classifiable as a subculture, and to provide the ethnomethodological background upon which my work will build. Furthermore, I will be using theoretical frameworks developed by critical theorists and postmodern theorists to examine changes in the Cruisers ethnomethodology resulting from the accessibility of network communications. My principle framework is drawn from Manuel Castells and *The Rise of the Network Society*, and will emphasize the concept of “the space of flows.” I believe this theoretical approach assists us in re-conceptualizing space and time in regards to social interaction in a manner that will be particularly useful in my examination of Cruiser interactions among themselves and with the dominant Society.

If my hypothesis is borne out, my study will offer a valuable lens through which to examine the effects of these communications technology on larger segments of society. Castells and others suggest that the emergence of these networks, will produce significant changes in the ways we interact with and conceptualize one another, both as individuals and as societies; and that the old discourses may not serve to examine these new paradigms of social interaction. Assuming a new discourse must be developed, this work may provide a valuable introduction to such a discourse.