

**CSU STANISLAUS**  
**Honors Capstone Conference**

*John Rogers*  
*Faculty Development Center*

*Tuesday May 22, 2007*

*12:45-6:30pm*

**Schedule of Presentations**

*12:45-1:00pm*

*Capstone Research Proposal Poster Display*  
*Refreshments*

*1:00-2:40pm*

*Senior Capstone Research Presentations*  
*(Honors Seniors)*

*2:40-3:40pm*

*Selected Capstone Research Proposal Presentations*  
*(Honors Juniors)*

*3:50-6:30pm*

*Senior Capstone Research Presentations*  
*(Honors Seniors)*

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

12:45-1:00 Welcome and Refreshments

## **SENIOR CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS**

- 1:00-1:20 Shannon Ramazzina: *Pessimism, Realism, or Idealism? Young Adults' Attitudes to Marriage and Perceptions of their Parents' Relationships*  
Mentor: Dr. Lin Myers (Cognitive Studies/Psychology)  
*Shannon is graduating Cum Laude and is on the Chancellor's and Dean's Lists.*
- 1:25-1:45 Susan Lao: *Hmong Families' Attitudes to Native Language Maintenance*  
Mentor: Dr. Helena Janes (Teacher Education/Honors)
- 1:50-2:10 Arelí Dohner-Chávez: *Parental Involvement and Academic Achievement Among Hispanic and non-Hispanic Students*  
Mentor: Dr. Betsy Eudey (Gender Studies)  
*Areli was Outstanding Student Leader (2006), and received the Outstanding Scholarship in Chicana/o Studies Award (2006) from the Ethnic Studies Department and the American G.I. Forum, Modesto Chapter.*
- 2:15-2:35 Elizabeth Conaway: *Victim Blaming: Who is Responsible for Rape?*  
Mentor: Dr. Rhoda Macdonald (Sociology)
- 2:40-3:00 Joshua Kerr: *Philosophical Concepts of Nature and Wildness in the Poetry of Gary Snyder*  
Mentor: Dr. James A. Tuedio (Philosophy)  
*Joshua is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, and is the Outstanding Student in Philosophy for 2006-7.*
- 3:00- 3:45 **Junior Capstone Proposals**

Kevin Close: *9/11 and the Constitution of the Subject*  
Mentor: Dr. Chris P. Nagel (Philosophy)

Anya Reeser: *Perceptions of the Homeless Crisis: Why Help?*  
Mentor: Professor Sara Garfield (Teacher Education)

Damon Millar: *Society's Dirty Little Secret*  
Mentor: Dr. Marjorie Sanchez-Walker (History)

Martha Durán: *Bilingualism: Its Benefits and its Rejection in the United States*  
Mentor: Dr. Juan Flores (Teacher Education)

John Crocker: *Superconductors*  
Mentor: Dr. Rose Zhang (Physics)

Ashley Flory: *More Art Please: Exploring the Benefits of Art in Elementary Education*  
Mentor: Dr. Joan Wink (Teacher Education)

Phil Schmidt: *Behind the Wire: Prisoners of War and Their Captors in Literature*  
Mentor: Dr. Molly Crumpton-Winter (English)

Rocio Garcia: *From "Mujer de Casa" to Professional: The Evolution of the Mexican-American Woman and its Effects on her Well-Being*  
Mentor: Dr. Angel Sanchez (Sociology)

Priscilla Trevino: *The Theory of Multiple Intelligences and Why Educators Should Adopt it as Policy*

Josh Codoni: *From Bicycles to Mars: The Future of Aviation Research*

Rachel Dickerson: *The Pursuit of Beauty across Cultures and its Consequences*

Cory Sobotta: *Free Radicals and their Effects on Our Health*  
Mentor: Dr. Koni Stone (Chemistry)

Edgar Garibay: *Religion and Spirituality: Their Significance for Grieving . in the Aftermath of a Loved One's Terminal Illness*  
Mentors: Dr. Mark Grobner (Biology), and Dr. Dawn Strongin (Psychology)

Cecilia Motalei: *Latino Influence in the U.S. Consumer Market*  
Mentors: Dr. Elaine Peterson (Economics) and Dr. Marjorie Sanchez-Walker (History)

3:45-4:00 Short Break for Refreshments

## **SENIOR CAPSTONE Presentations**

- 4:00-4:20 Stephanie Fassler: *Integration of Europe into the European Union and the Potential for an Integrated Foreign Policy*  
Mentor: Dr. Dave Colnic (Political Science)
- 4:30-4:50 Jason Shaw: *How does Organizational Culture Influence Organizational Policy and Decision Making?*  
Mentor: Dr. Edward Hernandez (Management and Human Resources)  
*Jason was nominated for the 2007 Student Leadership Award and was the 2006-07 Outstanding Student in Management/Strategy/Entrepreneurship.*
- 5:00-5:20 Jolene Howard: *Anticipations of Jungian Imagination in Wordsworth's Poetry*  
Mentor: Dr. Tony Perrello (English)  
*Jolene was Outstanding Student of the Year in English for 2006-7, and was a finalist at the 2007 CSU Research Competition at CSU Dominguez Hills. She was also inducted into Phi Kappa Phi this year.*
- 5:30-5:50 Matthew Moberly: *California's Forgotten Poet Laureate: The Life and Work of Ina Donna Coolbrith*  
Mentor: Dr. Molly Crumpton-Winter (English)
- 6:00-6:20 Therese A. Lunt: *Exiles and Transnationals: Nineteenth Century Irish and Contemporary Mexican Immigration in the United States*  
Mentor: Dr. Marjorie Sanchez-Walker (History)  
*Teri presented papers at the 2007 Phi Alpha Theta Conference in Sacramento, and the 2007 CSU Honors Consortium at CSU Fresno. She was also inducted into Phi Delta Phi, and won the 2007 Siegrist Outstanding Undergraduate Award for History.*

## **SENIOR CAPSTONE ABSTRACTS**

### **Pessimism, Realism, or Idealism? Young Adults' Attitudes to Marriage and Perceptions of their Parents' Relationships**

**Shannon Ramazzina**

An inquiry into reasons for divorce, this correlational study examined young adults' perceptions of their parents' relationships. It was hypothesized that there would be a greater impact on attitudes to marriage for those categorized as pessimistic or idealistic than for those categorized as realistic in their attitudes of marriage. The 85 participants were single, never married. In a 2 x 3 ANOVA design, the first independent variable was attitudes towards marriage (with levels of pessimistic, realistic, or idealistic); the second independent variable was perceived quality of parental relationship (with levels of low and high).

### **Hmong Parent's Attitudes to their Children's Native Language Use**

**Susan Lao**

This study discusses the important changes the Hmong people have experienced since their arrival in the United States after the Secret War in Laos. Many Hmong parents see their children now speaking more English than their native language. Hmong parents face specific difficulties in acculturating to this society and understanding their children. The study is based on interviews and observations in Hmong family homes. The interviews will include ten Hmong parents and their children. Questions include demographic and historical information about the families and investigate the importance to various family members of maintaining the Hmong language. Observations include evidence of the maintenance of Hmong culture and traditions, such as Hmong artifacts, music and poetry in the home. Results will reflect Hmong families' attitudes about the preservation of their native language and culture.

### **Parental Involvement and Academic Achievement Among Hispanic and non-Hispanic Students**

**Areli Dohner-Chávez**

This study used a correlational, between subjects design to investigate how perceived parental involvement and ethnicity (Hispanic and non-Hispanic) is related to the academic achievement (measured by grade point average) of college and high school students. There were 88 college students and 111 high school students recruited for the study. Participants were asked for demographic information and were questioned about the parental involvement they received during their primary education.

### **Victim Blaming: Who is Responsible for Rape?**

**Elizabeth Conaway**

This study explores attributions of fault and causality in incidents of rape, designed to gauge whether participants have attitudes and beliefs that hold a victim of rape responsible for the crime. The investigation was conducted through the use of a questionnaire administered to 200 CSU Stanislaus students, and qualitative interviews conducted with five students. The results were interpreted to determine whether specific demographic groups, including age and gender groups, expressed attitudes that imposed blame on victims of sexual assault.

## **Philosophical Concepts of Nature and Wildness in the Poetry of Gary Snyder**

**Joshua Kerr**

I offer a conceptual reading of several important environmental poems by Gary Snyder, focusing on selections from *Turtle Island*. Traditional readings of Snyder's poetry tend to emphasize the formalistic elements of his poems, the influence of Buddhist thought on his work, or his place as a member of the "beat" movement. My interpretation highlights a different emphasis. I approach Snyder's poetry with an eye toward the philosophical concepts of nature and wilderness that emerge within his work. Snyder grapples with difficult and delicate questions regarding our place in an environment that includes many creatures besides ourselves, and he does so with penetrative poetic sensibility. My intent is to show how Snyder's poetry can be read as a philosophical comment on these issues.

## **Integration of Europe into the European Union and the Potential for an Integrated EU Foreign Policy**

**Stephanie Fassler**

Following the catastrophic horror of World War II, European states looked to prevent such calamity ever occurring again and to rebuild their tattered nations. To that end, West Germany, Italy, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands joined together to form the European Coal and Steel Community. The purpose was to create a single, large market for coal and steel to aid in the rebuilding of these countries, as well as to create economic ties. These economic ties, it was hoped, would create inter-dependence amongst the states which would prohibit them from ever again committing violent military action against one another. The ECSC was the precursor to what would become known as the European Union, encompassing 25 European states. The EU's primary focus is to create a unified market and promote free trade. It does so by promoting integrated policies amongst its members. As the EU becomes a more prominent player in the world economy, what is its potential to become involved in foreign policy? This paper will attempt to study the integration of European states into the European Union. It will focus on the institutions and mechanisms of the European Union which homogenize the policies of member states. It will determine how policy is made within the EU, and the potential for a foreign policy to be formed, and will examine whether a united foreign policy is possible by following the same paths used in creating economic and social policy.

## **How Does Organizational Culture Influence Organizational Policy and Decision Making?**

**Jason Shaw**

The aim of this paper is to provide insight into organizational culture's influence on organizational policy and decision making. This paper argues that one of the critical reasons for policy and decision-making failure involves how well the policy meshes with the existing organizational culture. Policies and choices have a higher risk for failure if they are not integrated properly with the existing organizational culture, or if managers do not take possible risks into account when implementing policy choices. This paper outlines possible tools to help managers identify the attributes of the existing organizational culture, so that they can make more informed decisions and policy choices.

## **Anticipations of Jungian Imagination in Wordsworth's Poetry**

**Jolene Howard**

My aim in this research project is to explore the common ideas shared by the poet William Wordsworth and the psychoanalyst Carl Jung. It has become fascinating to me to examine and analyze the corresponding notions of imagination and pre-existence found in Wordsworth's epic poem, *The Prelude*, with Jung's psychoanalytical concepts of "active imagination," "collective unconscious," and "the four functions" of thinking, feeling, sensation, and intuition. This exploration will reveal Wordsworth as a teacher poet and philosopher who anticipated Jungian psychology, and is "A lasting inspiration, sanctified/By reason, blest by faith," who can inspire the healing imagination of the reader. Wordsworth repeatedly links ideas and feelings with memories and imaginations throughout *The Prelude*. Wordsworth's method of teaching through his poetry is inclusive of the whole man. He does not deny the spiritual in favor of the material; he does not deny feelings in favor of rational thought; and he does not deny intuition in favor of scientific knowledge. Instead, Wordsworth builds "up a Work that shall endure," and as a "Prophet of Nature" he becomes "A lasting inspiration, sanctified/By reason, blest by faith" (*Prelude* 14.311, 446-448). William Wordsworth reaches back in time searching for collective experiences that will enlighten and inspire the imagination of future generations.

## **Her Kingdom: The Life and Works of Forgotten California Poet Laureate Ina Donna Coolbrith**

**Matthew Moberly**

Niece of Mormonism's founder Joseph Smith, pioneer, poet, librarian, editor, bohemian grandmother, and literary mentor, this once celebrated figure in the California literary tradition has faded out of the limelight. Her collections of poetry, first appearing in the late 1800s and early 1900s, have become rarities, and her work is scarcely anthologized. Given that Coolbrith played an influential part in the development of San Francisco's literary scene, I find it intriguing that her work has fallen through the cracks and is largely unnoticed by today's literary audiences. Thus, in my project I have familiarized myself with the life and works of Ina Coolbrith in order to rightfully place her within the context of American literature. Through a critical reading of her biography and three collections of her poetry, I hope to revive awareness and appreciation of California's first poet laureate.

## **Exiles and Transnationals: Nineteenth Century Irish and Contemporary Mexican Immigration in the United States**

**Therese A. Lunt**

Rancor behind contemporary concerns over immigrant issues conjures memories of past xenophobias and nativisms. An analogy can be drawn between Irish immigration to the US in the 19th century and that of Mexican immigrants seeking the same destination today. Approximately 1.5 million people fled famine, starvation and death in Ireland for succor in America between 1845 and 1855, representing the first mass immigration to the new country. Mexico is the country of origin for the largest percentage of immigrants today, both legal and undocumented, providing a counterpart across space and time to Irish immigration of the past. Together these two phenomena bookend the immigrant experience in the United States and as such are worthy of comparison. This project will explore the similarities and differences between the nineteenth century Irish and today's Mexican immigrant diasporas in the United States

## **FEATURED JUNIOR CAPSTONE PROPOSAL ABSTRACTS**

### **9/11 and the Constitution of the Subject**

**Kevin Close**

Between tabloids and sitcoms flooding American minds after work and on our lunch breaks, that we face the prospect of global climate change, appear to have hit Global Peak Oil, and are somehow at war with global terror seem like realities beyond translation into meaningful terms. Somehow these phenomena just don't sink in. Against the everyday automation of the workplace and the spectacle of news we seem to so often find in the media, the most significant changes we see occurring right before our eyes appear as a parallel universe. However, in the backs of our minds, must not we all acknowledge that, contrary to what arguments over abortion and capital punishment might suggest, debates over sustainability are not in any way more sustainable than the subjects of these debates? What keeps consensus from ever building over these issues so grand in scope? Such is the subject of the proposed project. In analyzing seeming paradigmatic incommensurability, the role of liberty and necessity in the production of paradigms, and the possibilities for overcoming paradigmatic obstructions between opposing groups, I hope to reach some conclusions with regard to the possibility of "not preaching to the choir." I also hope to grapple with a possible paradox latent within these themes: whether the generation of consensus is contingent upon a kind of homogenization of consciousness and/or an accompanying centralization of power over sources of information. Specifically, I intend to tie these analyses to the controversies surrounding the attacks of September 11, 2001, as well as its place within a broader narrative. I choose this for a grounding point both because of its controversial nature as well as its significance for current and unfolding world events regardless of whatever paradigm one brings to the subject.

### **Perceptions of the Homeless Crisis: Why Help?**

**Anya Reeser**

Turlock, like most cities, has a growing homeless population. Homelessness is a national problem affecting cities of all size and in all parts of the country. According to Stuart Hadden, a grounded theory sociologist and social constructionist, the population that we live in, school in and work in (Turlock), is experiencing a sociological change through the process of "sounding the alarm." There are four stages that are delineated to allow the tracing of this process through time: 1) no concern; 2) onset of concern; 3) mobilization of concern; and 4) muting of concern. At this time we are in the midst of the mobilization of the concern, which gives validation to homelessness as a topic to be researched. In the 1980s, the United States experienced a mobilization of the same concern, but it has since been muted. With the resources available today, technological abilities and societal awareness, now is prime time to approach this problem yet again. Surveys show that Turlock's homeless population nearly doubled from 441 in 1996 to nearly 800 in 2003. Homelessness is a complex and almost intractable problem with many causes. Among these are: drug or alcohol addiction, poverty, low-wage employment, mental and physical illness, job loss, breakup of household relationships and lifestyle choice. Based on years of experience with various programs designed to address homelessness, there appears to be a general consensus that managing the problem to reduce the impact of the homeless on the community and the homeless population itself is the best outcome that can be expected of any program. I hypothesize that if the general public has an accurate perception of the local homeless crisis they will be more willing to offer their assistance and become involved either financially or otherwise.

## **Society's Dirty Little Secret**

**Damon Millar**

This research project focuses on disabled people and some of the issues that they face. It also investigates how the disabled population affects the economic, political, and social norms of society. Treatment and resources for the disabled have changed over the past half-century and vary from country to country. In addition, the study will determine whether the public treats those who were born with a disability differently from those who became disabled from complications of an accident or war. "Disabled" includes the mentally disabled as well as the physically disabled., but does not include mental illness .

## **Bilingualism: Its Benefits and its Rejection in the United States**

**Martha Durán**

The society of the United States is multicultural with increasing minority groups; therefore, many people are becoming bilingual. In California, there are 56 languages other than English spoken by English learners in schools. Many forms of bilingualism are spreading throughout the nation among minority groups: bilingualism has communication, cultural, and cognitive advantages. However, some people oppose bilingualism and do not accept it; for example, Proposition 227 was created to eliminate bilingual programs. This study will detail the case for bilingualism and analyze the arguments of those who oppose it in the schools.

## **Superconductors**

**John Crocker**

In the advanced technological world in which we live today many may take for granted the wonderful technologies we have and how they aid society. One such technology is superconductors. Superconductors exhibit two unique properties that have wide application in our world today. This poster briefly shows what superconductors are and how they work. In addition it shows two technologies that use superconductors, and lastly builds an argument for further research into superconductors.

## **More Art Please: Exploring Benefits of Art in Elementary Education**

**Ashley Flory**

I wanted my poster to represent exactly why I am so passionate about incorporating art into the elementary school curriculum. I displayed samples of student artwork so that people would be able to see how art is beneficial to children. I included some of Elliot Eisner's insights because I thought that his words collaborated well with the ink blots that I made. I wanted to convey the message that ink blots allow for multiple interpretations. Art opens the mind and lends assistance to schoolchildren for better comprehension of all subjects. My hope is that through such demonstrations educators will gain a better understanding of why art is important in children's lives.

## **Behind the Wire: Prisoners of War and Their Captors in Literature**

**Philip Schmidt**

Prisoner of war literature reveals a microcosm of the world and its cultural relations in the setting of a prisoner of war camp. The term microcosm is here used to describe a community that is representative of the contemporary world of the literature's time period. The prisoner of war setting is unique for its volatile caging of individuals from very different cultures together for an identical infraction; their crime is not criminal but that of merely belonging to a different society. In this environment, the prison society that emerges is one that reflects the cultures of its members but also its prejudices and aversion to those of different cultures. This discussion will draw from twentieth-century literature concerning twentieth-century conflicts such as World War II and the Korean War. These wars involved multifarious cultures that are still influential today, such as the United States, Great Britain, China, and Japan. Historical background will be provided, not to explain the nature of these well-known conflicts, but to depict the mistrust and misunderstandings found between these cultures—even between allies. Apart from military and cross-cultural background research and literary criticism, the sources for this discussion will be works of literature by Pierre Boulle, James Clavell, Ha Jin, and John Okada. All take place in or relate directly to prisoner of war settings and express the experiences of their prisoners. Some measure of literary criticism on prisoner of war literature exists but little to nothing contrasts these works against one another or proposes that any prisoner of war setting is culturally microcosmic as this thesis intends to do. In analyzing these works of literature written by novelists who were once soldiers and prisoners of war themselves, one might better understand the cross-cultural interactions of the past and their impact on the present.

## **From "Mujer de Casa" to Professional: Evolution of the Mexican-American Woman and Its Effects on Her Well-Being**

**Rocio Garcia**

This study portrays the most poignant aspects of the Mexican-American female experience in California within the last forty years. The central premise proposes that the process of cultural acculturation has had harmful psychological as well as sociological effects on Mexican-American women because they are caught amidst a struggle between two very distinct cultures rooted in inherently contradictory value systems. This struggle has resulted in a sense of frustration, isolation and confusion about their self-perception and their quest to find their personal identity. The most vital components of the issue are discussed, including the guidelines for gender roles in Mexican culture. Statistics are offered regarding fertility, suicide, AIDS/HIV, and domestic violence rates, in order to portray a more lucid argument about the struggle of Mexican-American women. Furthermore, a section is dedicated to the significance of this topic, arguing that the process of acculturation must be understood within American society in particular because it is composed of a high degree of cultural diversity. If the value systems of distinct cultures in the U.S. are understood, perhaps tolerance can be further promoted.