



SNHU University College Undergraduate Research Day April 8, 2015

Abstracts of Student Projects

The Moon, the Creature, and the Creator

Elizabeth Worth

Mentor: Dr. Susan Cook

Throughout history the story of the werewolf has been iconic and represented by the full moon. When the phase of the moon is full, typically normal people grow fangs and hair similar to a dog. Thus the symbol of the full moon has been associated with insanity. In most stories the full moon means that people turn into monsters that roam around and instill terror in people. This symbol has been a part of society for a long time and can even be seen in older works, not just modern ones. Because of this association of being crazy the term lunatic was coined, meaning “affected with the kind of insanity that was supposed to have recurring periods dependent on the changes of the moon” (*OED*). In *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley the moon is used to help make the creature into a monster. The creature’s violence increases whenever the moon is out, and this violence leads to Victor’s downfall. Whenever the creature does something evil the moon is described depicting the insanity that is slowly consuming Victor. There is the relationship of the moon, which affects the monster who then affects Victor, so the moon is indirectly causing Victor to be consumed by insanity. There is a close association of Victor and the moon because nature is showing the violence of something unnatural like the monster. The moon is showing Victor the unnatural horror of the creature he has created as his punishment for being the creator. The notorious symbol of the moon illustrating insanity is used throughout the novel to show how the creature is slowly making Victor insane and the moon is very much demotic in character because it reveals the creature to Victor.

The Life of Mary

Alyssa R. Cass

Mentor: Dr. Susan Cook

Being a woman in the 19th century meant mental restriction from society, even with radical parents like William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft. Born at the bloodiest time in French history, Mary Shelley was famous before she had produced her most famous work at age 19. Her novel *Frankenstein* earned Mary Shelley a permanent member of the intellectual circle surrounding Mary and her husband, the poet Percy Shelley. Mary’s own biography reads like a dramatic play with many travels, interactions with other thinkers, and personal tragedy. Her tumultuous marriage ended off the coast of Italy when Percy drowned alongside a comrade while sailing home. Their bodies washed ashore and a veil was lifted from Mary Wollstonecraft’s purpose as an author. She was finally free to shape her own destiny instead of chasing behind her wildly romantic and infamous husband. Mary lived in the shadow of her husband but was given the opportunity to thrive after his passing when she was only 23. In this project I will be taking a critical look at the biographies published about Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley and her life publishing and creating as a woman. Perspectives differ when compiling a complete history of her life and I will be assessing these discrepancies and the manners in which her life is compared to her formidable husband while comparing critical scholars’ perspectives throughout this paper.

Dickens as a Historian

Elizabeth Holland

Mentor: Dr. Andrew Martino

Charles Dickens is universally noted as one of the most influential British authors of the nineteenth century. During his career he published a number of works that are today recognized as classics. Each of Dickens most well-loved novels works to criticize the social constructs and issues of London during the nineteenth century. These satirical and brutally honest commentaries on society allowed him to “maintain popularity with the public throughout all phases of his career” (Harris 157). Dickens housed much of his inspiration for his work within the city of London itself. Each of his novels he zoned in on the successes and failures that the city was undergoing. This essay works to explain Dickens’ role in creating a historically accurate representation of nineteenth century London through his novels *Bleak House*, *Great Expectations* and *Oliver Twist*.

Banned Books Ban the Future

Megan Palmer

Mentor: Dr. Crystal Bickford

This project examines book banning and curriculum decisions and the effects that both have on students. Book banning has existed since before the formation of the current education system as well as far before the current status of democracy and free speech. By studying its history, and its existence in today’s culture, the research provides insight into the ways in which it influences every English classroom for both educators and students alike. The project delves into book banning in the public library system as well as the library system contained within the schools in order to provide a view of the issue in all of its forms. The research discusses the negative effect that book banning and a narrow English curriculum can have on students in a modern society. Incorporating recent research based on book banning, the project focuses on the ways in which it is affecting and hindering free speech, access to information, and the formation of a generation. Using information at a regional level and a national level, as well as an international level, the research highlights the consequences that are faced due to book banning all around the world. This project seeks to rectify a wrong that is being done to today’s students and to help stop it from being perpetuated on the students of tomorrow.

Analyzing Subway’s Successful Social Media Efforts

Evan Bodi

Mentor: Dr. Pat Spirou

“Analyzing Subway’s Successful Social Media Efforts” is a required project for the social media and marketing communications course. This project, which began during the fall semester of 2014, involves identifying Subway’s varying advertisement campaigns, the main target market these ads are intended for, the main media vehicles used to deliver these ads, and how effective these ads are in expanding Subway’s global footprint. More specifically, the research paper uncovers Subway’s varying advertisement campaign themes, multiple execution styles, and how Subway successfully applies the dual adaptation strategy in global markets through the use of social media formats Facebook and Twitter. The research also highlights the company’s history, main competitor, product lines and assortment, and its recent financial success. The paper concludes that Doctor’s Association’s Subway brand is highly successful in marketing its products due to its ability to relate the themes of health and fitness with its submarine sandwiches in ads that vary in both execution style and in media format based on the respective audience the company is trying to target.

Social Media for Social Change

Whitney Mooney

Mentor: Professor Jon Boroshok

This thesis will be dedicated to the ever-changing world of social media and how it can create social change. How does one simple hashtag spread like wild fire? This is an important question to ask when looking into social media. How does social media create changes that are needed to transform the world around us? We hear endless comments about how bad social media is for society, but why aren't we focusing on the positives? Why haven't we thought about the Arab Spring and how it rooted from social media and brought the beginning of change to a nation? These are all questions we should be asking ourselves when we look at social media as a negative energy in our society. Social media is so powerful that videos such as Kid President or #notinmyname can go viral within a few hours. We can create a chain reaction. Simple things can turn into big things through shares, hash tags, and conversations on line. How did a small challenge like the Ice Bucket Challenge raise millions of dollars? Through a simple idea and a powerful cause. Advocacy becomes easier and people become inform citizens. Social media gives a voice to those who don't have one for themselves. It gives us a chance to look at something from a new perspective. It gives us a call to action to make a difference.

The Effects of Policy on Emerging Markets

Michael Hoffman

Mentor: Dr. Charlotte Broaden

I would like to look at economic trends in emerging market economies following the financial crisis of 2007-2008. Specifically, I would like to examine the capital flight from emerging markets in the initial wake of the financial crisis, and then look at the resulting boom in investment back into some of these markets. Some countries, like South Korea, were hit hard, while other countries, like Iran, were able to weather the storm. Understanding why this was the case could lead to a better understanding of globalization and the unseen risks that it can bring.

The Effects of the FDI on the Environment of Developing Countries

Lorreta Rocha

Mentor: Dr. Charlotte Broaden

Being sustainable is the new trend. Not only are governments pushing for more environmental practices in business, but consumers are also demanding environmental products and services. For the past twenty years or so, foreign direct investment (FDI) has accounted for most of the external resources in developing countries (Lautier & Moreaub, 2012). The relationship between the environment and foreign direct investment is very controversial. While some believe that FDI can help the environment, as it promotes growth in developing countries, which helps increase awareness about how important it is to preserve the environment, others argue that FDI is one of the biggest causes of degradation of the environment and depletion of resources, which inevitably results in loss of welfare. FDI can also be affected by raising environmental concerns. When a country has stringent environmental laws, polluting industries tend to move to other countries, in form of FDI, where these laws are not as stringent (Hassaballa, 2013). This paper will focus on the effects of foreign direct investment (FDI) on the environment of developing countries. Could FDI help mitigate climate change or is it going to worsen it? What should be done to reduce the negative effects of foreign direct investment on the environment? How can it potentially reduce environmental threats?

Disparity in Compensation Between Men and Women

Ann Pastorello

Mentor: Dr. Lowell Matthews

The topic of women's compensation is extremely important in human relations. If employees are not compensated well they will eventually become disgruntled and leave the organization. This topic needs to be brought to the attention of organizations as they are violating laws that have been put in place to prevent this crime from occurring, as two individuals are putting in the same amount of work to an organization. This paper is formatted to be information about the topic as well as the information surrounding the topic, the importance about having equal compensation for equal work and will conclude with recommendations to further combat this problem. This topic is important and should be discussed more often.

The Law Enforcement Hiring Process

Jeremy Leafe

Mentor: Sherrif Craig Wiggin

The career field of law enforcement has been rapidly growing in popularity over the past ten years. Following the events of September 11, 2001 the dynamic of police work changed dramatically and law enforcement agencies across the country began to examine their duties in a whole new way. The need for extensive homeland security became very apparent and departments started to modify their operating procedures accordingly. This has sparked a change in the way that officers are recruited and trained. These organizations are far more selective then they have ever been. Candidates must not only be physically fit, but they must intellectually qualified as well. When participating in the selection process, applicants will be exposed to a variety of both written and practical assessments to test their aptitude for the job. This process includes, but is not limited to, a general knowledge and education exam, physical agility test, polygraph exam, oral board interviews, psychological exam and extensive background investigations. The process is very in-depth and candidates must pass all sections in order to be hired. This thesis will examine the history of policing in the United States and act as guide to provide the reader with the information needed to effectively prepare themselves for the law enforcement hiring process.

STEM Student Housing Design Competition Finalists

Team 1: Brittany Heyman, Michael Weinstein, Benjamin Veilleux, and Michael Collins

Team 2: Mariah Mitchell, Anderson Rivera, and Elijah Werth

Team 3: Darci Drylie, Stephen Szelog, and Samantha Ward

Teams of students had one week (March 16-23, 2015) to prepare designs for new student housing. The design for the building(s) had to incorporate and address several key STEM and design components as identified by faculty, staff, administration, and other students. At the conclusion of the one-week period, students presented a report detailing their housing model addressing the general design as well as specific elements they found important. The top three groups, as determined by the quality and clarity of their reports, were invited to a special session at Undergraduate Research Day to present their models.

Immigrants and the American Education

Laurelann Easton

Mentor: Dr. Crystal Bickford

This research project identifies how the education of immigrants in America is inadequate in relation to the American expectations of how they can have successful lives. Immigrants usually come to America for a better opportunity. For this to be successful, immigrants have to know or learn English to start. A higher education, such as attending college, can be crucial to getting a good

job. To get a job that could best support the lives of immigrants, a college degree can be integral, however, without a well-paying job paying for college is out of the question. America does not have many resources available for immigrants to flourish in the economy. The research paper also addresses ways that can solve this issue, starting with an in-depth discussion on President Obama's plan to make community college free. Community colleges are more widespread than expensive institutions, which would be much more accessible to immigrants in various parts of the United States to give them a higher education. Another solution is to create more organizations that can provide English classes for immigrants, because it would help them in getting a job, and, if they will want to go to college, help them understand what is going on in their classes. The research essay will conclude with why the poor education of immigrants is an issue that should be solved, primarily by benefiting America economically and socially, such as the unemployment rate being lower if immigrants are able to obtain jobs more easily.

Personality of the Traveler

Ariana Refsdal

Mentor: Dr. Michael Hendery

I am very fascinated at what motivates people to travel. Traveling is an activity that can be done in many different ways, in various locations, and with diverse expectations. Figuring out why people travel and what encourages them to leave their comfort zone speaks to their core being and who they are. My research is structured around identifying the different personality factors connected to travel styles. I will be conducting a qualitative analysis of individuals to explore how personality influences travel behavior.

Bakery Business Plan

Lindsey Perry

Mentor: Chef Chris Decloux

I will be making a business plan for a bakery. This will include all safety and health protocols and any paperwork that must be filed with the state government and also all of the proper paperwork to start up the business. The plan will also involve a marketing plan for the business through various means such as social media and other forms of communication. The business plan will include all ingredient lists for any products and all costing information as well as prices for all items. There will be detailed descriptions about the target market and how the bakery will go about reaching these people. All budgeting will be included and a list of vendors and supplies as well as inventory sheets will be included. Anything necessary for documentation to follow ServSafe and other state protocol will be included such as temperature logs and MSDS sheets. The plan will focus on every aspect of the business from the back of house to the front of the house dealing with customers when the products leave the building.

Management Strategies, Viewpoints, and Functions and How they Function in Food Service and Hospitality Management

Celia Egan

Mentor: Chef Chris Decloux

In recent decades, it has become clear that the one-size-fits-all viewpoint of management is not an efficient or effective means of managing a business. Successful methods of management differ based on many elements of any specific organization. Planning, organizing, leading and controlling are the four major functions of a manager. Every task or objective that a manager needs to complete cannot be done successfully without the manager acting on these four functions. Managers also need a specific set of skills that give them the ability to interact with their organization and accomplish their goals. Viewpoints on management have been evolving overtime, adapting to

changes in work environment, workforce laws, and employee values. Contemporary viewpoints have joined the ranks with historical perspectives on management and changed the way organizations manage their employees. The food service and hospitality industries are unique among the world of business, providing food along with an enjoyable stay and experience. These industries require employees to work very long hours, work on holidays and weekends and often with little appreciation from customers. Managers of these businesses need to provide support to their employees in order to keep the employees motivated and the business running smoothly.

The Training of Front Desk Employees at Hotels in the Greater Boston Area

Kelley McDonough

Mentor: Dr. Ravindra Pandit

The primary purpose of this study is to explore the variety of employee training practices in the lodging industry of the Greater Boston Area. Additionally the training practices will be evaluated for their effectiveness by using a series of surveys, interviews, and questionnaires. Finally, new and adjusted training program recommendations will be given to hotel managers based on completed research. The study will help hotels develop more effective employee training practices. The study will add to existing research and literature in employee training practices in the hospitality industry.

Robot, Who Am I?

Fahad Alajmi

Mentor: Dr. Lundy Lewis

Robot, Teach Me the Muslim Prayers

Mohammad Alkhuzami, Tyler Martin, and Mohammed Zahrani

Mentor: Dr. Lundy Lewis

This project examines the possibility of programming a humanoid robot to help a person learn the Muslim Prayers. The movements, recitations, and voice of the prayers will be implemented in the robot, similar to the prayer guide by an animated cartoon character. We are interested in looking at the robot as a useful tool for some purpose, e.g. contributing to the social good, rather than a novelty. Following standard software engineering practices, we start with a problem definition and then transform the problem into a set of behavior requirements. We proceed to create a design and a prototype implementation of the behaviors based on the requirements. Finally, we evaluate the prototype and list all simplifying assumptions, successes, limitations, and problems for future work. The behaviors are implemented in the humanoid robot NAO. We give a demonstration of the behaviors and invite the audience to provide feedback, e.g. brainstorming about improvements, social responsibility, and ethical considerations.

Robot, Let's Do a Skit

Thomas K. Baylis

Mentor: Dr. Lundy Lewis

This project examines the possibility of programming a humanoid robot to act out a skit with a human counterpart. I am interested in looking at the robot as a useful tool for some purpose, e.g. contributing to the social good, rather than a novelty. Following standard software engineering practices, I start with a problem definition and then transform the problem into a set of behavior requirements. I proceed to create a design and a prototype implementation of the behaviors based on the requirements. Finally, we evaluate the prototype and list all simplifying assumption, successes, limitations, and problems for future work. The behaviors are implemented in the humanoid robot NAO [1]. I give a demonstration of the behaviors and invite the audience to provide feedback, e.g. brainstorming about improvements or ethical considerations.

Robot, Let's Play Soccer**Ryan Beretta, Jackie Walsh, and Paul Pirozzo****Mentor: Dr. Lundy Lewis**

This project explores the feasibility and practicality of robots interacting with one another for entertainment purposes. The plan for this is to program two robots to play soccer with one another and interact. The soccer field will be the floor and a physical barrier for the robots to define the boundaries. The behaviors are implemented in the humanoid robot NAO. We will give a demonstration of the behaviors and invite the audience to provide feedback, e.g. brainstorming about improvements or ethical considerations.

Robot, Teach Me American Sign Language**Nathan Guildford****Mentor: Dr. Lundy Lewis**

This project examines the possibility of programming a humanoid robot to help a person learn the American Sign Language. Using the robot you could program it to say a word and then do the motion for the word that it just said eventually leading up to a full conversation. We are interested in looking at the robot as a useful tool for some purpose, e.g. contributing to the social good, rather than a novelty. Following standard software engineering practices, we start with a problem definition and then transform the problem into a set of behavior requirements, e.g. We proceed to create a design and a prototype implementation of the behaviors based on the requirements. Finally, we evaluate the prototype and list all simplifying assumptions, successes, limitations, and problems for future work. The behaviors are implemented in the humanoid robot NAO. We give a demonstration of the behaviors and invite the audience to provide feedback, e.g. brainstorming about improvements, social responsibility, and ethical considerations.

Robot, Please Solve this Problem**Justin Hayward****Mentor: Dr. Lundy Lewis**

The purpose of this project is program a robot with an ability to help a child solve a math word problem. There are ample resources on the web to help children solve math word problems; however, to our knowledge a robot has not been programmed to provide the service. The child will interact with the robot verbally regarding the math problem, whereupon the robot will pick up on key words and expressions in order to guide the child to a solution to the problem. The robot will not simply provide the correct answer, but rather help the child reason towards the answer. In this way, we are interested using the robot as a useful tool with a purpose, in this case for education. To develop this service, the project follows standard software development practices: We start with user requirements and then transform the requirements into a design. We proceed to create prototype robot behaviors based on the design. Finally, we evaluate the prototype and list all simplifying assumptions, successes, limitations, and problems for future work. The behaviors are implemented in the humanoid robot NAO. We give a demonstration of the behavior and invite the audience to provide feedback, e.g. brainstorming about improvements or ethical considerations.

Robot, Feed My Dog**Tyler Mastromarino****Mentor: Dr. Lundy Lewis****Robot, Give Me a Personality Test****Mohammed Mostanteq and Faisal Abu Sag****Mentor: Dr. Lundy Lewis**

Robot, Tell Me a Bedtime Story

Steven Ryan

Mentor: Dr. Lundy Lewis

This project examines the possibility of programming a humanoid robot tell a semi interactive bedtime story to a child. We interested in looking at the robot as a useful tool for some purpose, e.g. contributing to the social good, rather than a novelty. Following standard software engineering practices, we start with a problem definition and then transform the problem into a set of behavior requirements. We proceed to create a design and a prototype implementation of the behaviors based on the requirements. Finally, we evaluate the prototype and list all simplifying assumption, successes, limitations, and problems for future work. The behaviors are implemented in the humanoid robot NAO. We give a demonstration of the behaviors and invite the audience to provide feedback, e.g. brainstorming about improvements or ethical considerations.

Robot, Let's Play a Number Game

Joshua Snider and Joshua Nesmith

Mentor: Dr. Lundy Lewis

On Intentions and Goodness in "Spec Ops: the Line"

Ryan Ayers

Mentor: Dr. Kiki Berk

Joseph Conrad's novella *Heart of Darkness* and its many adaptations approach central themes of madness and the uncertainty of man through a variety of differing settings. Each of these adaptations ask and present the viewer with questions of their own, or from the source, which influence the progression of each respective portrayal. Yager Games' particular rendition, "Spec Ops: The Line," questions the morality of one's actions in the context of their outcomes in contrast with their intentions. Is the goodness of the character's and player's actions determined solely by their outcome? By their intentions? Or by some combination of both? The questions posed in "Spec Ops" are presented through a series of choices that, while similar in generalized outcome, are vastly different in an emotional context which leads to another philosophical inquiry: Does the character's, and by extension, the player's emotional or psychological state have an influence on the morality an action? What is particularly interesting about this rendition of Conrad's classic is that it does not seek to give its own answers to these questions of morality; rather, it leaves the message up to the interpretation of the player. Unlike a book or a film, a video game of this nature requires the audience to both make these choices themselves and act upon them, making the player ultimately responsible for the events on the screen. This paper will seek to analyze and present a clearer image of morality in terms of the aforementioned factors using the conditions and presentation of "Spec Ops: The Line" as an example of the emotional investment an individual can have during life's many decision points.

Did Oedipus Suffer from the Oedipal Complex? A Psychological Analysis of Oedipus in Oedipus the King

Jessica Bylund

Mentor: Professor Frederick Lord

Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* is commonly known for its famous plot of Oedipus killing his father and having sexual relations with his mother. Sigmund Freud developed the Oedipal Complex in response to these events, concluding that it was a universal psychological phenomenon, but the events that transpire in the play are a result of Oedipus' sin of not knowing himself, which lead to his inability to recognize his biological parents. In mislabeling Oedipus' sin, Freud discovered Oedipus' true sin of not knowing himself without realizing it. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

explains that if a person skips over or does not fulfill their need to be loved and to belong, they will have low self-esteem and be susceptible to depression, social anxiety, and loneliness (“Maslow’s Hierarchy”). Because Oedipus did not fulfill his need to be loved and to belong, he suffered from low self-esteem and as a result, he sought out fame and glory as the King of Thebes.

Twenty Years of Life

Rachael Hali

Mentor: Professor Harry Umen

This multimedia memoir will about the experiences I have gone through since arriving at Southern New Hampshire University four years ago. It will contain what hurts, what feels good, what feels bad, and everything in-between. This memoir will hold no boundaries with themes such as self-discovery, depression, suicide, self-injury, drug and alcohol addiction, pregnancy, relationship, love, sex, and lastly sexual assault. Objectives for this thesis project will be to provoke certain types of emotions, using both photography and writing. Mixing these two mediums together will give the reader a lot more to hold on to. I want this memoir to inspire people, to help people, to make them less alone, because it's so easy to forget that we are not alone. Especially when it seems like the world is against us. With the influence, inspiration, and research of Joan Didion, Alfred Stieglitz, and other artists, I will use aspects of style, structure, tone, and mood in order to create a multimedia memoir that’s unforgettable. I want to create something beautiful. Meaningful. I want to create a piece of art that speaks for itself.

Hollywood Novel Field Research

Natasha Sudiaman

Mentor: Professor Diane Les Becquets

I am going out to Los Angeles during Spring Break to experience Hollywood life in person. I will be going to a live filming of a TV show and seeing a movie premiere. The reason for my trip is to do research for my novel in progress, *The Other Side of Desire*. My story is about a girl from Boston who becomes a famous actress and her guy best friend who she left behind back home. It's about how their lives change over the course of three years and how fame affected her. I have never been to Hollywood and therefore I lack the expertise to accurately illustrate the life of an actress. After my trip, I can finish writing the second half of my novel and properly portray the lime light life of celebrities.

Kick Butts: Tobacco-Free SNHU

Mallory Coulombe

Mentor: Dr. Andrew Martino

The purpose of my project, “Kick Butts: Tobacco-Free SNHU,” is to provide tobacco awareness and education on campus. The main objective of this initiative is to create a positive difference whether it be informing students of the current policy or changing it to adapt to the needs of the community. Conducting action research such as a student survey, information interviews, and literature reviews including guides from other colleges and universities in the United States, will be vital in determining whether a tobacco-free campus would be beneficial at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) or not. By being the Student Representative of the Safety Committee, creating a display for Kick Butts Day in March, writing to the school newspaper, communicating with Student Government Association (SGA), and putting an end to the cigarette butt waste on campus, I hope to gain a better understanding of the attitudes and opinions of the community. If the majority of the SNHU community is in favor of having a tobacco-free campus, I will initiate the necessary steps to create a positive change.

What Are You Really Eating?

Kathryn Pearson

Mentor: Professor Brigid Flanigan

With a focus on the food that is consumed in America, this research paper will thoroughly examine and explain how the food that is eaten today is not what people think it is. From produce to meat and everything in between, the food that we have come to know today is treated and pumped with chemicals. These unknown chemicals may be harmful to the human body, but most people do not think twice about it. Throughout this paper, the issue of “what are you really eating” will be addressed. Preservatives and pesticides on produce as well as chemicals in all of the food on the market today make eating seem dangerous. A scary fact is that U.S. regulations allow these amounts of chemicals into food and are aware of how “food” is treated. Through the years, more and more people are becoming aware of this, but what is being done? Is this way of consuming chemicals through everyday food changing for the better? With a rise in local farmers markets and organic products, it seems that this country has the tools to change these unhealthy habits. Eating organic and living in a chemical-free world has so many benefits for consumers’ bodies as well as the environment. When looking at other countries, like Italy, one can see that it is possible to produce food without chemicals, to some extent. Through extensive research, experiences, and interviews, this paper will scrutinize the topic of what is really being considered “food” in the United States.

Proposal for the Establishment of the SNHU Arboretum

Mike Weinstein

Mentor: Dr. Kate York

Southern New Hampshire University’s Manchester campus is currently experiencing tremendous growth. With rapid development following increased enrollment, the school’s natural and ecological heritage is quickly disappearing. This paper proposes an alternative form of development: the preservation and cultivation of $\approx 20\text{--}35$ acres of forested land on the campus for the purposes of creating an Arboretum. This research shows the immense benefits to both the school and community at large by such an initiative, including, briefly: providing unparalleled and unique educational and academic opportunities for students both on campus and at local schools; increased recruitment and retention of both highly-qualified students and faculty; serving as a flagship for support and promotion of the school’s sustainability efforts; raising local awareness of environmental and social issues; and benefiting the health and safety of the entire community. Additionally, this research shows high levels of support for the Arboretum from the community and the faculty of SNHU, as it directly supports responsible school growth, the UC Strategic Plan, the Manchester Neighborhood Health Improvement Strategy, the State of New Hampshire’s Priority Forest Landscapes, and the Governor’s proclamation of 2015 as “A Year of STEM,” among many other initiatives. With suitable forested land rapidly being swallowed by “hard” development and construction, and a critical need for unique STEM education opportunities, it is imperative that the school act now to set aside this natural landscape. The Arboretum has unequalled potential to provide the utmost benefit to the students, staff, faculty, and local and statewide communities for generations to come.

Understanding Student Success: Developing the Holistic Student

John Wescott

Mentor: Ms. Sarah Stearns

Negative Implications of No Child Left Behind and Common Core State Standards on Public Education

Megan Danis

Mentor: Dr. Crystal Bickford

The intent of this investigation is to assess to what extent No Child Left Behind and Common Core have negatively impacted public education in America between the years of 2010-2015. Several political leaders played a vital role in the implementation of these policies including the Bush and Obama Administrations. This research will discuss their perspectives about why it was important to create these policies. The investigation will also provide the perspective from public school teachers and administrators on how these policies have affected their students. Sources that will be used to support this investigation include, but are not limited to: *The Problems With Common Core* by Stahn Karp, *Myths About Content and Quality: General by the Common Core State Standards Initiative*, *Researcher Diagnoses Four Problems With Common-Core Math Implementation* by Liana Heitin, and *A Common Core of Readiness* by Robert Rothman. Author Rothman will be used extensively throughout this investigation. The audience intended would include future and current educators, students, involved and active parents, educational specialists, and politicians. Implications of these policies may include: the lowering of standards for students in order to increase state test scores, lower graduation rates, a decrease in AP testing and an increase in SAT administered tests, as well as a decrease in the educational ceiling. This study will strive to create a structured analysis of this controversial topic while including creative blends of literary methods as well, in order for a well-rounded argument and entertaining read.

Impacts of Pornography in Childhood

Alyssa LaFoe

Mentor: Dr. Jay Kosegarten

Pornography in childhood is becoming an increasing problem in our society. Most children now have unlimited access to the internet, which allows them to view adult content that may not be appropriate for their age. Viewing adult content at such a young age can greatly impact the sexual development of children. This presentation outlines the negative impacts that pornography can have on the normal sexual development of children if exposed to such material. Children exposed to pornography are more likely to become overly sexualized, sexually aggressive, confused about their sexuality, treat women as sexual objects, and engage in high-risk or early sexual encounters. Studies have found that the increase in the accessibility of the internet, children wanting a sense of autonomy, and pressure from peer groups are major contributors as to why children view pornography at such young ages. Strong correlations between youth sexual offenders and pornography use have also been documented. Further, sex education in schools and parent-child communication can help to eliminate the increasing number of youths viewing pornography and can help to lessen the amount of sexual behaviors that we are seeing in our youth today.

Using Children as Weapons of Warfare

Kelley Hayes

Mentors: Dr. Vanessa Rocco and Dr. John McCannon

As the Nazi Party began its rise to power in the 1920s, German children were systematically targeted with anti-Semitic and militaristic propaganda, ensuring their participation in the war effort. Nazi messages slipped insidiously into every aspect of children's daily life through books, film, toys and especially their education system. Lessons on hope, prosperity, responsibility and strength were integrated alongside messages of racism and intolerance. Hitler and his party were incredibly successful propagandists, effectively pursuing the most vulnerable and susceptible sector of the population.

Evolution of Health in the United States

Amanda Butler

Mentor: Professor Desmond Keefe

The evolution of nutrition in the United States over the past 20 years has grown and changed the way people think about their daily food and exercise choices. They have brought about the issues and concerns for processed food present in society, and the ideas of going organic and buying local. Influences from regions of Italy and other countries are finally having their effect on America's view of food and what is truly best to incorporate into their daily routines. The slow food movement, which has finally hit the United States, and many food providers' ways of serving food have been an influence that we will forever use to establish our fresh and local eating mentality. Social media has also had a large effect on the way people view health and exercise, turning it into one of the largest fads the states has ever seen. While there are many benefits of this, there are also downfalls including media giving people unobtainable goals or ideas of how they should look. Our society needs to take back their traditional foods and simple way of life rather than taking the easy or cheap way out by buying processed foods and not taking the time to take care of their health. Financial concerns also have a large effect on the quality of foods people in the states are able to purchase. This revolution of health foods in America should look towards the goal of informing people of the benefits of eating healthy, local products that in the future will help to benefit their life, while also helping people realize an individual's health is unique and distinctive to that person. A person's health cannot be solely based on how they look on the outside, but should be based on nourishing the individual's body and giving it the respect and care it deserves (Petrini, 2003).

Awareness and Prevention of Campus Sexual Assault: A Promotional Packet

Hannah Kump

Mentor: Dr. Andrew Lynch

College campus rape has increased and become more publicized over time and needs to be controlled. From studying national statistics, research will be conducted on its history and critically analyzed. Questions of where, why, and how did these incidents occur will be noted. In addition, the increase of incidents over the years will be addressed and plans to make them decrease will be introduced. Next, research on past campus rape prevention campaigns will be studied and dissected to see what tactics went well and what did not. From all of this research, a promotional packet will be created and hopefully dispersed to university campuses as a guide on how to handle campus rape publicly.

College Events Effect on Alcohol Consumption

Caitlyn Gancorz and Kiara Harold

Mentor Dr. Jay Kosegarten

This research is an observation of college students and the effects that a drinking atmosphere has on alcohol consumption. There will be three separate events being observed: a causal weekday (control), beer Olympic games, and St. Patrick's Day. The observation will determine if college students, on average, are consuming more alcohol during events where there is pressure to drink more than an individual normally would.

Impact of Literacy on Children Throughout History (1700s-1900s)

Kaylie Pelletier

Mentor: Dr. Marilyn Fenton

The focus of this research project is to examine childhood-based literacy texts and connect them to lessons that children from the time period were taught. Research will include what children were expected to know from each of the time periods that will be examined through this project. The time

periods that will be looked at are 1700's, 1800's and 1900's. Each time period chosen will have three different popular literary novels that children were expected to read during their schooling. It will focus on specific characters from each text, quotes from the novels, all intertwined with the research gathered from the time period. The characters will be looked at in depth and analyzed as role models, both positive and negative, for the specific children they were written for. The research is centered around the main questions of what were children taught throughout different time periods and how the focus of the lessons shifted throughout each different time period. It will include a general look at what was going on historically with these children throughout each time that solidify specific themes. These themes are "adventure," "romance," and "whimsy," which are seen throughout each of the chosen novels. Each of these themes will differ throughout each time period but remain very similar to their counterpart texts in each respective time period.

Orwell, Bradbury, and Use of Symbolism While Writing a Dystopian Novel **Briana Collins**

Mentor: Professor Frederick Lord

Dystopian Literature has been a recent trend in popular culture. These novels portray a world that seems far removed from our society, but often make subtle comments of current events and social issues. The genre of dystopian literature, though now gaining attention and revenue for young adults, has had momentum and impact since the 19th century. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell and *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury are two of the most recognized and controversial dystopian novels of the 20th century during important political and violent times of world culture. Only published four years apart, both Orwell and Bradbury were faced with the fear of communism, the Cold War, and the Korean War even as citizens of two different countries. In the height of tragedy, these men were able to create a dystopian society that reflected and emphasized the control of government, both in England and the United States, in the mid-20th century. Within their novels, they show the importance of curiosity while also expressing the intensity of political power during these times of crisis, of knowledge, and the threat of independent thinking. I intend to use the research of Orwell's and Bradbury's writing in the context of their cultural environment to help me replicate their styles of symbolism within my own dystopian novel as I write it, but with a different plot and character perspective. In writing a 12-15 page thesis reflecting and utilizing Orwell and Bradbury's talents, I hope to replicate some of their style in my own novel by commenting on the timeless current issues that plague American society such as government control, human testing, and citizens' naïve obedience to trust and follow authority.

Writing a Novel: Research and Execution

Erin Lafond

Mentor: Professor Frederick Lord

Creating a novel is an involved and complex process necessitating research, writing, and editing. It requires ambition, discipline, and commitment. This project will include three main parts: research, the novel itself, and a ten page paper examining the process and my development as a writer. The novel is young adult and fantasy and revolves around an ancient group of women designated by a deity to protect Earth. Research is necessary, because the novel will be exploring goddess archetypes and will involve a lot of weaponry and military involvement as my characters are women warriors. I will also be reading well-written and/or popular young adult and fantasy novels in an effort to improve my writing and storytelling ability as well as clearly understand the demands of the two genres. Most important to Research Day, I will be reading many books about publishing and writing in an effort to produce the best work possible.

20th Century Germany Novel

Eric Beebe

Mentor: Dr. Deborah Varat

I plan to research the various dimensions of life in Germany during the early 20th century, primarily during the times of the Weimar Republic and World War II. My research will pertain to—but not be confined to—developments in art and culture and the workings of the Nazi party. By its completion my research will be suitable to construct a believable piece of historical fiction. After compiling the sufficient amount of notes and information about life in Germany during the aforementioned period, I will begin to write a novel taking place in that setting. The story will be narrated following two alternating perspectives: that of a German artist who turns to Nazism in a time of doubt and desperation, as well as that of a Jewish journalist enamored with the cultural developments stirred by Modernism. The story will follow the two protagonists from the years of the Weimar Republic through those of World War II, giving focus to both the social and political events of the time and the personal events of the characters' lives. It will hit upon various points in each character's life and the differences their standings in society allot them. It will be a fictional piece as to provide ample liberties to make the plot as captivating a story of its own as it will be a depiction of how the various happenings in Germany affected people's lives at the time. My presentation of the project will consist of a summarized overview of my research methodology and findings, followed by a reading of select brief passages from the final product. The project will be as much of a test of storytelling as is it a conduit for research, and the final product will be considered as a draft to begin submitting for publication through the proper channels.

Color and Symbol Association Across Cultures

Alicia Frazier

Mentor: Dr. Jay Kosegarten

This paper is a further exploration of some findings by Spector and Maurer (2011). Across six experiments they examined the association between color and letters. Testing three populations, toddlers, literate children, and adults, they found that preliterate children have a different color letter association compared to literate children and adults. By asking subjects to place the letter within the colored box they associate the letter with, they found that preliterate children base color association off of shape vs. the sound or meaning. Letters with few angles, such as O and I, were associated with white, and letters with multiple angles, such as X and Z, were associated with black. Within the present study, instead of evaluating color and letter association across age, it will analyze the association across cultures. There are four groups of symbols, each with four symbols in them. There are the first four Roman symbols (A, B, C, D), and then an equivalent order and shape for alphabetical symbols in traditional Greek, Arabic, a Mandarin languages. Subjects are asked to select from one of the given colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, white, black) that they associate most with the alphabetical symbol presented. The data will be analyzed for similarities across cultures for symbol and color association, which will bring to question if the nature of the chosen color is driven by cultural experience or inherent properties of the symbols themselves such as shape or order of presentation.

Fostering Transformative Learning Through Alternative Break Programs

Beth Anderson

Mentor Dr. Peter Frost

This project will be focused on transformative learning and the role alternative break programs have in fostering this type of critical thinking in college students. Transformative learning is, "predicted on the idea that students are seriously challenged to assess their value system and worldview and are subsequently changed by the experience" (Quinnan, 1997, p. 42 as cited in Taylor, 2006).

Alternative break programs are short term, team-based service trips that immerse students in direct service and education, resulting in the creation of active citizens who are able to think and act critically around the root causes of social issues (Piacitelli, J., Barwick, M., Doerr, E., Porter, M., & Sumka, S., 2013). The assumption is that alternative break programs are an experience that challenges students to assess their value system and worldview, which creates a change in them to start thinking critically around root causes of social issues. By fostering transformative learning in every aspect of alternative break programs, students will begin to not only think critically, but also self-critically to discover what values they take ownership of.

Is SNHU Preparing its Elementary Education Majors to Teach Math Adequately in Schools— is it Enough? A Review of the Elementary Education Math Program

**Alyssa Balboni, Ashlyn Blanchard, Jacqueline Capobianco, Molly Coyne, Gregory Jain,
Kaitlin Shaughnessy, and Karen Shaw**

Mentor: Dr. Lynn Murray-Chandler

The purpose of this research project is to analyze the elementary education math program at Southern New Hampshire University and its ability to prepare students to teach math as future teachers. Data will be collected from a variety of sources in order to formulate a conclusion about the effectiveness of the program. The procedures of data collection will include interviews, surveys, and scholarly journals. Researchers will conduct interviews with professionals in the Math Department, School of Education, Praxis tutors, and Academic Advising. Surveys will be distributed and collected from students and alumni. All subjects will mainly be reflecting their feelings towards Southern New Hampshire University's elementary math program (esp. pertaining to MAT 106/206), praxis preparedness and scores, and preparedness to teach math. Participants will not be involved beyond surveying and interviewing. Compiling and analyzing the qualitative and quantitative data produced will lead researchers to a conclusion on the effectiveness of Southern New Hampshire University's elementary math program.

Behavioral Learning Theory: Filling the Gap Between Theory and Application of Reinforcement in the Classroom

Anthony Cerasi

Mentor: Dr. Jay Kosegarten

This study will investigate several behavior modification techniques, and how they are applied in the classroom. A study at Miami University explored behavior management in preschool classrooms. The most frequent type of behavior modification was positive reinforcement. The current study will use observational techniques combined with semi structured interviewing techniques. There will be an observational form to gather data regarding the observation. Some semi-structured questions will include "how do you typically respond to non-compliance in the classroom?" "Why do you use those particular strategies?" "do you ever use (anything that's has not been observed)?" Our data analysis will combine qualitative techniques with quantitative analysis, which will include non-parametric statistics. Our hypothesis is that positive reinforcement will be the most effective intervention in mainstream classrooms, while variable interval reinforcement will work the best in a special education classroom.

Exploring Pastries Through Italy's 20 Regions

Jennifer Dewar

Mentor: Professor Vicki Connell

This paper explores the many different types of pastries located in each of Italy's 20 regions. Throughout the paper, the reader will be taken on a journey through the 20 diverse cuisines found in these sections of Italy and experience the most famous pastries known to that area. Each area will

focus on a short history of that region with a focus on the development of food sources and style, and what pastry or pastries are specific to the region. The history and importance of why the pastry is famous to the area, how it is prepared, and comparison to other pastries in the different regions of Italy will be discussed. This paper will also examine the similarities and differences not only of the different pastries found in each region of Italy but also in comparison to Italian pastries in the United States. This section will focus on the similarities and differences of popular Italian pastries from Italy and the United States. For example, how does the same dessert contain similar and different qualities of the two countries regarding characteristics such as ingredients, preparation, and flavor profile? Overall, the goal of the paper is to take the reader on a journey of the many different kinds of fabulous pastries throughout Italy's 20 regions and how they are also perceived in other countries such as the United States.

Media, Tigers, and Bats, Oh My: Hysteria in the Media

Darci Drylie, Emily Renaud

Mentor: Dr. Kate York

This research explores various news outlet coverage of breaking news. In an age when media is continuously developing and reaching larger audiences, news outlets are consistently writing to outdo one another and bring readers to their story. This often leads to misrepresentation of content and an urge of public hysteria. The research examines this issue by placing a focus on the poaching and trading of tigers, as well as the spread of zoonotic diseases in bats. These two areas of news represent two different aspects of breaking coverage. By exploring the issues associated with tigers, audiences will often discover news relating to a tiger being on the loose or an attack that has occurred. Very little is reported in terms of encroachment on their natural habitat or a poaching arrest that has been made. This type of breaking news represents an area of underrepresentation. On the other hand, research has demonstrated that through zoonotic diseases in bats, the recent Ebola outbreak took center stage across news media outlets. In this particular case, coverage was misrepresented, sensationalized, and induced hysteria across large audiences. Curating performed through Health Map lends direct access to the breaking of accurate, authentic, news stories. Outside of this manner of reporting, stories are often misconstrued and duplicated to reach broader audiences. However, by curating news stories this can be prevented while the reliable source is found and accurately portrayed as the breaking source. This research examines the accurate approach to news coverage and the effects that result from misrepresentation and intensification of false news.

Food Trucks: Should You Buy One?

Lindsey Dupuis

Mentor: Dr. Susan Losapio

This business plan examines the possibility of launching a food truck for a small restaurant, Top Dog of Rockport. This study consists of industry data, which is then used to determine the feasibility and sustainability of a food truck for this particular restaurant. It captures all aspects for starting up the truck some of which being finances, employment, management structure, marketing, menu items, and the resources necessary. The end of this business plan also provides further recommendations to maximize growth and sales for the restaurant.

The American Diet Makeover

Gary Dutra

Mentor: Professor Vicki Connell

With over one-third of the American adult population suffering from obesity, and some of our biggest health issues including heart disease, stroke, and type 2 diabetes on the rise, it is no question

that health is directly correlated to the food we are putting into our bodies. What many are unaware of is that our diets directly affect us in a variety of areas beyond health issues linked to obesity such as dementia, ADHD, depression and anxiety, and more. This project will examine the different aspects of the average American diet that are much more harmful to us than we realize. The overabundance of sugar, processed wheat, and salt that are hidden in enticing packaging are what is harming us, while more often than not giving us false promises of being “healthy.” The food industry is to blame, putting profit before the welfare of customers. Many major food corporations have found exact levels of sugar and salt that hook consumers into continually buying their products, but these levels are so high that it is toxic for one’s health. This project includes a detailed version of the ideal diet based on the latest scientific findings, as well as recipes that are simple and easy to follow.

How is the Theory of Play Used in the Elementary Classroom to Teach the Concept of Even and Odd Numbers?

Christiana Galella

Mentor: Dr. Megan Paddack

This project will be focused on mathematics in Elementary Education. I will focus on the concept of even and odd numbers within grades K-2. The topic of even and odd numbers seems like a simple concept, but when trying to teach to early elementary students it becomes a bit more complex. I will be researching the use of “play” in the classroom and studying how the aspect of “play” can help students learn about the important concepts of even and odd numbers. Physician and psychiatrist Stuart Brown is the founder of the National Institute for Play and developed a framework for research that identifies seven patterns of play. These are attunement play, body play and movement, object play, social play, imaginative and pretend play, storytelling-narrative play, and creative play. Psychologist Peter Gray also defines play as being “self-chosen and self-directed.” Play has become an essential aspect of the learning environment in all grades, especially the younger ones. It has been proven that students learn better when they are in a more relaxed environment and when they enjoy their schoolwork. When play is introduced in classrooms students most likely become more engaged in the activities. With play in the classroom students are learning and they do not even realize it. I believe that using the aspects of “play” to teach even and odd numbers to students will be very beneficial. The concept of even and odd numbers can be very difficult for elementary students to grasp, however teaching through “play” will help students master this topic.

Strategic Marketing Plan for an Entirely Green Ski Resort

Bailey Grotton

Mentor: Professor Frederick Lord

Mount Plymouth is a unique ski resort in its industry of Ski Mountains because it not only has the thought of the consumer and business in mind but also nature. The Company cares for the employees and makes sure that they are being treated with respect and are able to give the customers an experience that they are unable to have anywhere else. The customers will be excited to spend time with their skiing companions to explore the unique selection of trails that the Mount Plymouth has in store. Mount Plymouth is an active participant in maintaining the Appalachian Trail and keeping the forests clean.

Online Predators

Jayna Grover

Mentor: Dr. Crystal Bickford

This project explores how the emergence of social media negatively affects the youth of our nation by putting them at risk for many online dangers, most importantly online sexual predators. Children

who use social media have no regard for online safety, which puts them at an increased risk for falling victim to an online predator. Additionally, parents, teachers and the general public lack knowledge on online safety that is needed to inform and protect our youth from online predators and many other online dangers, and this lack of knowledge is a crucial piece in preventing online predators from targeting children who carelessly use social media. Online predators use the grooming process to target and seduce their victims. Once a child falls victim, the perpetrator can easily convince them to have sexual relations that are both harmful and illegal. The public continues to do nothing to make children, parents and educators aware of the current threat online predators pose. This research project examines the legal aspect on the conviction of online predators, along with parental and public solutions to limit the amount of predators roaming the Internet. As a society it is our duty to protect the youth from such dangers. At age eleven kids should be out playing with their friends not being sexually and mentally abused by online predators. If society as a whole does not try to prevent this issue it is only going to become more of a threat as technology and social media progress. By having longer conviction time, more legal resources to track predators, increased public awareness and stricter parental involvement online predators can finally be stopped.

The All-You-Need-to-Know Grammar Guide

Sarah Hamilton

Mentor: Ms. Selina Marcille

The goal of this proposal is to preface my senior thesis, which will be a Grammar Guide for SNHU students. This guide will be directed particularly at international students, and English 099 (Fundamental Writing in English) students. I intend to divide the final product into different chapters, detailing basic grammar (parts of speech, subject/verb agreement, prepositions, sentence structure, etc.), punctuation, essay-writing (outlining, the nine paragraph essay and the five paragraph essay, structure, content, and critical thinking), citation (MLA and APA), and activities (creating examples of outlines, thesis statement formation guides, etc.). The research element of the paper will focus more specifically on some of the struggles students face while learning English at this level, as well as my own experiences as a tutor. I intend to include a section in the research on common writing styles for other cultures and languages, as these styles tend to vary greatly from American English writing formats. In this area, I intend to focus heavily on Saudi Arabian and Mandarin writings, as these two language populations make up a sizeable contingent of the international population here at Southern New Hampshire University. I intend to complete this project in the second semester of the 2014-2015 school year.

Working Towards Successful Tutor Alumni: Tutor Motivation and Learning Center Training Practices

Brittany Heyman

Mentor: Dr. Crystal Bickford

The “Tutor Alumni Project” conducted by Harvey Kail, et al at the University of Maine, has recorded a variety of results pertaining to how the peer tutoring experience provided many skills that peer tutors draw upon after graduating. As a precursor, this study examines the tutors' professional development during their experiences and their motivations to becoming a peer tutor. Through surveys and interviews, student (peer tutor) participants were asked about their... 1) desires to become a peer tutor, 2) experiences regarding their learning and development while participating in the peer tutor program, and 3) anticipated benefits to being a tutor after they graduate. These student-generated results were then compared to the results of the published “Tutor Alumni Project” in order to answer the essential research question of, “how do we best prepare peer tutors for their own long-term learning?”

SNHU Munchiez Food Truck

Gabryelle Hilts and Lenny Valdez

Mentor: Dr. Susan Losapio

Munchiez food truck began as a business plan done by three Southern New Hampshire University undergraduate students for Professor Susan Losapio during the 2014 spring semester. At the end of the semester when the class came to an end, Professor Losapio turned to one of the three students, Victoria Wiseman, in hopes to turn an assignment into a reality. She used that original business plan as the core concentration of her OL317 Small Business Management class. With many months of hard dedicated teamwork, President Leblanc gave the class the go ahead to buy and start the Munchiez food truck. The class broke into five teams: management, finance, sales, marketing and partnerships. This allowed for the class to operate as a small business and for tasks to be completed faster and more accurately. Before the 2014 fall semester came to an end, the truck was purchased. With many thinking that the hardest part was over and done with, the journey was just beginning. When the 2015 spring semester began many students had agreed to take an independent study to continue working on the truck but the size of the “original” Munchiez team was now nearly half of that. With nothing but positive energy and continuous work both in and out of the classroom from the students, Munchiez was no longer a distant dream but a reality.

Walt Disney Imagineering

Jacqueline Kaufold

Mentor: Dr. Deborah Varat

Walt Disney: a name synonymous with joy, innovation, and most importantly, magic. He was a man of big ideas and bigger dreams, and those dreams created the enormous empire that now exists under his name. Some of the biggest aspects to this empire are Disney’s theme parks. Stepping into the original park, Disneyland, is like truly stepping into Walt’s dream, and getting to experience it firsthand. But who was responsible for making this dream, and the dream of eleven other Disney parks worldwide, a reality? That would be the Imagineers. The creative and innovative minds of Imagineers have been bringing the magic of Disney to life for over 60 years (Sklar). By combining “creative imagination with technical know-how” (Sklar 51), these individuals are the ones who seamlessly create the many Disney attractions, pavilions, and resorts that span across the globe. By placing emphasis on storytelling, detail, and immersive experiences, the work of Imagineers trumps all others in terms of themed entertainment. With over 140 disciplines in Imagineering, the superior talent and creativity of these individuals is seen throughout multiple mediums. Their work is never finished, just as Walt himself once said that Disneyland would never be finished “as long as there is imagination left in the world” (qtd. in Malmberg). The Imagineers continue his legacy, and a legacy of their own, and this project is dedicated to researching their work.

The Importance of Networking

Janna Lafrance

Mentor: Professor Andrea Bard

Networking has always been a part of the business world, but with the explosion of social media and other tools for communication networking has become increasingly more important. This report not only will discuss why networking is so crucial in this day and age, but will also talk about how to achieve better networking skills, what Southern New Hampshire University can do to help develop these skills, and will also show the process and results of a panel discussion of students from SNHU that have obtained jobs through their networking skills. Some of the skills discussed include: social and interview etiquette, social media networking, and making personal connections to further networking opportunities.

Quality of Food and its Effects on Success in Post-Secondary Education

Victoria Meoli

Mentor: Dr. Crystal Bickford

This research project delves into the connection between eating habits of students and their success in post-secondary education by investigating the catering companies that provide food for post-secondary institutions. As such, the focus is not only on the quality of the food universities serve, but also whether or not healthy options are offered in addition to the motivation behind students' dietary choices to determine whether convenience or quality is a major deciding factor in food selection. The research will also address whether or not poor food and a lack of fruits, vegetables, and key vitamins can affect a student's memory, leading to a higher or lower GPA and success rates during their school career. The study will conclude by examining not only what measures have been taken, but also what can be done to provide students with a healthy, quality dining experience while at school. In conclusion, the research determines whether or not students will be successful and proposes a course on food and society, arguing the benefits such education can provide for students and the effect it can have on their eating habits, as well as other attempts at making the diet and overall life of college students healthier and consequently improving their success

Stories Uncovered: An Exploration of Book Covers and Their Impact on Readers' Buying Habits

Allison Michaud

Mentor: Professor Tracy Dow

This project comes in two parts: an analysis of the importance of design, and a creative writing piece. Despite the popular phrase "never judge a book by its cover," as readers people tend to do exactly that. Even though the book itself may be very interesting and well written, if a book cover is not successfully well designed, many readers choose to ignore that book in favor of one with a more eye-catching cover. In addition to the book's cover, the book jacket can serve as a promotional piece for a book and its design can be equally as important in promoting and selling the book. As Nicole Matthews states in *Judging a Book By Its Cover*, "book jackets are a key conduit through which negotiations take place between authors, the book trade and readers" (Matthews et al, xi). Because of this, a book's cover and book jacket can be crucial in the success of the book itself. In order to design covers for books, one must understand the themes within each book as well as its essence. This will lead to the success or failure of the book cover design.

The Value of Reading Aloud

Adam Mullen

Mentor: Dr. Marilyn Fenton

"The Value of Reading Aloud" aims to provide a credible, thorough counter-argument to theories suggesting that reading aloud is detrimental to children developing literacy skills. Multiple topics are discussed throughout the piece including, but not limited to: literacy in the classroom, literacy and child development, literacies' tie to the brain and psychological development. The argument shares theories regarding why some suggest reading aloud can be detrimental. Theories suggest that while reading aloud some children are inattentive, distracted, and inconsistently participate (Rhalmi, 2010, n.p.). While this may be true, many resources are at an educator's disposal to help remedy issues. Overall, reading aloud is an important part of teaching learners of all ages how to read, listen, and communicate.

SNHU Student Film Festival

Tyler Murphy

Mentor: Professor William Millios

I will be holding a student film festival in Walker Auditorium on March 23rd at 6:00pm. For this event, I have been researching effective ways to put on a public film festival event. This festival will highlight work that students have done as well as hopefully start a new annual tradition for film students on campus. A secondary part of the project is to reflect upon my event planning process and guide out how to successfully hold this event in the future.

How Do Teachers Provide Opportunities for Students to Demonstrate the Practice of the Content Standard 'Construct Viable Arguments and Critique the Reasoning of Others' During a Unit Lesson

Sarah Murray

Mentor: Dr. Megan Paddack

The purpose of this study is to explore what students experience in the middle school in terms of reasoning and proof. One of the standards for mathematical practice, based on the Common Core, students are to be able to construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others by the time they graduate high school. Starting this skill as early as possible will set students up for success as they continue in mathematics. I plan on observing one class and interviewing the teacher three times. The interviews will allow me to get to know and understand the teacher's view on mathematical proof at the middle school level. Observing a class period will allow me to see what opportunities this teacher provides for students to demonstrate this mathematical practice throughout the lesson.

Perceptual Representations of Physical Properties: Grasp Preparation and the Relation Between Object Size and Weight on Change Detection

Dianna Ripley, Katelyn Sabbagh, and Alyssa Douglas

Mentor: Dr. Jay Kosegarten

The proposed study will examine the relationships among object weight and size, grasp preparation, handedness, and the detection of change in the perception of visually displayed objects. In a 4 X 2 factorial design, approximately eighty subjects will be randomized into one of four conditions. Subjects will be instructed to grasp one of four differently sized and weighted balls: a large, heavy ball; a large, light ball; a small, heavy ball; and a small, light ball. All subjects will be grasping a ball while participating in a change-detection task, in which subjects will watch a computer screen while two slightly differently images flicker back and forth. Once they have detected the object that has changed, they will press a key and select the object, which the subjects perceived to have changed. They will complete 12 of these trials. The grasping conditions are the independent variables, and the change-detection task is the dependent variable. We hypothesize that change detection will improve for conditions in which the grasped object's weight—as well as its size—is congruent with the changed-object will perform significantly better at change-detection than when object weight is incongruent.

Mental Illness in Young Adult Literature and How Society Fits Into It

Jessica Sayers

Mentor: Dr. Andrew Martino

By looking at popular young adult fiction the research that is being conducted is trying to examine character development and growth in males who are going through incredibly difficult times in their lives. These difficult times include being sexually abused, depression, suicide, and trying to realize that you will be okay when life changing events happen in your life. The three books that will be

looked at are *Catcher in the Rye*, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, and *It's Kind of a Funny Story*. *Catcher in the Rye* was written by J.D. Salinger. Holden Caulfield recounts the days following his expulsion from Pencey Prep, a private school. After a fight with his roommate, Stradlater, Holden leaves school two days early to explore New York before returning home, interacting with teachers, prostitutes, nuns, an old girlfriend, and his sister along the way. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* was written by Stephen Chbosky. The book begins with Charlie discussing his first year of high school after dealing with two deaths; one being his friend Michael and also dealing with the death of his favorite Aunt Helen. Charlie begins to make friends with two senior step-siblings Sam and Patrick. Charlie eventually starts using pot and cigarettes to deal with his emotions. By the end of the school year Charlie is anxious about losing his older friends to college. At the end of the book Charlie is admitted into a mental hospital and discovers that he has been suppressing memories of him being sexually abused by his Aunt Helen. When Charlie is released from the mental hospital Sam and Patrick come to visit him and Charlie comes to terms with his past. The last book that is going to be looked at is *It's Kind of a Funny Story* by Ned Vizzini. This book is about Craig Gilner, who realizes that he isn't brilliant compared to the other kids and he sees his once-perfect future crumbling away. The stress becomes unbearable and Craig stops eating and sleeping-until, one night, he nearly kills himself. Craig's suicidal episode gets him checked into a mental hospital, where his new neighbors include a transsexual sex addict, a girl who has scarred her own face with scissors, and the self-elected President Armelio. There, isolated from the crushing pressures of school and friends, Craig is finally able to confront the sources of his anxiety. While studying these books I will look at how I felt the same ways as these characters even if I did not go through the same experiences as them. I also will be looking at different types of treatments that the characters could have used.

[Gini Index by Racial Groups in the United States](#)

Rebecca Sherwood

Mentor: Dr. Susan D'Agostino

Using regression analysis and calculus, economists measure the income concentration of a population by way of a metric known as a Gini index. A Gini index is a number ranging from 0 to 1, where 0 indicates perfect income equality in the measured population and 1 indicates perfect inequality in the measured population. In order to compute a Gini index, we draw a graph that plots the bottom x percent of income earners in a population against the percent of the income (from all available income) that the group has earned. Unlike other Gini index studies, we compute a Gini index in which we omit the top 5% of income earners in each population. As a result, our study considers income distribution in the bulk of a population without the skewed effect of high-income outliers. In addition, our study further differs from other Gini index studies because we compute Gini indexes for subsets of the United States populations by race including: Whites, non-Hispanic Whites, Blacks, Asians, and Hispanics. All of our data hails from the United States Census Bureau. Some questions that this study answers are: how successful are individual racial groups in the United States in achieving income equality? Are some racial groups faring better than others in achieving income equality? By understanding how race affects income distribution, we may inform public policy experts who are in a position to affect positive change in regard to income equality.

The Contributions of Grade Acceleration to Education

Alexis Soucy

Mentor: Dr. Crystal Bickford

Providing highly skilled students with grade acceleration opportunities has proven to be controversial over the years. Some parents and educators believe that premature grade promotion is detrimental to academic and social development while others view it as beneficial in the same

aspects. This study will prove that grade advancement is, in fact, the most suitable step for young students who are exceptionally academically inclined but are not in school systems that offer programs for gifted students. Research indicates that the positive outcomes of grade skipping outweigh any negative consequences. Furthermore, the research asserts any educators and parents who allow a mature child to skip a grade should know that the child will have little to no emotional or social side effects. At the same time, proponents of grade acceleration advise adults to take into consideration a child's maturity and social habits when considering his or her grade acceleration eligibility. The project also deciphers which eligibility requirements best predict who will be successful in the grade ahead of which they began. Several individual cases are utilized for exemplary and supportive purposes. The cases used as examples, pulled from the year of 1990 up until present day, will also assist in discovering patterns and connections among grade skippers. Ultimately, the study is not going to advocate grade skipping as a trend, but it is going to support the argument that grade advancement is the most effective route for young students who fit the qualifications to take.

Role-Playing Games

Michael Undercofler

Mentor: Professor Ed Brilliant

I will be developing a role-playing/survival video game set in medieval times. The game combines many popular elements from current role-playing games, such as World of Warcraft, Runescape, and The Elder Scrolls: Skyrim. To keep it simple, and since I am working by myself, I will attempt to include a little bit of modeling, art, animation, programming, and music. The player will be able to start the game, talk to a non-player character to receive a quest, craft a weapon, kill an enemy, and turn in the quest to level up. Additional functionality will be added based on time constraints.

Market Research for Fresh Start Farms

Kristine Welch and Corey Biggins

Mentor: Dr. Christina Clamp

Fresh Start farms is a CSA organization that works with refugee farmers in Manchester NH. We will be surveying the organizations members. This descriptive research to assess what the experience of the CSA members has been with the quality and variety and their experience of the service provided. Fresh Start Farms is operated by the Organization for Refugees and Immigrant Success (ORIS) and located in Manchester NH. The profits of the farm are wholly returned to the New American farm entrepreneurs. The surveys will be conducted by phone. The CSA has 70 members who will be contracted for the survey.