



Wright College

Student Research and Creative Scholarship Colloquium

Sponsored by the Honors Program

Spring 2020 Program

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

12:30 – 12:50 p.m. Biology 115–Human Biology

Environmental Influences on Dental Health in Isolated and Non-Isolated Communities

This presentation looks into the comparison of dental health in isolated communities (groups of people without access to modern technology) and non-isolated communities (groups of people with access to modern technology). The research specifically dives into the teeth (concerning the presence of crooked teeth and cavities) and the mandible/lower jawbone (concerning whether it developed properly or not). What is found, so far, is isolated communities, such as Northern Native Americans, have shown to not develop cavities or crooked teeth due to their natural diets and tongue posture. Poor tongue posture shows to be more common among non-isolated communities, such as most of the USA, and they tend to develop crooked teeth because of it. These different tendencies give more insight on how the teeth develop depending on the different environmental factors that affect different communities.

Presenter: Justin Ramirez

Faculty Sponsor: Akilah Easter

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

**1:00 – 1:20 p.m. Astronomy 201–Descriptive Astronomy
Two Star Clusters: 47Tucane and Pleiades**

The Hertzsprung–Russell diagram, abbreviated as the H–R diagram, is a scatter plot of stars which shows different relationships. In this presentation, the H–R diagram is used to classify stars according to their luminosity, spectral type, color, temperature and evolutionary stage. In addition, the H–R diagram is used to determine the age of two clusters of stars and to help characterize what types of stars are in each cluster.

**Presenter: Brandy Cisneros–Harvey
Faculty Sponsor: Justin Lowry**

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

**1:30 – 1:50 p.m. Biology 227–Human Structure and Function II
“Type III Diabetes Mellitus: Examination of Insulin Resistance and Oxidative
Stress in Pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s Disease”**

Most recent estimates indicate that by 2050 about 140 million people will suffer from mild Alzheimer’s Disease, particularly in developed countries (Ginneken, 2019). Research shows that previously separated pathological mechanism of Type II Diabetes Mellitus, oxidative stress, and insulin resistance may all be interconnected in Alzheimer’s Disease development and progression. These shared mechanisms of response are termed Type III Diabetes Mellitus, mild Alzheimer’s Disease or “Brain Diabetes”. The purpose of this research is to examine the potential contributions of T2DM, insulin resistance and oxidative stress to Alzheimer’s Disease pathogenesis and progression. Additionally, this presentation will address the importance of finding the linkages between Type II Diabetes Mellitus, oxidative stress, and insulin resistance in establishing prospective ways of prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease.

**Presenter: Dominika Machlowska
Faculty Sponsor: Mira Kolodkin**



Wednesday, April 15, 2020

**2:00 – 2:20 p.m. Speech 101–Fundamentals of Speech Communication
Chicago Segregation and Fair Housing Law**

Living in Chicago, historically the most segregated city in the United States of America, offers an interesting perspective when discussing the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Through unjust Supreme Court rulings and the failed justice system, the path to upholding basic Civil Rights has been difficult, disastrous, and an important part of our American History. Bringing forward the historical and political foundations minority populations have endured is critical in understanding why Chicago is racially divided, what are the 7 protected classes, and what are our rights defined in fair housing law.

Presenter: Dianna Garzón
Faculty Sponsor: Christy Carter

Thursday, April 16, 2020

**9:30 – 9:50 a.m. Literature 112–Drama
Opsis and Samuel Beckett: The Analysis of Spectacle and Absurdity in *Happy Days* and *Play***

Among six Aristotle's elements of drama, the spectacle, takes its last unrecognized place. Aristotle himself in "Poetics" ranks those components in the following order: plot, character, thought, diction, song, and least of all – spectacle. Aristotle calls spectacle "least artistic", which contradicts its function in drama. The importance of spectacle becomes even more significant in analysis of complex modern plays such as *Happy Days* or *Play* by Samuel Beckett. The purpose of this research is to examine the function of the spectacle in relation to perception of modern plays as well as to other Aristotelian elements of drama.

Presenter: Dominika Machlowska
Faculty Sponsor: Vincent Bruckert

Thursday, April 16, 2020

10:00 – 10:50 a.m. Literature 115–Great Books Seminar

“William Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* and the Elizabethan and Jacobean Revenge Tragedy Tradition.”

In this session, students from Lit. 115 HON9 will discuss the topic of the Revenge Tragedy tradition in Early Modern literature. The specific literary works include Seneca’s *Thyestes*, Thomas Kyd’s *The Spanish Tragedy*, Christopher Marlowe’s *Doctor Faustus*, William Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, Thomas Middleton’s *The Revenger’s Tragedy*, and Daniel Webster’s *The Duchess of Malfi*. Students will examine some of the specific themes and questions of these works, including those topics they will more fully address in their 2500–3000–word final research papers. Students will also include highlights from their powerpoints on specific works and themes of the course.

Presenters: Literature 115–Honors Students
Faculty Sponsor: Michael Petersen

Thursday, April 16, 2020

11:00 – 11:20 a.m. English 102–Composition II

Transfiguration of Women in Film

In American culture, Hollywood and the film industry play a key role in shaping what is a socially acceptable behavior and appearance. Through the negative propaganda the industry promotes, such as an unrealistic body image and the silence of women who have been harassed, film and media has begun to move in a positive direction that encapsulates the diversity of women. With the breakthrough of the #MeToo movement, women all over American and Hollywood have decided *enough is enough*. Women *need* to be equally represented on and off screen, *real* women need to be represented on and off screen, and the *silencing* from the industry could no longer evoke fear in women any longer. With the dramatic social transfiguration women and feminism have undergone, modern films have made progress in reshaping roles for women such as in *Harriet*, *Hustlers*, and *Knock Down the House*.

Presenter: Dianna Garzón
Faculty Sponsor: Bridget Roche

Thursday, April 16, 2020

**11:30 – 11:50 a.m. English 102–Composition II
Mass Incarceration of Women of Color**

As an Honors Supplement to English 102, I conducted research on bias in the criminal justice system as it relates to women of color, specifically focused on mass incarceration. I examined how various forms of media portray this issue. I based my research on films, documentaries, books, podcasts, online articles, and celebrity advocacy related to this topic. I wrote two letters to the state House representative and senator of the Wright College district and hosted a school-wide event to engage the student community to become more politically educated and active. At the event, students learned more about my research, signed my pre-written letters often including a personal connection to the issue, and learned more about voting. I will be presenting a speech referencing my research and reflecting on my event.

**Presenter: Stephanie Brink
Faculty Sponsor: Bridget Roche**

Thursday, April 16, 2020

**12:00 – 12:20 p.m. English 102–Composition II
The Shift in Representation of Women in STEM and Film**

Throughout history, male scientists have overshadowed their female counterparts often taking credit for the other's achievements. Until recently, women have neither had significant STEM roles in the film industry nor been properly accredited for their contributions to science. The trend of female underrepresentation in STEM has been reflected in many films such as *The Right Stuff*, however, there has been a perceived shift encapsulated in films such as *Hidden Figures*. In today's culture, women are beginning to have a more equal representation, but there are still many women pertinent to today's advances left in the dark.

**Presenter: Pasquale Sanfelice
Faculty Sponsor: Bridget Roche**



Honors Program Coordinator: Professor Natasha Todorovich

*Faculty sponsors: Professors Vincent Bruckert, Christy Carter, Akilah Easter,
Mira Kolodkin, Justin Jowry, Michael Petersen, and Bridget Roche*

Thank you to our student presenters and to our faculty sponsors!