

**Wright College**  
**Undergraduate Research Events**



**FALL 2019**

**Student Research and Creative Scholarship  
Colloquium**

**&**

**Influential Student and Faculty Symposium**

# Student Research and Creative Scholarship Colloquium-Day One

*Sponsored by the Honors Program*

**Wednesday, November 20**

**12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**S-247**

12:00pm – 12:20 p.m. Welcome!

**12:30 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. Social Psychology**

**“Does the Internet Improve Social Relationships?”**

The purpose of this research paper is to identify the positive and the negative effects on social relationships through media. We are providing evidence to better support our hypothesis regarding the internet causing more harm than being beneficial. We have gained insight that these effects make a difference in the short term and as well as the long term of an individual's life. We have also been able to find some ways going forward to resolve these negative issues that come up.

Presenters: Brandy Cisneros-Harvey & Muhammad Komail [Psychology 211]

*Faculty Sponsor:* Dr. Janet Pollock

**12:55 p.m. -1:15 p.m. English Composition**

**Opportunity in the United States Educational System**

In the American education system, we have a misconception that opportunity is more prominent than in other countries such as Asia. While education is enforced, the amount of academic exposure is significantly lower than their successful counterparts. The United States averages 180 school days, while Asian education systems surpass that by roughly 100 days. As Asian students are rigorously worked, they tend to score better than Western students. This is not a result of relying on status quo, but of building success with their own hands through the means of determination. While Asian schooling is a unified system with a longer academic calendar, select American schools also follow longer academic exposure. Mimicking the cultural legacy of the rice farmers, KIPP schools allow for opportunity to exist within the American education system unlike mainstream American schools. Utilizing the culturally embedded norms of the rice farmers and applying it to an American educational institution, KIPP schools create successful individuals in the form of outliers.

Presenter: Dianna Garzon [English 101]

*Faculty Sponsor:* Vincent Bruckert

**1:20 - 1:40 p.m. English Composition**

**Money Misfortune: An Analysis of Inequality in Elementary Education**

Low income students are at a severe educational disadvantage compared to students of high incomes. Once these low income students return from summer break, they retain less information than students of higher income. Families of higher income are able to have their child pursue summer classes or activities that keep them engaged in continuous learning. This is not often the case for students who come from low income families. As a result, low income students lack educational opportunities that stimulate their learning, so they forget the information learned in school.

Presenters: Faith Ghelfi [English 101]

*Faculty Sponsor: Vincent Bruckert*

# **Student Research and Creative Scholarship Colloquium-Day Two**

*Sponsored by the Honors Program*

**Thursday, November 21**

**9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**S-247**

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Welcome!

**9:30 - 9:50 a.m. Humanities: Women's and Gender Studies**

**Privilege and Oppression: Mass Incarceration**

A pair of double exposure film photos layer text art from exhibits at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago over police activity in front of a McDonalds. The photographs explore the realization that one need not experience first-hand nor be part of the demographics who are at extreme risk of imprisonment to learn and speak up about the injustice of mass incarceration. Racially targeted mass incarceration deteriorates individual mental, emotional, and physical health in addition to fueling the plethora of dangerously dysfunctional cycles in these communities. Their voices are not heard and are in more danger to have their vote suppressed, which inhibits them from participating in the political discussion and dismantling of the systems that force them to unjustly suffer. Those who are members of the privileged group have a moral obligation to act as an amplifying voice for the vulnerable and oppressed.

Presenters: Stephanie Brink [Humanities 144]

*Faculty Sponsor: Valerie Pell*

**9:55 - 10:50 a.m. Great Books Seminar/Topics in Literature**  
**Moral Corruption in Literature**

In this session, students from Lit. 115 HON9 will discuss the topic of moral corruption in literature. The specific literary works include Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Pardoner's Introduction, Prologue, and Tale"; Feodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*; Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*; William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*; Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*; Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; and Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Students will examine some of the specific themes and questions of these works, including those topics they will more fully address in their 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*

## **Influential Student and Faculty Symposium**

*Sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa*  
**Thursday, November 21**  
**12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
**S-247**

**12:30 – 1:15 p.m. Faculty Presentation**  
**Math in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

A college level math course is a requirement for most college degrees. Professor Julius Nadas of the Wright College Math Department feels that for many students our current courses act like a stumbling block that prevents them from getting a degree and do not provide them with skills that they need in other disciplines in school or will need in the future after they graduate. Courses today still focus on skills like converting fractions to decimals using manual calculations and memorizing multiplication tables. These skills were crucial fifty years ago, but they are no longer needed, nor should they be used today. Technology has provided us with tools that are more efficient and less error prone. While it is true that mathematicians need to develop abstract thinking skills that will enable them to create and prove theorems, the rest of the world needs to be taught the best way to find answers to problems that they face. Scientists, health care professionals, businessmen, and most other people need to learn to use technology to get solutions to questions.

The presentation will start with a comparison of common skills that are needed today with skills we needed fifty years ago. As the first illustration, he looks at calculating compound interest and shows how an app can solve such problems without having to use algebra and complicated formulas. His next example is to use the app to calculate probabilities. The important thing here is the vocabulary and to understand the difference between a discrete sample space and a continuous sample space. To do this he explains the difference between counting something and measuring it. He then addresses how statistics is used by everyone to make

decisions. It is used everywhere such as in politics, in science, in business. This is one area in which mathematicians have already developed scientific calculators and online software. It should serve as an example for all of math.

Presenter: Professor Julius Nadas

**1:20 - 2:00 p.m. Student Presentation**  
**The Birth of Vice: Antiheros of the Popular Culture**

The purpose of this presentation is to analyze further the fragile parts of human character, using philosophical ideas and dissecting elements of the popular culture the audience faces every day. Precisely, the presenter will use the definition of the vicious man provided by Aristotle's Nichomachean Ethics to describe the character of the vicious man, while also using elements of the popular culture to associate situations and circumstances that yield the deviance of the character of the man. In the presentation, the presenter will be using two elements of the popular culture: the movies "The Joker" and "American Son" and will compare the cultural remarks of each movie in its portrayal of the creation or division of the individual character. Using "The Joker", the presenter will elaborate on how a narcissistic and negligent culture can provoke the deviance and later madness of a man with a weak mentality. The presenter then intends to analyze the character of the Joker, his fall into vice portrayed in "The Joker", and posterior decay into bestiality and anarchy portrayed in "The Dark Knight". While using "The American Son", the presenter will discuss how the system of mental segregation, the deliberate use of stereotypes, lack of empathy, and the categorization accompanied by a cultural feeling of rejection pushes African American boys into what is considered "vicious", deviant of the norm. Finally, the presenter will also discuss how vice evolves into bestiality in the weak mind of an individual using the scheme of the legend of "La Llorona". The presenter will use the story to analyze different stages of vice, incontinence, ignorance, and posterior bestiality presented by the main character of the legend. After having used all these elements to analyze and explain the birth of what the presenter considers vicious behavior, or vicious conduct, the presenter will conclude with the idea that many villains and antiheroes have not been born of disease or will, but of the environment and situations around them.

Presenter: Pahola Mercedes Nova

**All presentations will be held in room S-247 in the Science Building.**

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

