Annual Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium

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Wednesday, April 25, 2012

3:00-6:00 p.m.

Coca-Cola Commons
Dobbs University Center
Spring 2012 Undergraduate Research Symposium  
April 25, 2012  

List of Presenters

HUMANITIES/CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

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Blau, Michael  

**The 1970 Jordan Crisis: Superpower Politics and the Search for Peace in the Middle East**  
Mentor: Ken Stein, Ph.D., Department of History  

**Abstract**

In the fall of 1970, as the Vietnam War raged, civil war rocked the tiny Middle Eastern kingdom of Jordan. What began as a brazen airline hijacking by radical Palestinian guerrillas culminated in a brief but fitful contest for control of Jordan, fought between King Hussein's loyal Jordanian regular troops and the Palestinians, who were eventually supported by invading Syrian armored divisions. As Hashemite Jordan was one of the United States' staunchest allies in the Arab world – and the Syrian invasion was perceived to have Soviet backing – the situation quickly escalated into a full-blown superpower confrontation.

Recently released transcripts, policy papers and memoranda sourced at the Nixon Presidential Library (thanks to SIRE funding) have illuminated this historical event, providing particular insight into the strategic calculations of the United States during a riveting period of confrontation with the USSR in the Middle East. The documents illustrate the tensions and infighting that rent the Nixon administration, and add new subtleties to our understanding of the crisis. Specifically, evidence from the Nixon archives suggests that the Israeli forces may have secretly engaged Syrian forces in Jordan, and that, conversely, Nixon administration decision makers considered the crisis a critical success for the prospects of their "peace offensive" in the region. These findings raise the question of why, despite a victory for U.S. influence in the region and outreach from the Egyptians immediately after the crisis, substantive steps towards peace did not resume until after the 1973 'Yom Kippur War' between Egypt and Israel.

Cooper, Kirsten

**A Rivalry Ended? France and Austria during the Diplomatic Revolution and Seven Years War, 1756-1758**  
Mentor: James V.H. Melton, PhD., Department of History  

**Abstract**

After more than two hundred and fifty years of rivalry, France and Austria concluded an alliance. Known as the Diplomatic Revolution of 1756, it redrew the traditional political alignments in Europe. I investigated some of the effects that the tradition of animosity had on the relationship between the newly created allies during the Seven Years War (1756-1763). The years of rivalry contributed to a virulent tradition of mistrust and suspicion, which was colored by specific political stereotypes garnered from years of conflict. I used diplomatic correspondence, gathered through archival research and published sources, from political elites in each state. By looking at the diplomatic correspondence of three of these actors, Maria Theresia, Kaunitz, and Bernis, we can see how the tradition of distrust influenced the political relationship between France and Austria. The Seven Years War placed a significant amount of stress on the new relationship and created opportunities for this tradition of distrust to color interactions. By analyzing how these three individuals discussed the actions of the other country and what motivations they assigned to these actions, we can see that the rivalry was still extremely potent, even during the alliance. This not only highlights the effects of one of Europe's longest and most vicious rivalries, one which is often undervalued, but it also demonstrates the value of exploring the relationship between political events and intellectual, cultural, and social trends as mutually influential factors that shape
history.

Copello, Bianca

**Codeswitching in the Japanese Band ONE OK ROCK**
Mentor: Donald Tuten, Ph.D., Department of Spanish

**Abstract**
For one of the most homogenous and monolingual countries in the world, Japan’s music contains a surprising amount of English in its lyrics. In 2001, 65% of top-ranking songs contained English. Using the band ONE OK ROCK as a case study, I explored the place and value of English in their lyrics. It was found that ONE OK ROCK does not follow the usual patterns established in other codeswitching studies, for example, the usage of code ambiguation. Instead, they show significantly higher use of English, and furthermore, use English not as a supplement to their lyrics, but as a direct conduit for their messages. By examining the lyrics, it became evident that ONE OK ROCK’s values coincide with values that are commonplace in American and Western society: self-expression, individuality, etc. These values are at odds with Japanese society and often carry negative connotations in Japanese. Thus, it is not surprising that ONE OK ROCK relies on English, the language that best indexes these values, to communicate its message. The significance of codeswitching in order to circumvent cultural constraints is a tribute to the inextricable link between language and culture.

Culnan, John

**In-classroom code-switching by advanced American students of Spanish**
Faculty Mentor: Donald Tuten, Ph.D., Department of Linguistics

**Abstract**
The concept of code-switching is integral to the understanding of the identities of many bilingual speakers. For the purpose of this study I define code-switches in accordance with Poplack, who categorizes them as uses of one language that are not at once phonologically, morphologically and syntactically integrated into another language, but are being used in the context of the second language (2000). Studies that seek to understand the usage of code-switching by non-native bilingual speakers have been few and far between, and those that further evaluate native speakers of English studying a second language are even less common. This study seeks to examine the uses of code-switching by individuals in upper-level classes of Spanish as a second language in ways that reflect an understanding of the language and that are not used as a linguistic crutch (non-compensatory code-switches). In order to study these code-switches, I recorded two upper-level Spanish courses at Emory, then held individual interviews with some of the participants to examine the extent to which my presence in the classroom may have altered the interactions that took place. Results show that a large majority of the code-switches produced during the class sessions were in fact non-compensatory. Furthermore, non-compensatory code-switches appeared in 15 grammatical categories and were used for four reasons: emphasis, clarification, identity, and crutching.
Denlinger, Kristin

Decipherment Strategies

Abstract
Millions of secrets about ancient civilizations are encoded in the writing they have left behind. While archaeologists and anthropologists analyze ancient ruins to better understand ancient cultures, cryptologists analyze ancient writing linguistically with the hopes of eventually understanding the messages ancient people have sealed in writing. Although there are many odds working against decipherers, often they do not know what type of writing system was used or what the encoded spoken language was like, there have been some incredible past decipherments. Champollion deciphered Egyptian hieroglyphs with the help of Napoleon’s Rosetta Stone, Michael Ventris deciphered Linear B in the 1950s, and the Mayan code was just cracked in the 1980s. There are many ancient scripts that remain undeciphered, such as the Indus River Valley Script and Linear A. By analyzing the strategies that have helped past decipherers, we can obtain the skills that might be necessary for new epigraphic endeavors. The writing system can be classified as phonetic, syllabic or logographic. We can attempt to understand its morphology and syntax. We can hypothesize about which language it could be related to. Most importantly, however, we can attempt to identify proper nouns, which are often maintained cross-linguistically, and eventually give the symbols phonetic value. With these tools we can get closer to understanding ancient writing systems and learning about their cultures.

Hazera, Eduardo

Singing between Genres: Hearing Musical Hybridity as Genealogical Identity in North India
Faculty Mentor: Tong Song Lee, Ph.D, Department of Music

Abstract
When a classical vocalist starts singing at a concert in North India, the audience can often hear the vocalist’s hereditary identity. Audience members may commend the musician for authentically performing his genealogical style or perhaps deride him for adulterating the aesthetics of his ancestors. These audible identities emerged within gharana organizations that were formed in the nineteenth-century: a gharana is a lineage of vocalists who share a unique musical style that distinguishes their hereditary organization from other gharanas. For instance, a style of open-throated vocal projections in the high-classical genre of khyal is easily identified as a characteristic of the Agra gharana. Almost every other gharana reflects this process in which collective identity is articulated within the genre of khyal by transmitting a unique style across multiple generations. Conversely, vocalists in the Benares gharana create collective identity by hybridizing a diversity of musical characteristics instead of perpetuating a singular stylistic sound. I heard this hybrid identity when I was studying music in India among a cohort of vocalists who identified as the Benares gharana. In this presentation, I interpret a performance by one of my vocal teachers – Mishra – as an example of the stylistic hybridity in the Benares gharana. By combining musical structures from the high-classical genre of khyal and the semi-classical genre of thumri, Mishra performs the aesthetics of his ancestors and shows that vocalists in North India were creating identity through hybridity nearly 200 years before the fashionable discussion of processual identities in the context of postmodernity.
Herrington, Bethaney

**Students of a Nation's Recovery**
Mentor: Michael Tebere

**Abstract**
The objectives of this case study are two-fold. Firstly, to compile a narrative of post-conflict Northern Uganda through the lenses of twelve U.S. students, and secondly, to better understand what it means to be a U.S. student in this context. Since Spring 2009, the School for International Training has hosted students from around the United States in the post-conflict region of Northern Uganda. In Fall 2011, a new cohort of students set foot in “The Pearl of Africa” and have had a wide array of experiences that will likely shape their perceptions of Northern Uganda and its recovery forever. This study seeks to tell their stories.

This research was conducted over the course of four weeks in Gulu, Uganda. Twelve semi-structured interviews were held with twelve SIT students studying in the Acholi Region. One informal interview with the academic director and one focus group with six of the SIT students were also conducted. All interviews were voice recorded, transcribed, and coded for data analysis.

Regarding findings, according to the twelve SIT students, the most broken reality of post-conflict Northern Uganda is its complete marginalization from the South. The most beautiful things about the Acholi people in their post-conflict process are their hospitality and their resilience. One of the hardest things for U.S. students to understand about the post-conflict situation is the seeming culture of dependency on the West. And lastly, what one reads in a book cannot compare to what one lives in a community. There is much to be gleaned from the pursuit of true global citizenship education and this research seeks to strengthen literature surrounding such ambitions.

Jordan, Callie

**Advertising: An Intercultural Perspective on Austria and America**
Faculty Mentor: Marianne Lancaster, Ph.D, Department of German Studies

**Abstract**
Despite the inevitable force of globalization, the geographic, linguistic, and cultural environments in any given country significantly impact the products and services that are ultimately marketed and the way in which this marketing takes place. The purpose of this study is to explore the advertising industry of Austria, with the expectation that cultural influence dominates the advertising strategy, differentiating the Austrian alternative from its American equivalent. To examine this hypothesis, three major components of the Austrian advertising industry were considered: the actual advertising materials and media, the competitive landscape of the industry, and the dynamics of agency-client relationships.

The research of the study was conducted using resources such as trade journals, newspapers, biographical texts on agency development, and databases with international records that relate to the advertising industry. A qualitative analysis was employed to dissect the cultural influence on factors such as strategy and organizational structure, while a quantitative analysis demonstrated the cultural influence on media choice and overall advertising spending.

Using this method, it was found that the Austrian advertising strategy differs more from the American style than from the German style. There appears to be a great deal of consistency within the German-speaking world, given that these countries (Germany, Austria and Switzerland) often operate as one
singular business region. Still, the advertising industry tends to be significantly malleable to the cultural distances between Austria and the United States, although these distances continue to shrink.

Kang, Hyeok Hweon

**Big Heads and Bird Guns: The Korean Military Revolution**
Faculty Mentor: Tonio Andrade, Ph.D, Department of History

**Abstract**
After the introduction of firearms via the Imjin War (1592-1597), the Chosŏn dynasty of Korea underwent a military revolution in the seventeenth century. It evolved into an active gunpowder nation by adopting musketeers into the mainstay of its army, proliferating military manuals, revamping the line-of-command, and manufacturing firearms. Reaching its pinnacle during the reign of Hyojong (1649-1659), this crescendo of military strengthening in Chosŏn enabled the success of the Big Heads, nickname for Korean musketeers, vis-à-vis the intruding Russian Cossacks in Northeast China. The Korean military revolution of the seventeenth century and its manifestation in the Amur frontiers attest to Korean capabilities to successfully adapt to the challenges of early modern warfare, which increasingly harnessed the power of firearms and disciplined soldiers. Contrary to the notion that East Asians were militarily stagnant and passive in the early modern era, the Koreans were competitive participants in the Eurasian-wide arms race for gunpowder technology.

Kaplan, Chelsea

**The Circus of Myself**
Faculty Mentor: Timothy McDonough, Department of Theatre Studies

**Abstract**
We all tell ourselves stories. We use them to construct our identities and to answer questions about who we are and what we believe. Our self-narratives influence our actions and patterns of behavior. The Circus of Myself is a self-written, one-woman show, inspired by the concept that theater can be used as a method of healing both artist and audience. The show filters my own stories and patterns of behavior through archetypal circus characters, in order to create greater awareness of how these characters affect my daily life. My research on drama therapy, and particularly on the work of a theater company called the Mirrors, helped me to develop my piece. I wanted to discover how this type of theater gives performers the opportunity to heal and how it affects an audience. Through my process, I realized that the characters that I developed are part of me, but they are not fully who I am. Now I have a choice whether or not to play them – instead of allowing them constantly to play me. Feedback obtained by way of talkbacks, comment cards, and an email survey provided evidence that this work was meaningful for audiences, as it inspired them to reflect on their personal personas. By performing my cast of circus characters, I allowed people to see themselves more clearly in the mirror of myself.
Lorenz, Lucia

"Der Mangel an Schönheit": Life in the Stasi Prison Hohenschönhausen
Faculty Mentor: Hiram Maxim, Ph.D, Department of German Studies

Abstract
This project is a linguistic discourse analysis of prison narratives from former inmates of Hohenschönhausen, the main Stasi prison in Berlin. The Stasi, a name for the former German Democratic Republic’s Ministry for State Security was a tool of the socialist state, the German Democratic Republic, from the late 1940s until 1989. Because of the magnitude of the Stasi apparatus and the extreme tactics used by its officers the topic of the Stasi is an exciting field. Unfortunately, there is little to no scholarship on the Stasi prison system from the perspective of its former inmates. The main work that this analysis draws from is Gefangen in Hohenschönhausen, a collection of personal narratives from former Hohenschönhausen inmates. This project’s analysis focuses on three former political prisoners who offer vibrant and extensive narratives: Erica Wallach, a woman who was accused of being an American spy, Karl Willhelm Fricke, a journalist who criticized the GDR for political oppression, and Horst Fichter, a man who openly criticized the controlling political party, the SED. This project uses a functional linguistic discourse analysis of these autobiographical historical recounts in order to highlight the effects of surveillance and manipulation on a group of the Stasi’s victims. This analysis contributes to the insufficient body of academic GDR scholarship surrounding first person accounts and perspectives of the Stasi prison system and, in doing so, draws attention to the contradictions between the GDR principles of egalitarianism, equality, and justice and the practices of surveillance and control of its citizens.

Maddox, Camille

The Concept of the African Diaspora and Resettlement in Ghana
Faculty Mentor: Dianne Diakite, Ph.D, Department of Religion

Abstract
The purpose of this research is to identify interactions between Ghanaians and diasporans of African American and Caribbean descent in Ghana from historical to present times. Interactions between people of African American, Caribbean and Ghanaian descent span from the transatlantic slave trade to present day. Their interaction has had a significant influence on Ghana’s affairs. The feeling of diasporic responsibility held by diasporans has led to a strong diasporic presence essential to Ghana’s economy in the form of tourism numbers and revenues. Diasporans wish to reconnect to Ghana culturally while helping to rebuild Ghana through sustainable development. There still remains a strong bond between blacks in the diaspora and Ghana, a bond that will continue despite negative interactions between diasporans and some Ghanaians. This bond will continue to aid in the development of Ghana, while adding meaning to the existence of the African Diaspora.
Radkins, Jeremy

Deconstructing a Movement: Problematic Media Coverage of Occupy
Faculty Mentor: Debra Vidali, Ph.D, Department of Anthropology

Abstract
Using techniques of critical theory and critical discourse analysis, we examine how the mainstream media coverage of the Occupy movement succeeded in imposing a false dialectic on the values and energy of the Occupy protesters, one which ultimately sought to render unprecedented power and all-encompassing spirit of the protests impotent. The paper first engages with Paolo Firere first, in an effort to concretize my understanding of the concept of a dialectic and to introduce the idea of agentive vs passive consumers of information. Then, drawing from the work of Ernest Morell, we see how critical analysis of the media helps shed light on why this dialectic is false, and why it ill-served the Occupy protestors. Social theorists and media scholars such as Adorno & Horkheimer are used to deepen the discussion by highlighting the crucial relations between media, democracy, and society. They are used further, to help make a case for why this type of analysis of media coverage is vital for a to any healthy democratic society. Some quotes from primary news sources, both alternative and mainstream, will appear with the discussion of these topics as supporting evidence. These quotes have been gathered over the better part of a year, and represent a small part of a larger corpus of data.”

Seidenberg, Kala

Movement Invention, Context, and the Arrival of Meaning in Choreographic Works
Faculty Mentor: Anna Leo, MFA Department of Dance

Abstract
One of the most discussed ideas in modern dance is the concept of movement for movement’s sake, which brings to question whether or not movement has to have meaning associated with it. Can movement material be engaging and interesting simply by its physicality or aesthetic qualities, or is there something inherently meaningful about any choreographic work plainly because the human body is the medium being used? For my research I am questioning not only this idea of meaning and if and how it is created, but also the non-movement elements of a piece that can add a layer of context to the work. Choreography in contemporary modern dance includes lighting, music, set design, and costuming that create an environment for and sometimes a relationship with the movement phrase material. With the tremendous amount of external elements in contemporary works, how much impact does the movement have? To investigate the weight of meaning, context, and vocabulary in a piece of choreography, I have created 6 dances from the same movement. A solo, quartet, and large ensemble piece were choreographed from the same core phrase material. Each dance was then duplicated, with only the music, costuming, and lighting elements being altered. The effects of such changes were explored and analyzed from the view of the choreographer, performers, and viewers. While movement can create its own tone and meaning, I have experienced the ability of contextual components and intention to dramatically transform a piece of choreography.
Smith, Randolph

Gestural Origins of Language as an Evolutionary Explanation for the Digital and Analogic Properties of Human Communication
Faculty Mentor: Bradd Shore, Ph.D, Department of Anthropology

Abstract
The evolution of manual object manipulation laid the foundations for the development of syntactic grammar. Once biological evolution had human brain and body capable of supporting language, the capacity for hierarchically organized action and thought involved in complex behaviors like stone tool construction was co-opted to support the feature of compositionality in language. These two abilities – hierarchical action and compositional syntax – were mutually selective in the cultural evolution of the modern mind and co-evolved in an expanding spiral from an initially analogic form of communication into a fully digital and productive linguistic system. Dexterous hands originally adapted for object manipulation came to serve the dual functions of analogic gesture and a digital system of initially manual arbitrary signs, although the truly compositional and productive qualities of language ultimately became restricted to the vocal modality. This process can be correlated with the evolution of lithic technologies and other behavioral correlates in the archaeological record.

Watts, Charlotte

The Dissimulation of Francesca Woodman
Faculty Mentor: Jason Francisco, MFA, Department of Visual Arts

Abstract
I was wandering the halls of the Pompidou Centre in Paris the first time I encountered Francesca Woodman’s haunting images in person, and I was immediately captivated. Previously, I had seen her work printed in books and was reminded of my own. As I continued to learn more about her, I discovered that the similarities extended beyond photographic style to having had similar life experiences. For example, Woodman’s summer home in Florence, Italy, was mere kilometers from my grandfather’s olive grove in Vaggio. In my series, The Dissimulation of Francesca Woodman, I have created images inspired by Woodman’s photographs and tried to understand the thought processes behind her inspired and beautiful works. In my own images, I transmogrify the feminine form in various decaying interiors through the use of long exposures, just as Woodman did herself. The resulting images from this ritualized process of creating have an aspect of performance. After all that I have learned from my research about Woodman, I believe that my approach to this series with the dedicated purpose of interpreting her work has allowed me to make the penultimate connection with her art. This study and reinterpretation of another’s art has helped me toward reaching a pivotal place in finding my own artistic vision.
Wolpe, Ariel

**Inter Faithful Music**
Faculty Mentor: Bobbi Patterson, Ph.D, Department of Religion

**Abstract**
In an ever-changing culture, we find music especially rewarding, for music is among the most tenacious cultural elements. Spirit Sounds: A Collaboration of Inter-Faithful Musicians will make key contributions to the field of interfaith music studies via a multi-disciplinary approach of religion, theology, ethnomusicology, music composition and creative writing through collaborative song creation and performance. The production of a 12 track CD will incorporate artists of various musical, religious, cultural and educational backgrounds. This project includes a studio recording of 12 songs, a documentary of the CD’s production with words from all participating artists and synopses of musical pieces, a CD release concert that will serve as a fundraiser for a local nonprofit, and 750 CDs with accompanying reflection by contributing artists. Music, part of every religious tradition, can transcend elements that divide people of faith, instigating alternative religious reflection by introducing a common field of experience. Music crafts a safe and sacred space, just as interreligious dialogue aims to produce a hospitable place for free expression in mystical and cultural religion.
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Henrickson, Lauren; Whitaker, Emma

Identities that Defy Categorization: the Korean American and International Korean Divide at Emory
Faculty Mentor: Donald Tuten, Ph.D., Department of Linguistics

Abstract
This research developed out of a perception of a rift between Emory’s Korean American and International Korean students in the larger Emory community, predominately along social lines. How and why do students of a shared ethnic heritage remain so distinctly separated on Emory’s campus? The initial objective of our research was to determine the role of linguistic attitudes and performance in the creation of this divide. Our research inquiries evolved to examine the correlation of linguistic choices and attitudes both to the divide, but also to an intimately related phenomenon - the formation of complex, and sometimes contradictory, individual identities.

We conclude that the identities of Korean American and Korean international students can be viewed on a spectrum and not necessarily in a binary concept. In the Emory community, the ends of this spectrum are perhaps best represented by the fact that Emory has two distinct Korean organizations – Korean Undergraduate Student Association (KUSA) and Korean International Students at Emory (KISEM). Several of our interviewees indicated that these groups are primarily characterized and differentiated along the lines of language preference.

As a higher education institution that values an ideal of unity in diversity, Emory has a responsibility to provide a venue for discussion of this issue in a framework that recognizes the gravity of the linguistic divide on campus while taking into account the nuanced inherited and performed cultural identities involved.

Kimura, Katherine

The Roles of Comparison and Function in the Categorization of Novel Objects
Faculty Mentors: Laura Namy, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Abstract
Young children interact with thousands of objects every day. To efficiently and effectively process this information, it becomes useful to organize the world into systematic categories. How do children learn to create categories, and, more specifically, how do they expand these categories once established? Children often use an object’s shape as a basis for category membership (e.g., grouping an apple with other round objects). Overreliance on shape, however, can lead children to make mistakes, for example, by identifying a balloon as an apple. Research suggests that when children have the opportunity to compare objects within a category (e.g., an apple and a pear), they are more likely to group objects based on function even when the function match is perceptually dissimilar (e.g., a banana). Even in the absence of comparison, children are capable of extending category membership by function when functional information is provided. Although the role of comparison in familiar object categorization is well established, the present study explores the unique and combined roles of comparison and function in the assimilation of novel objects (e.g., kiwano) into familiar categories (e.g., fruit). Presented with either one or two objects, either with or without functional information, three-year-olds were asked to identify another category member between two unfamiliar objects: a perceptually similar, outside-of-category object and a
perceptually dissimilar, within-category object. Contrary to previous research, the addition of function did not increase category responses. The opportunity to compare, however, elicited a marginal increase in within-category responses, suggesting that comparison may assist in integrating novel objects into familiar categories.

Leydecker, Connor

The Korean Situation
Faculty Mentor: Marjorie Pak, Ph.D, Department of Linguistics

Abstract
The purpose of this qualitative sociolinguistic study is to gain insight into the complex social network of undergraduate students at Emory University with specific regard to Korean use and Korean-speakers. A series of interviews revealed the divisive and subsequently negative relationship between Korean-speakers and the rest of the Emory community. Emory students’ language attitudes towards Korean are to be inextricably linked to Korean culture and formation of perceptions of Korean identity. Korean identity at Emory is subject to many layers of context that will be discussed in this paper.

Liu, Elizabeth

The limits of perception: language identity and language attitudes of Asian Americans
Faculty Mentor: Susan Tamasi, Ph.D., Department of Linguistics

Abstract
Even when born in the United States, Asian Americans are still often asked questions as to why they speak such perfect English. Here I would like to In this presentation, I discuss the limitations language attitudes and standard language ideologies place on social interactions between Asian Americans and international Asians, and Asian Americans and non-Asians. Language attitudes and standard language ideologies create assumptions of individuals based on their languages and accents, passing unsupported judgments that prevent one from viewing and interacting with others in an objective fashion. Moreover, I will argue that these language attitudes and standard language ideologies contribute to the construction of identity for Asian Americans, which further separates them from other Asians through social interaction.

Meikle, Alana

Just Kidding! Language Attitudes, audience design and accommodation theory in stand up comedy.
Faculty Mentor: Susan Tamasi, Ph.D., Department of Linguistics

Abstract
This investigation focused on the role of audience design, language attitudes and accommodation theory in stand up comedy. More specifically, how, and to what effect, do comedians employ these three elements to frame their social commentary and elicit laughter from an audience? Further, in what ways is stand up comedy unique in its usage of these elements, and in what ways does it resemble common usages seen every day? The perspective was taken that stand up comedy is a unique medium of verbal communication, in which the presence of the audience is crucial, however the relationship between speaker and listener is different than in traditional person-to-person discourse, and that this may affect how each of these elements is used, received and perceived. In alignment with initial hypotheses, it was determined that language attitudes, accommodation theory and audience design are both explicitly and implicitly employed by stand up comedians in order to: 1. Distinguish between self and other, thereby
Creating an “in-group” (IG) and an “out-group” (OG), 2. Be able to praise the OG while simultaneously protecting the solidarity of the IG, 3. Create an audience-comedian relationship, 4. Associate particular characteristics with certain groups of people, and 5. Exaggerate particular stereotypes for comedic effect.

It can further be concluded that these three elements allow for the creation of characters in a one-man act, thereby creating order and dynamism in the act, and finally, that comedians not only use language attitudes, but consistently rely upon them for the success of their act to the point that the associations these attitudes illicit may at times be considered the audience’s portion of the conversational burden.

Merrick, Lexi

**Partnerships and Cooperation between International and Local Human Rights Organizations in Morocco**

Faculty Mentor: David Davis, Ph.D., Department of Political Science

**Abstract**

Human rights non-governmental organizations are an integral part of Morocco’s lively civil society network. Both international and local organizations work to promote human rights in the country, and this research project will focus on the relationships between these organizations. Three organizations will be examined through interviews: the National Democratic Institute, an American organization with a field office in Morocco; Amnesty International, an international organization with a Moroccan branch; and Association Marocaine des Droits Humains, a local Moroccan organization with many international partnerships. Their cooperation with other organizations and its effect on the manner of work will be examined. I theorize that funding is a main factor in determining partnerships between non-governmental human rights organizations, and therefore the work of organizations is affected by these partnerships. In addition, I will examine the concepts of social capital and theories about non-governmental organizations in general in the Moroccan context.

Nahmias, Gabriel

**Relative Democracy**

Faculty Mentor: Gordon Streeb, Ph.D., Department of Economics

**Abstract**

Democracy is not as clear-cut a concept as one might expect. What institutions constitute democracy is debated, yet despite this democracy is a being vigorously exported to the developing world. Rwanda’s previous experiences with democratization in the early 1960s and 1990s both allowed for widespread violence and massacres, ultimately playing a role the genocide of 800,000 Tutsis and Hutu moderates. Research shows that in ethnically polarized environments democratization may actually increase the likelihood of conflict. Despite this, the Rwandan government is being heavily criticized for measures being taken to augment security, particularly restraints on ethnic parties, genocide ideology, and divisionism. The extent to which these measures undermine the democracy the government claims to be establishing cannot be evaluated by Western observers whose lives are not at risk. To understand democracy in the Rwandan context one must ask Rwandans. Interviews were conducted with a stratified sample of members of the Rwandan middle class in an attempt to establish what institutions and rights are required for a functioning democracy in Rwanda. While Rwandans did place a premium on security and generally understood and even supported the limitations placed by the government, they did not consider security a trump justifying abuses of power. Furthermore, Rwandans considered diversity of opinion, and institutions that foster it, to be necessary conditions for democracy. Principally among these institutions was education, which was perceived as the key to democratization and development. Finally, participants
warned that if the government fails to deliver on growth, services, and security, then Rwandans are prepared to exercise the ultimate institution of democracy – revolution.

Pill, Alexandra

Street Food Policy in a Growing Economy: A Case Study of Street Food Vendors in Hanoi’s Old Quarter
Faculty Mentor: Craig Hadley, Ph.D., Department of Anthropology

Abstract
Street food vending is a global phenomenon present in both the developed and developing worlds and is increasingly evident as countries continue to modernize, urbanize, and globalize. Street food policy is interdisciplinary in nature, incorporating economic, social, cultural, and health dimensions in order to account for urban planning, food safety, and tourism development. In Vietnam, street food is rampant, and in particular, in Hanoi’s Old Quarter, street food vendors can be spotted on every street at all times of the day.

Plys, Evan

Family Involvement and Well-being in an Assisted Living Population
Faculty Mentor: Nancy Bliwise Ph.D., Department of Psychology

Abstract
Family visitations provide residents of long term care facilities a link to the outside world, continuity of relationships, and social support (Tseng & Wang, 2001; Thomas, 2001). Previous research suggests that the quality of family relationships may have greater mental health impacts for older adults than the quantity of family interactions (Conner, Powers, & Bultena, 1979). This study investigated the relationship between the quantity of family interactions and the quality of family relationships, and their impact on long term care residents’ life satisfaction and depression. Factors influencing the quality of relationships between residents and their primary family caregiver were also of interest. Forty-four assisted living residents were sampled. Participants completed four measures assessing emotional bondedness to family, perceived social support, life satisfaction and depression. In addition, open-ended interviews assessed residents’ perceptions of family interactions. Regression analysis revealed that the quality of family relationships better predicted life satisfaction and depression than the quantity of family interactions. In addition, the amount of socio-emotional support activities families engaged in correlated to higher emotional bondedness. Families who reminisced also showed higher scores of emotional bondedness, suggesting reminiscing might be a tool for families to improve the quality of interactions with institutionalized elders. Predictors of life satisfaction and depression for assisted living residents included self-rated health, friendships within the facility, and family involvement. These results have implications for residents of long term care facilities and their family members, as well as, staff and social workers.
Savang, Tiken

Working toward Progress: An Analysis of the Queer Community And the Effectiveness of LGBT-Related NGOs in Mongolia
Faculty Mentor: Michael Peletz, Ph.D., Department of Anthropology

Abstract
In the past decade, between the turn of the century and the present, non government organizations (NGOs) aimed at promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) human rights have appeared in Mongolia, each with specific goals regarding different aspects of LGBT life including legal protections, education, and HIV/AIDS prevention. While many of these organizations are no longer operating, others are finding it difficult to attract enough permanent employees to accomplish their missions. Given the relatively homophobic and transphobic environment of Mongolia, these organizations face various challenges and obstacles that prevent them from achieving their objectives. In addition to providing an overview of the current LGBT environment in Mongolia, this project also examines the structure of the four operating Mongolian LGBT-related NGOs—the LGBT Centre, Youth for Health, Together, and Support—and their effectiveness in reducing Mongolian LGBT discrimination.
NATURAL SCIENCES

Beck, Amanda

Analysis of Chordomas in Zebrafish
Faculty Mentor: Andreas Fritz, Ph.D., Department of Biology

Abstract
Chordomas are rare malignant bone tumors that form during human development. It is thought that chordomas develop from notochordal precursor cells and retain some developmental characteristics of the notochord. Notably, Brachyury is a transcription factor involved in notochord formation and there is evidence that it plays a role in the development and pathogenesis of chordomas. A recent study has also implicated hyperactivation of the Akt/mTOR pathway in the formation of chordomas. We have recently observed that in embryos treated with the nodal-blocking drug SB-505124, tumors of the notochord were apparent at three days post fertilization. The attempt of this study is to establish whether these tumors display characteristics typical of chordomas and to establish the role of nodal signaling in chordoma formation. Using in situ analysis, we have shown that these notochord tumors express markers typical of chordomas, such as notail (zebrafish brachyury) and pS6, a marker for activated mTORC signaling. The effects of treating embryos with chordomas with rapamycin, a mTOR inhibitor, and SU5402, a FGF inhibitor, were examined. Rapamycin treatment has possible human application to reduce and/or eliminate chordomas and is currently being used in clinical studies. Our studies suggest that zebrafish may be a useful model to study the etiology of chordomas and point to a possible novel role of nodal signaling as a pathogenic mechanism.

Causey, Austin

Preliminary AFLP Analyses of Australian Freshwater Snail Phylogenies
Faculty Mentor: Matthias Glaubrecht, Ph.D., Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin Germany

Abstract
Since 2005, freshwater thiarids have been collected and morphologically analyzed from three Australian states and territories: Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. In 2009, Glaubrecht et al. systematically revised the Australian taxa of the Thiaridae based on morphological and radular data (Glaubrecht et al. 2009). In September 2011, a team of scientists traveled to Australia to collect samples in hopes of further improving the Thiaridae taxa using genetic AFLP data, a PCR technique that allows thorough genotypic comparisons between individuals that may have low sequence variation (Meudt et al.). For the thiarids, AFLP data can more correctly and definitively identify phylogenetic clades.

Before the research team departed to Australia, several groups of snails were genetically analyzed to better understand what geographic sampling distribution was necessary for future collections so that high genotypic diversity would be maintained. Here, AFLPs were used to study four species of snails from various river drainage systems in Australia. The AFLP-PCR data found provided an outgoing research team with preliminary data relating to the genotypic variability of four species of snails widely distributed throughout the Australian continent. With this insight, the research team was better prepared to efficiently collect a new and more genotypically diverse group of samples on their expedition. Emory’s Halle Foundation and the DAAD sponsored this project.
Chang, Julie; Gracia, Kelly

The Art of Evolution and the Evolution of Art: The Relationship between Art and Science as a Teaching Tool
Faculty Mentor: Nicole Gerardo, Ph.D., Department of Biology

Abstract
The goal of our project was to explore the relationship between art and science. We particularly studied the characteristics and behaviors of fungal cultivars and their corresponding parasitic micro-fungi in the genus Escovopsis for several semesters. Our previous project involved using our understanding of the behaviors of the fungal cultivars and Escovopsis in order to create artwork, by carefully working with their attraction and repulsion to form patterns and images.

This semester we took our research further to show how the interaction of art and science could be used as a teaching tool and developed an outreach program in which we worked with seventh and eighth grade students. In this program, we administered evolutionary biology lessons and supplemented them with art activities and concepts. Through these activities, we found how the synergy of art and science not only worked as an excellent teaching tool, but also as a way to increase the students’ creativity.
Combining all of our research done during our college career, we decided to create a final work of art: a mural inspired by our research in ant fungi interactions and our outreach project with Redan Middle School. The evolutionary tree combined with art elements represents what we hope could possibly be a new future in education and the way people think. Through this project we saw how both art and science, which we feel is traditionally thought of as totally different subjects, evolved to work synergistically as a novel way of learning.

Aronoff, Jennifer

Parasitic threats to the critically endangered black rhinoceros (Diceros bicornis bicornis) in Addo Elephant National Park, South Africa
Faculty Mentor: Thomas Gillespie, Ph.D., Department of Environmental Studies

Abstract
Gastrointestinal parasites present significant risks for various infectious diseases in many wildlife species. Almost seventy five percent (three-quarters) of all emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic, representing one of the biggest growing threats to global health. This zoonotic pathogen emergence increases the burden on the health of not only humans, but domestic animals and wildlife as well. With compounded pressures such as human population growth, commercial logging, droughts, and the capture and captivity of these rhinoceroses, their immune systems have become suppressed. This potential increase in parasite populations can be detrimental to the black rhino’s health, creating challenges for biodiversity conservation and global health. Black rhino populations have declined more than ninety-five percent in the past one hundred years due to intensive poaching. Translocation and re-introduction of black rhinos has become more frequent in efforts to not only catalyze a stagnant growth rate to increase population size, but also expand their geographic range. This process has been increasingly more challenging with the decline of viable habitats resulting from extensive agricultural use and climate change. Translocation can potentially save a species from extinction or can increase mortality rates. The pros and cons must be thoroughly examined in order to make a decision that will be beneficial not only to the species studied, but also on the environments from which they were taken and to which they will be relocated. The overall goal of this research is to obtain data on pathogen infections of Diceros bicornis bicornis in order create a profile of gastrointestinal parasites and commensals as a baseline of vitality and health of the
rhinos. Two hundred and sixty samples were examined through fecal flotation and fecal sedimentation processes. Parasitological and statistical analyses were performed on the samples after all data was collected. This analysis will help determine if there is any correlation between the presence of these pathogens and the nutrition, demographics, and health of these black rhinos. Since Diceros bicornis bicornis is a critically endangered species, the collection and analysis of this data will enhance our ability to enact protective measures.

**Decker, Jonathan**

**Optogenetics and the Control of Epilepsy**

Faculty Mentor: Claire-Anne Gutekunst, Ph.D., Department of Neurosurgery

**Abstract**

Nearly 3 million Americans and 50 million people worldwide suffer from Epilepsy today. In order for people to complete daily activities neurons fire electrical signals through circuits in the body. When signals are uninterrupted there is usually not a problem; however, in diseases like Epilepsy, dysregulation or obstruction of neuronal circuits in the brain can cause convulsions and brain damage. Our lab is currently investigating new techniques of controlling epileptic activity in a rat model of epilepsy. In order to control neuronal activity in the hippocampus, we are using Optogenetics to target light sensitive ion channels of specific subpopulations of neurons in the hippocampus and medial septum. Our histological analysis to classify and characterize which specific neuronal subpopulations we are controlling indicate that we achieved expression in the targeted pyramidal cells in the hippocampus and medial septum. The next step will be to assess to what extent light will modulate the activity of the targeted cells. The ultimate goal is to apply this model to a human model of epilepsy as another form of treatment.

**Jiang, Xi**

**Enteric Drosophila-Derived Commensal Bacteria Stimulate ROS-Dependent Nrf2 Cytoprotection**

Faculty Mentor: Paul Doetsch, Ph.D., Department of Biochemistry

**Abstract**

Abasic (AP) sites are among the most frequently formed lesions in DNA. DNA damage accumulation may lead to mutations deleterious to health. When DNA damage is introduced into cells, an increase in the amount of intracellular reactive oxygen species (ROS) is observed. In Saccharomyces cerevisiae (budding yeast), the base excision repair (BER) and nucleotide excision repair (NER) pathways are crucial in DNA repair (including AP site removal), and cells with deficient BER and/or NER show an increase in both spontaneous DNA damage accumulation and intracellular ROS level. In yeast, the DNA glycosylase Ung1 is specific for uracil removal, and uracil incorporation is likely a major source of abasic site formation. Knockout of uracil DNA glycosylase should prevent uracil (incorporated into DNA/spawn from cytosine deamination) from being excised, thereby reducing the level of abasic sites present. We hypothesized that abasic sites, the common intermediate in DNA damage/repair, originate genotoxic stress signaling via ROS generation, and that abasic site levels will positively correlate with intracellular ROS. We expected that, with UNG1 knockout, a reduction of mutation frequency should be observed due to abasic site’s mutagenic nature, alongside with a decrease in intracellular ROS level for isolates with UNG1 knockout compared to the UNG1 wildtype counterparts. While cells deficient in both BER and NER showed such correspondence, cells impaired in BER alone did not yield consistent results, and more independent isolates are necessary in providing further evidence that abasic sites may be responsible for DNA-damage-induced ROS.
Jones, Marston

Analysis of gastrointestinal parasites of the chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes) in the rapidly disappearing Gishwati forest as part of a health assessment program in Rwanda.
Faculty Mentor: Thomas Gillespie, Ph.D., Department of Environmental Studies

Abstract
Great apes, whose severe decline in recent years has spawned many exigent and continual conservation efforts, require health monitoring to gain a better understanding of the risks of an extremely susceptible community. In an effort to gain a better understanding of these concerns, I examined parasitic and commensal prevalence and richness in correlation with population health for chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes) in Gishwati National Forest, Rwanda. There is a high potential concern for pathogens within the population due to its small size and the excessive environmental burdens. One hundred twenty-one chimpanzee fecal samples were processed using standardized sodium nitrate flotation and sedimentation to recover helminth eggs, larvae, and protozoal cysts. Five nematodes (Necator sp., Oesophagostomum sp., Trichostrongylus sp., Strongyloides sp., unidentified free-roaming nematodes, and an unidentified strongyle), and five protozoans (Troglodytella abrassarti, Troglycorus cava, Entamoeba coli, Balantidium coli, and an unidentified ciliate) were detected in chimpanzee fecal samples. Symbiotic protozoans such as Troglodytella abrassarti and Troglycorus cava were found in high abundance, though low numbers of all other protozoa were recovered. This in conjunction with a relatively high prevalence of pathogenic parasite species may indicate the need for ongoing pathogen surveillance of the Gishwati chimpanzee population.

Kopelman, Hannah

Characterization of Rhino virus induced host immune/inflammatory responses associated asthma exacerbations
Faculty Mentor: Devi Rajan, Ph.D., Emory Children’s Center

Abstract
Human Rhinovirus (HRV) infections are the primary cause of the common cold and are implicated in more than 50% of upper respiratory tract infections. It is estimated that rhinoviruses cause over 300 million episodes of the common cold each year. Infection with HRV is commonly associated with exacerbations of asthma (~50% of exacerbations) and HRVs have frequently been detected in patients with asthma exacerbations and are likely to be major contributors to these exacerbations. Given the health burden of asthma, development of better treatments and prevention strategies would have substantial health benefits. The important role that rhinoviruses play in asthma exacerbations suggests that rhinoviruses can be used to investigate the pathogenesis of these exacerbations and identify host-specific or virus-specific targets to alter the disease process and treat or prevent the disease. We hypothesize that HRV disease, including that associated with asthma, results in the virus-induced host inflammatory or immune responses to infection. We have developed an in vitro model for HRV infection by combining airway epithelial cells and human peripheral blood mononuclear cells. In the model, we infect the human airway epithelial cell line, calu-3, with HRV-14 and HRV-16 and expose human PBMCs (from asthmatics or non-asthmatics) to the infected Calu-3 cells in a two-chamber transwell tissue culture system. This system can be used to study the inflammatory and immune response to the viruses as indicated by production of cytokines. These studies can be used to understand asthma associated HRV disease and the pathogenesis of asthma exacerbations and also provide novel targets for developing anti-rhinovirus drugs that also treats asthma exacerbations.
Mahadevan, Pranav

**Novel Method of Tracking Directly-Evoked Action Potential Plasticity in Multi-Electrode Arrays**

Faculty Mentor: Steve Potter, Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology

**Abstract**

Precisely controlled neuronal action potential timing has unparalleled capacity for inducing plasticity, especially in the areas of learning and memory. Using multi-electrode arrays (MEAs), researchers can now study whole culture dynamics through the simultaneous recording and stimulation of an entire network of neurons. However, the vast amount of data collected from this approach must be analyzed in a systematic manner, the first step of which is the identification and characterization of individual neuronal activity within an MEA. In this study, we present a novel method of tracking individual neurons' responses to electrical stimuli by combining spike sorting and stimulation data to characterize stereotypical neuronal action potential responses. These responses are commonly called directly-evoked action potentials (dAPs), which are considered 'reliable' responses to electrical stimuli as they are evoked by directly depolarizing the neuron. Yet over time, dAPs exhibit plasticity in the variability of latency and in the reliability of response to stimulation. Our model tracks these changes by mapping spike waveforms onto individual neurons in a Gaussian Mixture Model and uses stimulus data to identify individual dAPs. We show that using just spike sorting or stimulus data alone would result in improper identification of dAPs and provides less information than our method. In addition, we provide an implementation for real-time tracking, which could lead to experimental protocols that manipulate dAP plasticity. Our method serves as an essential first step in analyzing MEA data that could prove useful in elucidating neuronal mechanisms of plasticity.

Rao, Gouthami

**Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria in Rivers and Streams of Northern Coastal Ecuador**

Faculty Mentor: Karen Levy, Ph.D., Department of Environmental Health

**Abstract**

It is well known that bacteria have intrinsic resistance to antibiotics found in nature, but different farming habits may potentially add to the natural resistance. We isolated Escherichia coli from 2 rivers and 1 stream that was associated with five rural villages: San Agustín, Colon Eloy, Valdez, Punta de Piedra, and Timbiré. A panel of 12 antibiotics was used against all water samples (n=50). Punta de Piedra was the village with the highest amount of antibiotic resistance associated with the Cayapas River. Approximately 70% of samples were resistant to at least one antibiotic. The most commonly resistant antibiotics were tetracycline, gentamycin, and sulfamethoxazole plus trimethoprim. Due to the small-scale community poultry farming, further research should be done to determine if a causal relationship between poultry farming and antibiotic resistance in the Cayapas River exists.

Varman, Rahul

**Differences Between BOLD and CBV Activation Maps During Functional Connectivity Studies in Rats**

Faculty Mentor: Shella Keilholtz, Ph.D., Department of Biomedical Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology

**Abstract**

Blood oxygenation level dependent (BOLD) and cerebral blood volume (CBV) modalities of functional magnetic resonance imaging reflect neuronal response but can also vary due to physiology of the brain.
Recent studies using bold and CBV in anesthetized rats to compare functional connectivity and spatiotemporal dynamics have found differential results dependent on type of fMRI scan used. In this study, we hypothesized that variance may exist during such spatiotemporal studies due to differences in vasculature. To examine whether vasculature may play a significant role, CBV and BOLD activations were compared between resting state and forepaw stimulated rats by comparing activation and variance maps in relation to histological vasculature of the brain slice containing relevant regions of interest. The results suggest that vasculature may confer differential results in different areas of the brain, with these differences showing up depending on modality in a voxel manner. Thus future spatiotemporal examinations may need to take into account these physiological differences due to vasculature and other differences, which may still need to be examined to get proper quantitative results for connectivity.

**West, Kendall**

**Patterns of infection with Cryptosporidium sp. and Giardia sp. in Multiple Species of Free-Ranging Primates in the Peruvian Amazon**
Faculty Mentor: Thomas Gillespie, Ph.D., Department of Environmental Studies

**Abstract**
From June 2002 to September 2003, 2226 fecal samples were collected non-invasively from two species of tamarins (*Saguinus mystax mystax* and *Saguinus fuscicollis nigrifrons*) and two groups of one species of titi monkeys (*Callicebus cupreus*) at the Estación Biológica Quebrada Blanco in the Peruvian Amazon. 140 samples were drawn to represent each species and individual and those were screened for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* using the Merifluor immunofluorescence assay, the gold standard for assessing the prevalence and intensity of these organisms. These zoonotic protozoan parasites can be transmitted via fecal-oral contamination or water and can cause gastritis or enteritis in primates. Only one individual of one species, a juvenile male *S. mystax* was found to be infected with *Cryptosporidium* and none of the primates sampled revealed infection with *Giardia*. The low prevalence of infection observed limited our ability to examine the effects of demographic and environmental variables on patterns of infection; however, the presence of *Cryptosporidium* at such low prevalence suggest recent introduction from humans. While the origin of the *Cryptosporidium* infection cannot be determined without a doubt, its presence alerts us to the potential of cross-species infection even in the absence of direct physical contact.