The Office of Undergraduate Research Presents

3rd Annual

Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences & Education Conference 2016

Saturday, November 12, 2016

Galloway Business Building

Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas
James Marquart, Lamar University’s Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, earned a bachelor’s degree in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University in 1976. Later that year, he enrolled in the Department of Sociology graduate program at Kansas State University where he graduated with his master’s degree in 1978. His Ph.D. in sociology was earned in 1983 from Texas A&M.

Before joining Lamar University in 2015, Dr. Marquart served the University of Texas-Dallas in various capacities including vice provost of academic affairs, associate provost, dean of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, and department chair and professor of the criminology program. Prior to joining the UTD faculty, he was a professor and director of several criminal justice institutes at Sam Houston State University. He began his academic career as a faculty at Mississippi State University in 1983. Additionally, Dr. Marquart has worked as a correctional officer and sergeant for the Texas Department of Corrections and as a correctional officer in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

One of the nation’s leading experts on prison systems, Dr. Marquart’s extensive academic record includes more than $2 million in funded research activity, 50 presentations, more than 60 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, and 7 books. Research and teaching interests include prison organizations, capital punishment, and criminal justice policy. Previous professional activities include service as president of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and selection as an academic fellow for the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. He has received the 2005 Bruce Smith Senior Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Leverhulme Visiting Professorship in 1998 from Queen Mary and Westfield College - University of London, the American Library Association’s Outstanding Book Award for 1995, and the ACJS Outstanding Book Award in 1991.
3rd ANNUAL HUMANITIES, ARTS, SOCIAL SCIENCES, & EDUCATION CONFERENCE
AGENDA
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2016
All events will be in Galloway Business Building, Lamar University

REGISTRATION
8:15 AM – 8:55 AM  Registration (Continental Breakfast will be served)

WELCOME
Landes Auditorium
Kumer P. Das, PhD., Director, The Office of Undergraduate Research,
9:00 AM – 9:25 AM  Catalina Castillon, PhD., Asst. Director, The Office of Undergraduate Research
Joe Nordgren, PhD., Interim Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

KEYNOTE SPEECH
Landes Auditorium
9:25 AM – 9:35 AM  Introduction of Speaker
Timothy Meline, PhD., Professor
Department of Speech and Hearing, Lamar University

9:35 AM – 10:05 AM  Keynote Speaker
James Marquart, PhD.
Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs
Lamar University

10:10 AM – 10:20 AM  GROUP PICTURE

10:20 AM – 10:30 AM  BREAK
**SESSIONS 1A – Oral Presentations**

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<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Acceptability of infidelity in different types of relationships</td>
<td>Nikole Eaves</td>
<td>Department of Psychology</td>
<td>Dr. Edythe Kirk, Lamar University</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:50 AM</td>
<td>The Volatile Rhetoric of Donald Trump</td>
<td>Timothy Collins</td>
<td>Department of Political Science</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis, Lamar University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10 AM</td>
<td>Testing the Sexualized-Body-Inversion Hypothesis</td>
<td>Kelsey Nichols</td>
<td>Department of Psychology</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Edythe Kirk, Lamar University</td>
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**SESSION 1B-Oral Presentations**

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<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>&quot;The Future of Cuban Politics&quot;</td>
<td>Roman Gros</td>
<td>Department of Political Science</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis, Lamar University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50 AM</td>
<td>A Legacy into Prosperity: Tiberius Claudius Nero</td>
<td>Ryanne Poole</td>
<td>Department of History</td>
<td>Dr. Mary Scheer, Lamar University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10 AM</td>
<td>Atomic Memories: The Atomic Bombs Effects on American and Japanese Science Fiction Cinema in the 1950s</td>
<td>Seth Barrett</td>
<td>Department of History</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Mary Scheer, Lamar University</td>
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**SESSION 1C – Oral Presentations**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Leadership - A Path of Perseverance</td>
<td>Eric Wiley</td>
<td>Department of English and Modern Languages</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Sara Hillin, Lamar University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50 AM</td>
<td>Virtual Relations</td>
<td>William Wheeler</td>
<td>Department of Sociology</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Jesus A. Garcia, Lamar University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10 AM</td>
<td>Humor in Lazarillo de Tormes</td>
<td>Alexander Neiford</td>
<td>Department of English and Modern Languages (Spanish)</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Catalina Castillon, Lamar University</td>
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**LUNCH BREAK**

11:30 AM - 12:10 PM

**POSTER PRESENTATION**

12:10 PM - 12:50 PM
### SESSION 2A – Oral Presentations

**12:50 PM-1:50 PM**  
*Chair: Dr. Ashley Dockens, PhD., Assistant Professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences, Lamar University*  
*Landes Auditorium*

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<td>The Development and Analysis of Accessible and Appropriate Adult Aural Rehabilitation Intervention Materials</td>
<td>Kristi Barnes and Imo Akpan</td>
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<td>Pencils, Paints, and Pixels?: How Aesthetic Choices of Indie Games Affect Interactive Experience</td>
<td>Gonzalo Alvarez</td>
<td>Department of Art</td>
<td>Dr. Christopher Troutman, Lamar University</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1:30 PM-1:50 PM</strong></td>
<td>Advantage of Flipped Classroom in a Higher Education Setting</td>
<td>Zara Holmes</td>
<td>Department of Teacher Education</td>
<td>Dr. Mamta Singh, Lamar University</td>
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### SESSION 2B - Oral Presentations

**12:50 PM-1:50 PM**  
*Chair: Dr. Mamta Singh, PhD., Assistant Professor of Teacher Education, Lamar University*  
*Room 122*

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>12:50 PM-1:10 PM</strong></td>
<td>The Psychology of Southern Literature: Genetic Memory, Attributions, and Grits</td>
<td>Jenny Wilson</td>
<td>Department of English and Modern Languages</td>
<td>Dr. Sara Hillin, Lamar University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1:10 PM-1:30 PM</strong></td>
<td>A Qualitative Assessment of Substance Abuse Patterns of Inmates in a Correctional Facility within South East Texas</td>
<td>Miroslava Zendajas</td>
<td>Department of Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Dr. Robert Worley, Lamar University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1:30 PM-1:50 PM</strong></td>
<td>Social Media’s Impact on Millennial Political Involvement</td>
<td>Thomas Plew</td>
<td>Department of Political Science</td>
<td>Dr. Maria Sandovici, Lamar University</td>
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### SESSION 2C – Oral Presentations

**12:50 PM-1:50 PM**  
*Chair: Jimmy Moss, PhD., Professor of Economics and Finance, Lamar University*  
*Room 124*

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<tr>
<td><strong>12:50 PM-1:10 PM</strong></td>
<td>Creative Writing Presentation</td>
<td>Mercedes Roth</td>
<td>Department of English and Modern Languages</td>
<td>Dr. Gretchen Johnson, Lamar University</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1:10 PM-1:30 PM</strong></td>
<td>“The Female Vagrant”: The Tale of a Passive Life</td>
<td>Jacqueline Benavides</td>
<td>Department of English and Modern Languages</td>
<td>Dr. Steven Zani, Lamar University</td>
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**1:50 PM-1:55 PM**  
**BREAK**
### SESSION 3A – Oral Presentations

**1:55 PM – 2:55 PM**  
*Chair: Dr. Dorothy Sisk, PhD., Professor of Education, Lamar University*  
*Landes Auditorium*

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<td>1:55 PM-2:15 PM</td>
<td>Why Seating Arrangements Matter?</td>
<td>Lauren Eure</td>
<td>Department of Teacher Education</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Mamta Singh, Lamar University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 PM-2:35 PM</td>
<td>Alternative Energy Unit: Solar Energy</td>
<td>Shelby Garbee</td>
<td>Department of Teacher Education</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Mamta Singh, Lamar University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:35 PM-2:55 PM</td>
<td>An Equity Audit of a Regional University Writing Center’s Services to International Students</td>
<td>Ismatara Reena and Amani Jawah</td>
<td>Department of Educational Leadership</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Young, Lamar University</td>
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### SESSION 3B – Oral Presentations

**1:55 PM-2:55 PM**  
*Chair: Nicki Michalski, PhD., Associate Professor of Communication, Lamar University*  
*Room 122*

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<tr>
<td>1:55 PM-2:15 PM</td>
<td>The Primitive Accumulation of Capital and Ideological Construction of Race in Colonial America</td>
<td>Dillon Nicholson</td>
<td>Department of Sociology, Social Work &amp; Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Garrick Harden, Lamar University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 PM-2:35 PM</td>
<td>A Heated Affair: USA Saudi Relations</td>
<td>Erick VanWright</td>
<td>Department of Political Science</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis, Lamar University</td>
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### SESSION 3C – Oral Presentations

**1:55 PM-2:55 PM**  
*Chair: Amy Smith, PhD., Associate Professor of English and Modern Language, Lamar University*  
*Room 124*

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<td>Luis de Leon and &quot;La Vida Retirada“</td>
<td>Julia Gros</td>
<td>Department of English and Modern Languages</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Catalina Castillon, Lamar University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 PM-2:35 PM</td>
<td>“Ana Rossetti y “La Movida”: Transition from Dictatorship to Democracy</td>
<td>Ana Ceja</td>
<td>Department of English and Modern Languages</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Catalina Castillon and Dr. Jaime Retamales, Lamar University</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:35 PM-2:55 PM</td>
<td>Feminism and Folklore: Revisiting La Llorona in Cisneros’ “Woman Hollering Creek”</td>
<td>Shelby Murphy</td>
<td>Department of English and Modern Languages</td>
<td>Mentor: Dr. Lloyd Daigrepont, Lamar University</td>
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<td>Luis Espinoza</td>
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<td>Dr. Terri Davis</td>
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<td>2:15 PM-2:35PM</td>
<td>Psychiatric Hospitals for African Americans</td>
<td>Madeline Canales</td>
<td>Department of History</td>
<td>Dr. Beverly Tomek, University of Houston-Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:35 PM-2:55 PM</td>
<td>Early American recipes and the lives of women</td>
<td>Emma Nelson</td>
<td>Department of History</td>
<td>Dr. Mary Scheer, Lamar University</td>
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**AWARD CEREMONY & CLOSING REMARKS**

3:00 PM-3:30 PM | Robert Spina, PhD., Dean, College of Education and Human Development
| Kevin Dodson, PhD., Dean, Reaud Honors College |

*Landes Auditorium*
The Italian Influence in Garcilaso’s Literary Work  
Ana G. Ceja  
Dr. Catalina Castillon  
Department of English and Modern Languages  
Lamar University

An Overview of Arte Mudejar  
Julia Gros  
Dr. Catalina Castillon  
Department of English and Modern Languages  
Lamar University

Black Deaf Individuals and Interpreters as Allies  
Sidney Onwuharonye  
Co-Author: Tanasha Slack-Olumoya, Lindsay Antley, Karen Corbello  
Dr. M. Diane Clark  
Department Deaf Studies and Deaf Education  
Lamar University

"The Crack-Down": Researching Racial Disparity in Cocaine Prison Sentencing  
Tori Smith  
Dr. Terri Davis  
Department Political Science  
Lamar University

Endangered Species Children's Book  
Crystal Tirawan  
Dr. Richard Gachot  
Department of Art  
Lamar University
Abstracts

All Talks are listed alphabetically by last name of the primary presenter

Pencils, Paints, or Pixels?: How Aesthetic Choices of Indie Games Affect Interactive Experience

Gonzalo Alvarez, Department of Arts
Mentor: Dr. Christopher Troutman

The indie game is a fairly new topic in the realm of academia and has contributed to the video game medium by resisting the profit and mass appeal approach of big budget video games. Through its independent creation, developers are able to create personal experiences for players that focus on creating a unique merger between visuals and interaction—the unique element that separates video games from any other artistic medium. Indie games’ budget and software constraints push developers to find creative solutions in their artistic style, primarily using pixelated or hand-drawn art styles in contrast to the photo realistic approach of big budget developers. This research will explore the styles most relevant in the visuals of indie games—pixel and hand-drawn styles, conduct a case study through sampling different art style options based on the game Papers Please, and conclude with quantitative and qualitative data of the two art styles and whether minimalistic, stylistic, or realistic abstractions are more effective in particular scenarios and or different demographics. The online survey received 752 respondents with results showing that players are least sympathetic towards a minimalistic pixelated image and most sympathetic towards a realistic pixelated image. The ambiguity of pixelation, much like pointillism or a mosaic, creates a stronger sense of immersion between a player and the images presented through the interactive medium of indie games.

Development and Analysis of Accessible and Appropriate Adult Aural Rehabilitation Intervention

Kristi Barnes, Department of Speech and Hearing Science
Co-Author: Imo Akpan
Mentor: Dr. Ashley Dockens, Lamar University

The United States is moving toward more accessible and affordable healthcare. However, for hearing healthcare, low percentages of the 48 million hearing impaired are receiving treatment. The current model of hearing healthcare is not meeting the needs of this great majority. While online information makes health materials more readily available, these materials are inaccessible for many as the literacy levels needed to understand this information exceed recommended levels for the average American. The proposed research will assist in determining the most appropriate topics for an online aural rehabilitation program, create materials for this program, and assess its accessibility and effectiveness. Audiologist and patients will be surveyed and consulted concerning the preferred and ideal content for educational aural rehabilitation therapy and the development of said content. Using the information gathered, materials will be created for an online aural rehabilitation program. These materials will then be analyzed for readability and modified to accommodate accessibility needs. By creating accessible and appropriate materials for enlightening individuals with hearing loss on remediation/rehabilitation practices, a website could be developed that reached not only a local population, but also the state, national, and global community.
Atomic Memories
Seth Barrett, Department of History
Mentor: Dr. Mary L. Scheer, Lamar University

Science fiction cinema has always been a cultural outlet to express the greatest societal hopes and fears by using the fantastic and impossible as a vessel of representation. With the end of World War II, the world had a new force to deal with in the Atomic Bomb. Various cultures reacted differently to it, especially between the Americans and Japanese in their relation to the bomb. Both cultures in the 1950s used science fiction cinema as a way to channel their thoughts about the role of the atomic bomb in the world. This paper is an historical analysis of the two cultures and their science fiction cinema throughout the 1950s with films such as The Day the Earth Stood Still, Godzilla, and more. The context of these films will reveal how these cultures expressed themselves. The goal of this paper is to shine new light on cultural history, specifically film history and the effects of the nuclear bomb that are hardly ever talked about today.

“The Female Vagrant”: The Tale of a Passive Life
Jacqueline Benavides, Department of English and Modern Languages
Mentor: Dr. Steven Zani, Lamar University

This project focuses on Wordsworth’s “The Female Vagrant” which was written as part of Salisbury Plain, a long poem begun in 1793 and revised several times, until finally published as Guilt and Sorrow in 1842. The poem is a political piece in which Wordsworth used his poetic talents to discuss economic and societal issues that affected the people living in England during the 18th century. Throughout the poem, Wordsworth remains focused on low and rustic life and particularly focused on a woman and women's plight. Wordsworth chose a passive main character not only to show the powerlessness of the people who found themselves in similar situations, but also to show the degradation of a person’s life that led to vagrancy. Wordsworth also played around with anonymity in his poem in order to avoid narrowing the story to one life. Wordsworth used “The Female Vagrant” as a critique of 18th century life and used the technique of having a story within a story in order to detach himself.

Psychiatric Hospitals for African Americans
Madeline Canales, Department of History
Mentor: Dr. Beverly Tomek, University of Houston

Prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, public facilities were segregated and practiced discrimination. The psychiatric hospital is an example of a segregated facility that oppressed African Americans. An overview consisting of the history of, the problems faced by, and the treatment provided by the three psychiatric hospitals designated for African Americans—the Central State Hospital in Virginia, Crownsville State Hospital in Maryland, and the Eastern North Carolina Insane Asylum in North Carolina—stands reviewed to show the inhumane treatments against African Americans. Care at these psychiatric hospitals designated for African Americans consisted of inhumane methods and treatments, and often faced the constant problem of overcrowding.

Ana Rossetti y “La Movida”: Transition from Dictatorship to Democracy
Ana Gaytan Ceja, Department of English and Modern Languages
Mentors: Dr. Catalina Castillon & Dr. Jaime Retamales, Lamar University

From the end of the Civil War in 1936 to the death of Franco in 1975, Spain suffered from socio-political repression and economic isolation. Freedom of expression, which Spain had lost during the dictatorship, was recovered during the transition to democracy. “La Movida,” a social and cultural movement that took place in Spain in the late 1970s and early 1980s, symbolized the artistic manifestation of who became part of a free society. Ana Rossetti’s poems during this time are the direct result of “La Movida.” In a personal interview, Rossetti said that her poetry was “opportune” for this movement. She also stated that if her poetry had not been published in this period of transition, it might not have had the same impact on society. Rossetti’s writing reflects the political, social, economic, and cultural transformation during “La Movida” in Madrid. Through her poetry, she tried to break up
the traditional gender roles that were imposed during Franco’s dictatorship. This research will analyze how Rossetti stood against the standards established during Franco’s dictatorship. For example, in some of her poems, she inversed the idea of women as sexual objects by placing men as the target of sexual desires. An analysis of the erotic elements of Rossetti’s poetry will reveal these components as powerful weapons used during “La Movida” to protest against the fascist ideals of Franco’s regime. These poems represent an example of how literature is influenced by and/or may impact society.

The Volatile Rhetoric of Donald Trump
Timothy Collins. Department of Political Science
Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis, Lamar University

This paper examines the rhetoric of Donald Trump during his 2016 national presidential campaign and shows how volatile, divisive rhetoric can prevent a candidate from using the media to their advantage, utilizing opportunities that would otherwise help them in an election, and prevent them from reaching out from their base to the rest of the electorate. I define “volatile rhetoric” by comparing campaign speeches of Donald Trump to his 2016 presidential opponents and past American presidential contenders. Examples are presented to demonstrate how Trump’s presidential campaign rhetoric negatively impacted his candidacy and to provide polling data and political commentary issued immediately following specific volatile statements and rhetoric. My hypothesis, based on the “Chance of Winning” model (Silver, Kanjana and Mehta, 2016), is that volatile campaign rhetoric is neither sustainable over a long presidential campaign nor feasible for winning the American electorate.

Acceptability of infidelity in different types of relationships
Nikole Eaves, Department of Psychology
Mentor: Dr. Edythe Kirk, Lamar University

This study focused on the acceptability of infidelity in homosexual versus heterosexual relationships. Participants were undergraduate students (N=59; 83% female; 58% Caucasian; mean age 21 years) who were randomly assigned to conditions. Each condition included two relationship scenarios involving infidelity. One condition involved a lesbian couple and a heterosexual couple where the female was the cheater in both cases (packet A), and the other packet contained a gay couple and a heterosexual couple where the male was the cheater in both cases (packet B). Participants answered identical questions about the acceptability of infidelity in each scenario. In general participants tended to report that infidelity was unacceptable, regardless of sexual orientation. Participants were more inclined to blame the heterosexual cheater (66%) than the homosexual cheater (34%), regardless of gender. Participants also tended to feel worse for the homosexual victim (59%) than the heterosexual victim (41%), regardless of gender. Participants also completed a questionnaire assessing their general feelings toward homosexual relationships. Possible scores could range from 4 to 16, with a higher score indicating more negative feelings regarding homosexual relationships. The overall mean in this sample was 7.76 ± 3.1; mean differences for packet A (M=7.73 and packet B (M=7.79) were not statistically significant. The overall pattern of these results (i.e., acceptability of infidelity, assignment of blame/sympathy, acceptability of homosexual relationships) may reflect societal changes in the acceptance of alternate sexual orientations.

Naturalized Citizens and Their Voting Behavior: Mexican Community
Luis Espinoza, Department of Political Science
Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis, Lamar University

President Ronald Reagan signed into law an immigration reform bill in 1986 that essentially gave amnesty to 2.9 million immigrants (NPR, 2010). The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) allowed approximately three million immigrants to become naturalized citizens of the United States. Research shows that since the passage of the IRCA, a majority of newly naturalized citizens have not fully exercised their rights as citizens and voted in local, state, and national elections. In this paper, I hypothesize a correlation between Mexican-American voter turnout and the number of years the prospective voter has been a citizen of the United States. I predict that the longer Mexican-Americans have been citizens, the more active they will be in the voting process. I will also examine how Mexican-Americans participate in politics before, during, and after they become naturalized citizens.
and how generations and level of education factor into Mexican-American voter turnout and party affiliation in the United States.

**Why Seating Arrangements Matter**  
Lauren A. Eure, Department of Teacher Education  
Mentor: Dr. Mamta Singh, Lamar University

The seating arrangement of a classroom has been an immense debate since the 1900’s. There are many ways to arrange the students’ desks, but the most common ways are the row/column seating or the cluster seating. The most collective seating arrangement in today’s classroom is the cluster seating arrangement. If the seating arrangement of a classroom has some effect on a student’s behavior, then the seating arrangement needs to be changed to help the student’s behavior. The present study assessed the effects of seating arrangements on students’ behavior. The study attempted to address two questions: 1. Do seating arrangements contribute to a child’s behavior? 2. What is the best seating arrangement to help the students learn better? The Lamar University library resources and Google Scholar were used for this research. The findings are based on secondary data analysis. The findings suggest that the seating arrangement of a classroom does effect a student’s behavior in the classroom while it also has a positive effect on their learning.

**Alternative Energy Unit: Solar Energy**  
Shelby Garbee, Department of Teacher Education  
Mentor: Dr. Mamta Singh, Lamar University

The purpose of this 5th grade science lesson was to identify and describe alternative energy resources, primarily solar energy. TEKS: (7) Earth and space. The student knows Earth’s surface is constantly changing and consists of useful resources. The student is expected to (C) identify alternative energy resources such as wind, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal, and biofuels. A 5-E instructional model was used to conduct the lesson. Both formative and summative assessments were used to assess the student’s learning outcomes. The significance of this study is to increase awareness among educators about alternative energy resources and to develop relevant lesson plans.

**Luis De León and “La Vida Retirada”**  
Julia Gros, Department of English and Modern Languages  
Mentor: Dr. Catalina Castillon, Lamar University

Friar Luis de León was a renowned Spanish poet who lived in Spain during the XVI century. One of his most famous poems is “La Vida Retirada,” or “The Life Removed.” This research explores the writing style of Friar Luis de León as well as the time period in which he lived and how this affected his literary development. The second aspect of this research is the analysis of the form and content of the poem “La Vida Retirada,” the stylistic devices utilized in the poem, the themes found within, and the message that the author intends to convey.

**The Future of Cuban Politics**  
Roman Gros, Department of Political Science  
Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis, Lamar University

This project involves reviewing Cuba’s increasingly changing political system. The project starts by looking at when the United States formally enacted a trade embargo against Cuba fifty-four years ago, shortly after the country came under the rule of Fidel Castro (Peters). The embargo hurt Cuba’s economy tremendously; however, Fidel Castro refused to meet the requirements that would prevent or lift the embargo. Castro envisioned Cuba to be a communist paradise, free from foreign monopolies such as those created by the United States. Cuba - U. S. relations have recently begun to normalize due to efforts by the Obama administration to lift bans on some Cuban imports and travel to and from the country. The achievement is bittersweet for the Cuban people. On the one hand, Cuba can begin importing and exporting goods to expand its wealth; on the other, Cuba is opening itself up to possible oppression by large capitalist nations. This paper will examine the potential steps Cuba can take to continue reaping the benefits of its current communist system, while simultaneously having access to large capitalistic markets.
Advantage of Flipped Classroom in a Higher Education Setting
Zara Holmes, Department of Teacher Education
Mentor: Dr. Mamta Singh, Lamar University

The purpose of the present study was to assess the advantage of the Flipped Classroom (FC) in a higher education setting. Research has shown that there are different ways to implement technology both in and out of the classroom. FC is a new and inventive approach that educators are using to bring more open class discussion within the classroom and an independent approach outside of the classroom. The technologies that FC uses are, assigning students videos that they watch before coming to class, using software so that the students can choose when and where they want to complete the assignment, and using different types of applications. The FC approach allows students to have a more active part in the classroom instead of the student being another desk within the four walls. A secondary source of information was used to conduct the study. The findings suggest that the teacher in an FC approach acts more as a facilitator than a teacher and that, overall, FC has a positive impact on students’ learning environment. Though there are limited studies conducted on FC as a better way of teaching, it does show that the teaching method is gaining attention, which is an area of recommended future research.

Feminism and Folklore: Revisiting La Llorona in Cisneros’ “Woman Hollering Creek”
Shelby Murphy, Department of English and Modern Languages
Mentor: Dr. Lloyd Daigrepont, Lamar University

The story of La Llorona is an oral narrative that has been told for many generations in Hispanic households throughout Mexico, South America, and even in the United States. Although there are several versions of the tale, the legend is most essentially the story of a woman who has drowned her children because her husband has left her, and who, as a ghost, eerily cries as she searches for them, usually near a river or a stream. This tale is often told to portray La Llorona as a selfish, even evil, woman. In “Woman Hollering Creek,” Sandra Cisneros uses the story of La Llorona in a mode contrary to this unfortunate stereotype and more in keeping with the full legend La Llorona to symbolize the oppression of women. The United States has found the legend to be interesting and has watered her character down to a Halloween figure in television, but the figure whose history is tied to La Malinche is a tool for the Hispanic community to talk about class, race, and gender as well as being utilized as a social and political symbol. This essay will examine the ways that folklore may be used to perpetuate false ideas about women and false images of women as well, and it will attempt to demonstrate how, taking Cisneros’ fiction as a guide, readers may gain insight into the oppression of women and the means of freeing and empowering women as they come to look at folklore from a feminist perspective.

Humor in Lazarillo de Tormes
Alexander Neiford, Department of English and Modern Languages
Mentor: Dr. Catalina Castillon, Lamar University

Lazarillo de Tormes is an important piece of Spanish literature due to its being credited as the first picaresque novel ever written. It is a great book that turns out to be a very funny story. The goal of this project is to identify and compare the humor within Lazarillo de Tormes. A summary and analysis of Lazarillo will be provided along with several examples of the many hilarious situations Lazarillo finds himself in. Lazarillo constantly produces unique humorous outcomes that will be broken down and analyzed. There will also be an attempt to explain how Lazarillo is still relevant today, and even more importantly, how it is still humorous 500 years later in any language that it is read. This project will end with an analysis of why Lazarillo De Tormes is such an influential piece of Spanish literature and how it started a brand new literary genre.

Early American Recipes and the Lives of Women
Emma Nelson, Department of History
Mentor: Dr. Mary L. Scheer, Lamar University

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the role of cooking belonged primarily to women. As a result, cookbooks offer historical perspective on the opinions of women and the expectations placed upon them. For these reasons I have been researching early American cooking in relation to American women. Examining British and Dutch cookbooks used by Americans alongside early American cookbooks sheds light on developing cultural values
in the country. As a source of study, cookbooks reveal the recent past of a society as well as guide the immediate future following their publication. Hence, the female authorship of historical cookbooks offers unique insight into the story of early American women.

**Testing the Sexualized-Body-Inversion Hypothesis**  
*Kelsey Nichols, Department of Psychology*  
*Mentor: Dr. Edythe Kirk, Lamar University*

This experimental study was based on Bernard, Gervais, Allen, Campomizzi, and Klein’s (2012) Sexualized-Body-Inversion Hypothesis, which combines objectification theory and the inversion effect. The current study incorporated two control groups of non-sexualized male and female images along with two experimental groups of sexualized male and female images. Randomized block assignment was used to assign 64 participants to view male or female objectifying or non-objectifying images. DirectRT™ software projected 20 images (10 upright and 10 inverted) for 250 msec each on a computer monitor. Each image was followed by a slide that contained two side-by-side mirror images in which participants were instructed to select the image that was shown in the previous slide. I hypothesized that, (1) inverted objectifying female images would be identified with the same accuracy as upright objectifying female images, (2) female images would be identified more accurately than male images, and (3) the inversion effect would occur for non-objectifying female images and for all male images (i.e., inverted images would be harder to identify accurately than upright images). This study is important for determining whether all types of female images are objectified and thereby processed differently than male images. Data analyses for the study are currently in progress.

**The Primitive Accumulation of Capital and Ideological Construction of Race in Colonial America**  
*Dillon Nicholson, Department of Sociology*  
*Mentor: Dr. Garrick Harden*

Since Robert Park’s contribution of the race relations paradigm to the social sciences in the early 20th century, there persists an ongoing debate concerning the nature of race and its relation to class. By arguing that racial discrimination is rooted in class conflict, one fails both to recognize the ongoing struggles for liberation and equality entirely separate from economic freedom and to explain the microaggressions faced by even middle- to upper-class Black professionals in the 21st-century. Conversely, by arguing the naturalness of race apart from economic conditions, one unintentionally reinforces the very notion of race without examining the causal factors that led to its existence. The inability of either side to present a totally compelling case and the longevity of such a fundamental yet unresolved problem suggest a flaw in methodology.

In this paper, I argue that the concept of race is an historical, ideological phenomenon used to justify split labor markets as a mechanism of maintaining the mode and relations of production throughout the colonization of North America via law, discourse, spirituality, and science. My theoretical framework is structuralist Marxist, as it allows for a comprehensive reading of the economic development of colonial North America. Furthermore, the sources this paper confers reflect a “bottom-up” methodology, utilizing the oft-neglected perspective of victims, or objects, of the ideological construction of race. In such a way, I combine critical race theory with a structuralist social critique to arrive at conclusions concerning race, slavery, the “West,” and the field of sociology itself.

**Social Media’s Impact on Millennial Political Involvement**  
*Thomas Plew, Department of Political Science*  
*Mentor: Dr. Maria Elena Sandovici*

Many in today's culture harbor a disdainful view of American youth. Millennials are seen as addicted to social media and apathetic regarding our democratic process: “Entitled, lazy, narcissistic, and addicted to social media. Those are just some of the common complaints about millennials by their older colleagues” (Dowdy 2015). Many claim that with so much time spent connecting with friends and posting their thoughts on social media, Millennials have become self-absorbed and detached from the reality of our political process. This research project counters these statements by claiming that instead of causing them to be disengaged from politics, their predilection for
social media helps Millennials be more involved in a wider variety of causes than people of various generations who avoid social media. Social media contributes to Millennials' political involvement in three ways: It informs them of current events; it increases interest in political issues through social contagion; and it exposes them to a wide variety of messages by politicians and activists within a short amount of time. These three contributions allow Millennials who use social media to be more informed, engaged, and educated than people who are not social media users. Claims in this project will be tested using on-campus surveys. The contribution of this paper is twofold: debunking the myth that Millennials are politically apathetic, as well as the myth that social media feeds into such apathy. This will help society achieve a better understanding of a misunderstood generation that is creating its own brand of political involvement.

A Legacy into Prosperity: Tiberius Claudius Nero
Ryanne E. Poole, Department of History
Mentor: Dr. Mary L. Scheer, Lamar University

This paper will focus on the Roman emperor Tiberius Claudius Nero, his rise to power, and the prosperity he brought to Rome during his reign. It will begin with a look at a few of his many victorious military exploits and how that, among other things, brought him to a position of power in the early empire. Following his succession of his adoptive father, Augustus Caesar, Tiberius more than tripled the purse of Rome and ushered in a period of economic opulence for the citizens. The prospect of this study is to explore the means of frugality demonstrated by the less than charismatic emperor, his various laws and execution of justice, and the legacy he left for his own successor, Caligula. Arguably, Tiberius was the last respectable emperor of the Julio-Claudian dynasty and ruled prior to the economic crash of 33 A.D. To prove this thesis, reliance on the original writings of the ancient Roman historians Cassius Dio, Livy, Suetonius, and Tacitus will become a necessity. In addition to these primary sources, various legal documentation and correspondences will be consulted as well. To fully round out the research and historiography, modern scholars' works will be explored, including that of M. K. Thorton, an economic historian published through A Journal of Economic History.

An Equity Audit of a Regional University Writing Center's Services to International Students
Ismatara Reena, Department of Educational Leadership
Co-Author: Amani Jawah
Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Young, Lamar University

College students, regardless of whether or not they are domestic or international, struggle with academic writing issues. This is especially problematic for non-native English speaking students. Instructors frequently urge them to visit the university's writing center (WC) for assistance in improving their writing skills. The university writing center's goal is to reinforce and enhance the campus emphasis on writing instruction by working individually with students who are planning, writing, revising, and editing papers, through face-to-face or online consultations and/or workshops. The purpose of this study is to identify any gaps in the availability of services used by the international students and also to reveal international students' attitudes toward the writing center's services and tutors' backgrounds. This study will help to make recommendations for stakeholders, in order to increase the use of the writing center. To identify gaps, both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to collect data from publicly available university enrollment records, the WC sign-in records, and international student records from the international student office. Data pertaining to students' attitudes will be collected through both online and paper surveys.

Creative Writing Presentation
Mercedes Roth, Department of English and Modern Languages
Co-Authors: Josh Macfoy, Letha Matthews, Heather Singletary, and Ashley Thibodeaux
Mentor: Dr. Sara Hillin, Lamar University

We will be presenting stories that we have written for our Creative Writing class with Mrs. Gretchen Johnson for the Fall 2016 semester.
Erika Renee VanWright, Department of Political Science
Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis, Lamar University

The Saudi Arabian Ties to the United States of America from a Realist Perspective

The day the Twin Towers fell is forever etched in our minds, memories, and nightmares. We ask ourselves, who could be responsible for such a powerful destruction? A congressional investigation and the release of the infamous 28 pages led to speculation in the American zeitgeist that Saudi Arabian Nationals are responsible and should be held accountable for the attack. “Then came overwhelming congressional support for Jasta, or the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, which will allow the relatives of those killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to sue Saudi Arabia for a suspected role in the plot” (Hubbard, Ben 2016). This research will examine the relationship between the United States of America and Saudi Arabia from a realist perspective. The economy, including oil and arms trades, legislation and policies of both governments, and the fundamental difference in the value systems of Western secularism and Islamic conservatism that create the ideals perception of the relationship will be the focus of this paper.

Virtual Relations
William Wheeler, Department of Sociology
Mentor: Dr. Jesus A. Garcia, Lamar University

The internet’s ability to integrate marginal members of society must be understood when attempting to regulate such a complex social networking tool. As with most emergent technology, lags in diffusion can potentially be misconstrued as a threat to society affecting social ties and promoting anomie. Towards developing a 21st century perspective on this topic, a literature review of both classical and contemporary theories of anomie will be conducted as a means to innovate/expand the discourse on social media-based networking and its real life consequences for social inclusions and reducing destabilizing anomie.

Leadership—A Path of Perseverance
Eric Wiley, Department of English and Modern Languages
Mentor: Dr. Sara Hillin, Lamar University

As a young man I remember one of my mentors asking during a Sunday bible school lesson, “How do you want to be considered?” After listening to several responses around the class, he stated, “I would like for my name to be the only currency I need in life, for my reputation to speak for itself so that I have no want nor need of anything that my name cannot bring.” Those words remain with me today and help to shape my perspective on leadership. As I begin this journey down a road less traveled, I hope to identify certain intangibles of leadership and some of the specific components therein. Will you join me?

What is leadership? Can it be encompassed with one universal definition? Are there specific components of various disciplines that can be combined to create leadership? Is there a path to leadership that if followed can help someone develop this uniquely valuable skill? I would imagine that for most of us leadership is just as mysterious as love. It is often difficult to define but easy to identify. Like love, descriptions of leadership sometimes involve specific examples of an experience with someone that left a significant impression. Most people can likely distinguish between good leadership and bad leadership without the benefit of a working definition. And while expertise in a field of study is sought after and valued on various levels, leadership can often be the elusive ingredient to a winning recipe at work and at home.

The Psychology of Southern Literature: Genetic Memory, Attribution, and Grits
Jenny Wilson, Department of English and Modern Languages
Mentor: Dr. Sara Hillin, Lamar University

For Southerners, it is not the Limbic System that regulates emotions and memories—it is our stories. Carl Jung offered the theory of Genetic Memory to explain that “memories and learned experiences built up during a lifetime must be passed on by teaching later generations or through personal experience.” Sensory nostalgia is the most powerful gift a writer can give readers. Southerners are nostalgic, not for “Old South” culture, but for the warmth in
our genetic memory. Hemmingway said all modern American Literature comes from Huckleberry Finn. If Huckleberry Finn was the big bang of Southern Literature, do we derive our attributions and literary DNA from there? Mark Twain, Robert Ruark, and Rick Bragg each came after a transition in Southern literature, yet sensory nostalgia remained a central theme. This presentation will offer a rocking chair to sit in and explore the uniquely Southern cadence and sensory nostalgia in the books Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain, The Old Man and the Boy by Robert Ruark, and My Southern Journey by Rick Bragg, and it will show the rich connections their stories have with Southerners past and present. We will also pause to wonder, if through Genetic Memory, has our Southern literary DNA been altered to survive and preserve cultural attributions in an increasingly modern world?

**A Qualitative Assessment of Substance Abuse Patterns of Inmates in a Correctional Facility within South East Texas**  
*Mirosława Zendejas, Department of Criminal Justice*  
*Mentor: Dr. Mercedes Roth, Lamar University*

The criminal justice field identifies an issue of criminal activity coinciding with substance abuse. This study seeks to address this problem through an open-ended questionnaire, consisting of six sections and a total of 44 items, which will be administered to a group of inmates detained at the Jefferson County Correctional Facility in Beaumont, Texas. These inmates are held for various offenses, but this study focuses on an inmate's tendencies towards substance abuse. This exploratory study seeks to discover knowledge about these inmates and their substance abuse beyond their rap sheet. The survey items will inquire over the offender's employment, sobriety, family, legal standing, housing, and background information. The results will reveal the substantially similar characteristics among the offenders interviewed overall, and compare and contrast the results between male and female offenders.

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**Poster Abstracts**

All Posters are listed alphabetically by last name of the primary presenters

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**The Italian Influence in Garcilaso’s Literary Work**  
*Ana Gaytan Ceja, Department of English and Modern Languages*  
*Mentor: Dr. Catalina Castillon, Lamar University*

In the sixteenth century, Renaissance poetry was introduced in the Iberian Peninsula by Juan Boscán and Garcilaso de la Vega. The most prevalent philosophy of the Italian Renaissance movement was humanism. Renaissance emphasized an interest in the classic production of the Greek and Roman cultures, where new interpretations of these productions highlighted the value of individualism. Spanish people started to move from a theocentric mentality to an anthropocentric one. Society shifted its focus from religion permeating everything in the Medieval era to humankind being the most significant component of existence in the Renaissance era. This analysis focuses on Garcilaso de la Vega, the poet who promoted the Renaissance movement in the Iberian Peninsula during the XVI century. He is also considered the first modern poet in Spain to use the theme of love. An analysis of sonnet XXIII, which is an example of the Italian influence in Garcilaso’s literary work, will be included.

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**An Overview of Arte Mudéjar**  
*Julia Gros, Department of English and Modern Languages*  
*Mentor: Dr. Catalina Castillon, Lamar University*

In this poster presentation, I will present the origin of arte mudéjar, a definition and explanation of this artistic style, as well as examples of arte mudéjar in order to help the viewer better understand the characteristics and attributes of this unique medieval art style. This poster offers a description of what the word mudéjar means, how it originated, and what led to the development of the art style of the same name. Also included in this project are the characteristics of arte mudéjar, the common materials used in the construction of this type of art, and the different categories of arte mudéjar. This is all supported with examples of this art style in Spain and an explanation and description of each example.
Black Deaf Individuals and Interpreters as Allies

Sidney Onwuharonye, Department of Deaf Studies Deaf Education
Co-Authors: Tanasha Slack-Olumoya, Lindsay Antley, and Karen Corbello
Mentor: Dr. Diane Clark, Lamar University

Black Deaf individuals are a doubly oppressed group, typically excluded from both the African American culture because of being deaf and also excluded from Deaf culture because they are black (Black Deaf Culture through the lens of Black Deaf history). Notice that Black Deaf peoples’ identify focuses first on being Black and then on being Deaf (Myers et al., 2010). Myers et al. asked 17 participants from a larger sample how they would identify themselves, and all 17 reported that they were Black Deaf, emphasizing the importance of their race over being deaf. Not much has been published about Black Deaf individuals. Even at Gallaudet University, the only university in the world focusing on Deaf individuals and their lives, there is only one formal course related to Black Deaf People’s Studies. Given this lack of knowledge, four ASL majors, two Black Deaf students, and two white interpreting students are analyzing these issues. There are two foci to the project. The first is how Black Deaf individuals make meaning of their lives. The second is how interpreters function to become allies for their clients, peers, and friends who are Black Deaf. The method used is an autoethnography. Here both the techniques of autobiography and ethnography are combined. The four students’ journey seeks to make meaning of both their individual lives and the interactions they have both as students and peers here at Lamar.

The “Crack-Down” on Racial Disparity in Cocaine Incarcerations

Tori Smith, Department of Political Science
Mentor: Dr. Terri Davis, Lamar University

This research involves an in-depth examination of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010. The Fair Sentencing Act, or FSA, was enacted by President Barack Obama on August 3, 2010. The Act was established in an attempt to lower the minimal amount of cocaine needed in order to incarcerate a felon and to eliminate the minimum sentencing for a “simple possession” and “increased emphasis on defendant’s role and certain aggravating factors” (“Fair Sentencing Act 2010”). The overall goal of this Act was to combat the startling racial disparity of inmates in jail for nonviolent crimes. The main focus of this paper is to discover the factors that lead to the creation of the Act, discuss the cases and provisions that amended the Act, and analyze the 2015 FSA report as well as the justice system post-FSA. By analyzing the Act, we hope to provide the framework for future acts that will ultimately cut down on racial disparities in prison sentencings.

Endangered Species Children’s Book

Crystal Tirawan, Department of Art
Mentor: Dr. Richard Gachot, Lamar University

Children remain unaware of the ever-growing number of species that go extinct every day. The principle goal of this undergraduate research project is to spread awareness and impact a child’s understanding of current and future endangered species. The end result would be an illustrated children’s book that showcases endangered animals and suggests ways to prevent extinction. Research will be conducted through readings and visits to both zoos and wildlife preserves. The data for this project will be collected in the form of photos and drawings. It is hoped that these visual documents will serve to capture children’s attention in a fun way. While the issue of endangered species is a global problem, I propose to focus the research in this book on our locally endangered species. This would include animals found only in South East Texas, making the book a unique and didactic guide for children and schools in the area. Among the places I would visit would be the Big Thicket and the High Island sanctuary in order to find specific species to showcase as characters in the book. Research regarding illustrators and children books would be done as an inspiration and source for ideas regarding illustration styles and the writing of the book’s text. In terms of process, I would create a rough copy of the book and have it reviewed and critiqued by my mentor, Richard Gachot. The opportunity to create this book would raise environmental responsibility and allow me to advance my growth as a graphic designer.