The United States Supreme Court and Religion

*Brandy Rexroat*
*Shauna Reilly*

The United States government is designed to guarantee individual liberties and to limit the power of government influence unless necessary. One way it works to do this is through court ruling, and at the highest authority sets the Supreme Court. One of the founding principles of the American government is the freedom of religious, so what happens when the government entangles with religion? There are plenty of published works that study the interaction of the Supreme Court and religion through various entanglements, such as the Free Exercise Clause and the Establishment Clause of the 1st amendment, but are there outside influence that can effect the opinion of how a Supreme Court Justice rules? What potential factors can influence these opinions? Could it be ideology, religious denominations, geographical upbringing, or even public opinion?

When in Disgrace, Hap'ly I Think On Thee

*Britt Mahan*
*Brian Robertson*

Go back to age 16. When anything that went wrong made you want to die. When that first love was all-consuming. When your friends were your family and you were nothing without them. It all seems so silly now, looking back. We lived through the changes, the hormones, the feelings. My capstone project is the Studio 307 production of *When in Disgrace, Hap'ly I Think On Thee*, a play based on the true story of three young friends that left one dead, one his murderer, and one who tried to save them both. A script about a true crime that was written like Shakespeare combines both my theatre major and my sociology major into one cumulative honors project that fascinated and challenged me from start to finish.

Stimulant and Antipsychotic Drug Co-Administration: Long-Term Effects on Behavioral Development

*Chelsie L. Brewer*
*Mark Bardgett*

The use of antipsychotic (AP) drugs for childhood psychiatric disorders has increased dramatically over the last 20 years. These drugs are prescribed mainly for disorders such as attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Most children who are prescribed APs also receive treatment with psychostimulant drugs. However, little research has been done addressing the long-term effects of early-life co-administration of APs and stimulant medication.

This study examined the long-term behavioral effects of co-administration of risperidone (RISP), the most widely prescribed AP in children and dextroamphetamine (DAMP), a commonly prescribed psychostimulant, during development in male Long-Evans rats. Changes in gross locomotor activity were assessed. It was found that RISP alone decreased activity after administration, and DAMP alone increased activity. The combination of RISP and DAMP did not cause any significant changes in locomotor activity relative to controls. Early-life RISP administration did not increase activity later in life, or have an effect on locomotor responses to a DAMP challenge during adulthood. Early-life DAMP administration led to increased activity during early adulthood, but it did not affect locomotor responses to DAMP challenge. These studies raise concerns about the immediate effects of APs and psychostimulants on children and about the long-term effect of stimulant use during childhood on adult behavior.
Explorations of Culture through Design: Drums in Cross-cultural Context
Helena Sizemore
Judy Voelker
Drums are often viewed as three dimensional forms of art and may be used in ritualistic ceremonies as well as everyday life. Using drums in the collection of the NKU Museum of Anthropology, this project began with an assessment of each artifact and continued with the portrayal of culture through exhibition design. The focus was on the many uses of drums across cultures and in global context. Outcomes of this project were the design and installation of a month long exhibit at the Ft. Thomas Library and special programming aimed at young children.

Sieben Brewery Branding
Michelle Syvertsen
Maren Carpenter Fearing
SIEBEN (/ˈzi ben/) is a local Cincinnati owned and operated brewery. We only brew 7 craft beers at a time in order to maintain the highest level of quality and best possible taste. All our brews celebrate the rich German history here in Cincinnati through the use of authentic German brew styles. When you buy SIEBEN, you can rest assured that all ingredients used are pure and locally grown. We take such a high level of pride in the quality of our brews and their ingredients that we promise to donate 10% of all profits to local charities and farmers in order to stay Cincinnati strong.

This project represents the start to finish brand identity development process. I first chose my target market and began extensive research for the project. From there, I brainstormed a company name and brand position. After that I created a logo and a set collection of visual language that the brand would follow, called a style guide. To show how all this comes together to create a strong, cohesive brand, I designed a line of packaging and a website.

The Relationship Between Self-Efficacy and Nursing Student Success: A Personal Narrative On the Importance Of and My Connection to Its Implementation
Taylor Melton
Louise Niemer
There are many different factors that contribute to success. Among these factors lies one’s own determination and belief that he or she will in fact succeed. This drive to keep going and intention to rise above the obstacles can be labeled as self-efficacy. Through much research, it was concluded that an increased level of self-efficacy has a strong correlation with a heightened likelihood to succeed, and vice versa. The purpose of this change, research project was to examine the relationship between self-efficacy and Northern Kentucky University (NKU) Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) nursing students’ success as measures of course grade outcomes. The existence of this correlation would result in the overall hope and goal of this project being the implementation of interventions in the NKU nursing program that can increase student self-efficacy levels and thus lead to more successful, confident nurses. The General Self-Efficacy Survey was administered to both freshmen and senior NKU BSN nursing students. Once the surveys were collected, the students’ course grade outcomes were pulled from their files and compared to the survey scores. The results of this project showed that there was not a direct correlation between one’s level of self-efficacy and his or her ability to succeed, as evident by a high p-value and essentially zero slope of regression for both groups of students. Continuation of this project should result in the identification of a correlation between self-efficacy and nursing student success. Once this is determined, the study should then progress to the establishment of interventions that will increase self-efficacy levels among NKU BSN nursing students, thus leading to both a higher retention rate as well as the development of more successful and confident nurses.
An Exploration of Humanities
Ethan Dowden
Stephen Leigh

An exploration in Humanities is a collection of three short stories totally approximately 15,000 words. The three stories cover three different genres. I.T. is a contemporary fiction with humorous action. The Last Museum is a science fiction piece set in an apocalyptic future and is far darker. Stray Ghost, the darkest of the three, is a contemporary horror. Together they are the accumulation of Ethan Dowden's learning at Northern Kentucky University as a creative writing major and honors minor. They showcase his talents as well as his improvements. Enjoy.

The Evolution of Video Games: Hobby to Cultural Phenomenon
Taylor Cummins
Ali Godel

Media is ever evolving and becoming a more important aspect of everyday life. Video games, for example, are something many people enjoy on a daily basis. Through this research, I explore the cultural and social implications of video games in the contemporary world. In addition, I explore the duality of video games and culture and how they both influence and reflect each other. This form of media has gone from a simple hobby to a communication medium, a learning tool, and a reflection of society as a whole.

Special Olympics: The Social and Recreational Aspects
Tyler Kiefer
Melissa Jones

Families, Professionals, and Exceptionality – Positive Outcomes Through Partnerships and Trust by Turnbull, Turnbull, Erwin, Soodak, and Shodren identifies eight family functions that are important to the growth and overall wellbeing of every individual. Those eight family functions are; Affection, Self-Esteem, Spirituality, Economics, Daily Care, Socialization, Recreation, and Education. Of those eight, I believe that individuals with intellectual disabilities often miss out on Socialization and Recreation the most, especially once they graduate high school. My goal is to see firsthand how Special Olympics may fill that void, and the type of impact it has not only the athletes, but also the parents, coaches, and everyone else involved.

When Science is Less Scientific than Science: Implicit Public Perception of Natural Science Versus Behavioral Science
Christopher Thomas Taylor
Douglas Krull

The perception of behavioral sciences is one that has been inferior to other disciplines of science even since the founding of the field itself. The purpose of this study is to evaluate perceptions of natural science and behavioral science today both implicitly (by using the Implicit Association Test) and explicitly (by using a self-reporting survey). Implications of the results include the amount of funding that is made available for psychological research, careers of students that are interested in science, whether or not the general public will pursue treatment for psychological disorders.
The Effects of Outsourcing and Offshoring on the Accounting Industry and My Job Outlook
Jane Kreutzer
Denise Luethge
Companies are always trying to find ways to save more time and money, and outsourcing has become a popular way to do that. The accounting industry has earned a reputation of being one of the more outsourced functions as companies either send their in-house accounting work to other businesses, or other countries completely because it can be viewed as a function that is operationally important for the business but not strategically important. Although outsourcing can be a threat to the accounting industry, chances are that it will create new opportunities for accounting professionals as clients come to them for expert advice on how to finance an international business and ask questions about international regulations and standards.

The Role of Food Perceptions in Eating Disorder Behavior
Alexander Weiglein
Douglas Krull
Previous studies have mostly ignored how food perceptions play a role in eating disorder behavior. The current study examined how the severity of an eating disorder is related to food perceptions. Participants completed a survey containing multiple measures and were given scores for each. A moderately strong positive correlation was found between the severity of an eating disorder and food perceptions. This study emphasizes evaluating these complex disorders from multiple perspectives and highlights the importance of taking cognitive factors into consideration when researching or treating an eating disorder. Future research in this area might lead to a better theoretical understanding of eating disorders. Additionally, future work in this area might lead to more diverse and effective treatment options for those suffering from these potentially life-threatening disorders.

Making Memories and the Memories that Make Us
Alexis Springelmeyer
Ali Godel
My creative project focuses on how exchanges with others in our pasts can become monumental memories and have a lasting impact on us. It explores narratives that young adults shared when asked about a memory of an exchange with another person which has made a lasting impact on their identity. Each interview has been recorded and transposed into writing. Then, the written stories have been published in a blog called, "Making Memories and the Memories that Make Us."

This Is Your Brain on Drugs: Effects of a Biological Explanation on Attitudes Toward Heroin Users and Responses to Heroin Addiction
Sara Sharpe
Perilou Goddard
Northern Kentucky is experiencing a heroin epidemic, and while opposition remains widespread, activists are advocating for harm reduction programs. This experiment tested the possibility that biological explanation of heroin addiction would change attitudes toward heroin users and harm reduction programs. This study included 87 undergraduates and 32 participants from a quasi-control group. Subjects were randomly assigned to one of two groups: an experimental group, who received information on the biology of addiction and information on harm reduction practices, and a control group who only received the latter. A quasi-experimental control group received no information. All participants then answered 75 items measuring perceived controllability of addiction, stigma toward heroin users, support for harm reduction practices, and levels of anger and disgust. Overall, there were few significant effects of the information manipulation. However, regression analyses supported
Weiner’s (1995) attribution theory that belief in a biological cause of addiction is linked to reduced perceptions of control and less stigmatization of people who use heroin.

**What Can You Do With a Degree in Psychology?**
Megan Kloss
*Jim Thomas*

What do you think of when you hear the term psychology? A shrink? Or maybe a researcher? While these are both places you may find a psychologist, there are also many more. From teaching to police officers to business managers and even lawyers, psychology provides a solid foundation for many career opportunities. This project is a compilation of various career opportunities with the intent to educate others on the endless possibilities a psychology major has. So to answer the question of what can one do with a degree in psychology: you can do almost anything, or nothing at all!

**Pentest in a Box**
Lee Epling and Brandon Hinkel
*Yi Hu*

Network security assessments have a tendency to be difficult and costly; However, failing to have an assessment done can result in a security breach. A security breach can cost an organization time and money remediating the damage, such as lost confidential business information, which far exceeds the cost of a security assessment. Our solution for this problem is a semi-automated system that can help a penetration tester, security professional, or systems administrator, scan and report on the security of a network, and be able to perform some simulated attacks. This system relies on a microcomputer board to host the necessary components to conduct a security assessment, and a guide book on how to create one. This system has been done in an open source manner to allow other to contribute and benefit from a community effort in the name of security.

**Woes of a Cast Member: A Guide to the Disney College Program**
Candice Gott
*Jim Kirtley*

*Woes of a Cast Member: A Guide to the Disney College Program* provides a glimpse into the lives of students participating in the Disney College Program at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL. Through main character Haley’s eyes, readers gain insight into the most challenging aspects of the program, including training, housing, and adjusting to life in an entirely new environment. The watercolor paintings accompany the written story and offer reflection on the difficult and rewarding aspects of life as a college program participant. Completing the project is a reflection piece, in which clear connections between participation in the Disney College Program and the Northern Kentucky University Honors Program are outlined. The project in all is a creative reflection on the similarities between two seemingly unrelated and entirely different experiences.

**Exploring Improvisation Techniques for Performance**
Sarah Emmons
*Heather Britt*

In my hunt to explore and excavate the various improvisational techniques that are known today, I discovered some very amazingly inspiring creators of dance. In studying their work, I compiled a list of exercises and ideas that I utilized in creating a work that was performed on April 17th at the TGIT in Greaves Hall. My first semester concentrated on delving in and trying a lot of methods for creating that I was not used to, and my second semester focused on putting these studies into practice. In doing this I really pushed my boundaries as an artist and discovered so many different ways for instilling movement
in the body. In studying the work of Rudolf Laban, William Forsythe, Gaga technique, contact improvisation, and the embodiment of music I have been able to explore and test the waters of some of the greatest choreographers and techniques of all times, that have greatly inspired the direction of my improvisational piece.

**An Exploration of the Roles of Gender and the Bible in John Steinbeck’s *East of Eden***

*Olivia Hagedorn*

*Tonya Krouse*

This essay involves research on the themes of gender and the Bible in John Steinbeck’s epic 600-page novel *East of Eden*. Steinbeck’s message, stemming from the Biblical allegory he uses, is that humans have the choice of free will and that no one is inherently either good or evil. Upon research of criticism surrounding the novel, gender theory of the time of publishing and close reading, I found that Steinbeck’s message on free will could implicitly be applied to the strict female gender roles applied to the two main female characters in the novel, whose stereotypical roles are eventually resolved with the same ideology applied to good versus evil.

**Teach Me to Teach You: Nurses as Educators**

*Abbey Scherer* and *Zac Thomas*

*Sandra Grinnell*

All healthcare professionals including physicians, nurses, therapists, etc., all provide patient teaching so patients can maintain good health away from the healthcare setting. This project focuses on the relationship between nurses and patients when it comes to providing and receiving patient education. The information needed to teach a procedure, a disease process, or an upcoming treatment to a patient is always discussed in nursing school curriculum, however, students are not taught how to teach patients. A literature review done for this project confirms that the “teach-back” method of patient education is the most effective method in healthcare. Interviews with nurses and patients were conducted at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) in order to determine how nurses teach patients and how the teaching was received by the patient. Nurses and parents of children being treated at CCHMC were interviewed to determine the application of the teach-back method as well as how effective the teaching was performed. The interviews showed that inexperienced or young nurses did not understand how to apply the teach-back method whereas experienced nurses did. The caregivers reported that teaching was effective but the data suggests that interventions such as the learning needs assessment, a standard procedure in a new admission, is overlooked in the healthcare setting and could provide more effective teaching. In conclusion, young nurses are not properly instructed in teaching and patients could receive more effective teaching if all methods and resources are utilized.

**Playing on the Mind**

*Lauren Koop*

*Tammie Sherry*

“Playing on the Mind” is a close look at how genres besides classical music might effect a student academically. Specifically, “Playing on the Mind” is a project that observes the effects instrumental jazz and instrumental rock music has on reading comprehension test scores. This project focuses specifically on how these genres of music affected fourth and fifth grade students during a thirty minute period of reading a story and answering questions. These test scores were then compared to tests taken with no music to gauge the difference the instrumental music might have made to students’ abilities to comprehend the text. Data was
collected over an eight month period with approximately one hundred students involved in the testing process.

**Statistical Analysis with the Cincinnati Health Department**
Kacie Kotnik  
*David Agard*

This Honors Capstone Project was completed by acting as a statistical consultant for the Cincinnati Department. As the first part of the project, the Health Impact Assessment survey analysis showed that the training had a significant impact on participant’s perception of their understanding of the Health Impact assessment process. The lead intervention program analysis showed that while the intervention program did not increase the time in which children became lead poisoned, it did cause more children to participate in follow up Blood Lead Level testing. In addition, children who were retested in between 270 and 360 days of being tested were significantly more likely to have a high blood level if they had not been treated with the lead intervention program. The lead intervention program did seem to have an effect on specific aspects of children’s health who were previously considered to be at risk for lead poisoning.

**Solving the Mystery of Becoming Viral**
Christa Curry  
*Renee Human*

My capstone project explored the mystery surrounding becoming viral, how one becomes viral, and how ideas spread online and through word-of-mouth. In order to do this, I started a research blog that discussed recent and current viral trends like the Oscar selfie, the black/blue/gold/white dress, the game Flappy Bird, plus more. I related each trend I wrote about to Jonah Berger’s research and his book called, “Contagious: Why Things Catch On.” Specifically, I related most blog posts about the STEPPS (social currency, triggers, emotion, public, practical value, and stories) model discussed in Berger’s book. The goal of the project was for me to get more comfortable with writing a blog, WordPress sites (which is a skill employers look for), and to learn more about something I’m interested in.

**Cultural Competence: A Cornerstone in Nursing**
Mary Von Lehman  
*Adele DiMinno*

This research explored ways in nursing students can gain cultural competence within their nursing practice. An investigation took place on previous research, transcultural nursing theories, education on cultural competence skills, and facts on health disparities. The information gathered was organized and incorporated into a Nursing Blackboard site labelled “Cultural Nursing 101,” which included five educational modules on cultural competence and awareness. Comparison of pre- and post- test scores revealed that after the modules were complete, students reported higher levels of comfort interacting with culturally diverse patients, awareness of important cultural terms, knowledge of other cultures’ traditions, beliefs & practices, desire to seek enhanced cultural competence, awareness of barriers in accessing health services, and awareness of assessment tools and other resources.

**Don’t Judge a Book by Its Film**
Lauren Rupp  
*Kristin Hornsby*

Divergent, The Host, and The Twilight Saga are just a few examples of book-to-screen adaptations that became inspirations for my Capstone. My project is a creative exploration into the process a screenwriter must undergo to transform a literary work of art into a masterpiece for a visual stage. With
help from my mentor, I researched the process and formatting of film scripts to guide my own transformation. Another aspect of my project involves preparing a pitch that would be worthy of being presented to a production company in an effort to make this academic project into a future cinematic reality.

“I took my Power in my Hand”: NKU Students Create Emily Dickinson Art
Emma Rose Thompson
Robert K. Wallace
Since 1994, Professor Robert K. Wallace has offered a creative option for the final project in his English classes—resulting in a vast collection of student artwork inspired by Emily Dickinson in particular. I present my art exhibition and catalog recording this body of work. Dr. Wallace and I worked one-on-one with the Steely Library to plan and install this exhibition, create the accompanying catalog, and plan the related events: a marathon poetry reading, student artist panel discussion, and Dickinson tea party. This project gives a comprehensive view of how teaching literature through art can be a rewarding experience.

The Diary of Death Row
Kaitlyn Gerrety
Marcos L. Misis
The first part of the project, the literature review, documents many aspects of the death penalty pertinent to the audience’s knowledge and understanding of the topic. Sections covered include an introduction, a history of the death penalty in the United States, demographic characteristics, public perceptions, and living conditions on death row. This portion of the project’s purpose lies in informing the audience before discussing the creative aspect. The second portion of the capstone looks at the cases of several death row inmates. Some have been executed, some have been exonerated, some are living out life sentences, and some are living as free citizens. Each, however, is unique in their story and in their struggle, and none deserve to die for the crime for which they are convicted.

Assessing the Effect of Parasitic Blow Fly Larvae on Carolina Chickadees
Zachary Holtkamp
Lindsay Walters
Bird blowflies, or Protocalliphora, are ectoparasites that feed on nestling birds as larvae. Adults lay their eggs in bird’s nests. The larvae emerge as parasites which feed on the blood of bird nestlings. One species of bird nestlings that blowfly larvae may negatively affect is the Carolina chickadee. The goal of this research was to observe the relationship between blowfly larvae and Carolina chickadee nestlings in order to determine whether the larvae cause harm to the nestlings. Negative effects of the larvae include mass, tarsus length, and hemoglobin concentrations. Measurements of these variables were taken during the 14th day after hatching. Collected data was analyzed using a mixed effects model that correlated the number of blowfly larvae per nestling with each variable. Results of the mixed effects model showed no significant relationship between number of blow flies per nestling and mass or tarsus length (p=.898)(p=.450). However, it was determined that number of blowflies per nestling and hemoglobin concentration was significant (p=.048). This research is crucial in understanding the relationship between blowflies and Carolina chickadees. It may also help the scientific community to better understand how the larvae affect bird species as a whole. This is the first study to analyze this combination of variables and it is one of the few studies that observe Carolina chickadees.