

Proceedings of the AMC Annual Experiential Learning Day
Student Presentations
Volume Four – March 22, 2011
Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT

Presentations:

ART

Title: *Preview of Senior Art Exhibition*

Student Author: *Alexandria Sinchak (Art/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Julia Coash (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Senior Project*

Presentation: *Art Showcase (TAC Atrium)*

A collection of thematically linked body of mixed media artwork. Paintings on pieces of old, wooden furniture with collage and decoupage elements.

Title: *Abstraction in Contemporary Logos*

Student Author: *Christian Ammon (Art/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Julia Coash (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Senior Project*

Presentation: *Art Showcase (TAC Atrium)*

"Abstraction in Contemporary Logos" will be a exhibition of paintings exploring modern commercial symbols. These works are acrylic on canvas. In these paintings I have been concerned with the formal qualities of color, shape and line. Two approaches that I have explored are: cropping to the point of abstraction and painting familiar logo's from non- English and non-Western contexts. I am very inspired by contemporary commercial advertising and media from movies to clothing design.

ART THERAPY

Title: *Effects of Yoga & Art on the Reduction of Anxiety*

Student Author: *Nicole Cyr (M.A.A.T.)*

Faculty Sponsors: *Hilda Speicher & Abbe Miller (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Master's Thesis*

Presentation: *Talk (Bree Common/AH)*

Previous research indicates that both art making and yoga practice can be useful in reducing anxiety. Little research has been done however on combining the two approaches. The current research forced on exploring the anxiety reduction benefits of both yoga and art making alone as compared to combining the interventions. Thirty participants were placed into one of three

treatment groups by semi-random assignment: 1) Mandala art making, 2) Yoga, or 3) combined Yoga/Mandala. Anxiety of the participants was measured pre and post treatment intervention using the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory. Results will be discussed in terms of future research and application of the research findings.

Title: *Draw Your Professor as a Measure of Teacher Immediacy & It's Relationship to Coarse Material Retention an Exploratory Study*

Student Author: *Nancy Rhoda (M.A.A.T.)*

Faculty Sponsors: *Abbe Miller & Hilda Speicher (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Master's Thesis*

Presentation: *Poster (TAC Atrium)*

Students can provide a unique and important perspective on teacher effectiveness through course evaluations. The Draw Your Professor (DYP) allows for an alternate non-verbal method to measure learning and relationship between student and professor. Professors were asked to rate themselves on the Non-Verbal Immediacy Scale Self Report (NIS-S) before viewing the drawings their students made of them, and after viewing the drawings. It was hypothesized that viewing the drawing would have an impact on self ratings of immediacy from Time 1 to Time 2, and results were statistically significant. It was also hypothesized that professors with high self reported immediacy on the post NIS-S scores would report greater retention of course content depicted in the drawings, but these results were not statistically significant.

Title: *Mandalas & Stress*

Student Author: *Colleen Raimondi (M.A.A.T.)*

Faculty Sponsors: *Donna Kaiser & Hilda Speicher (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Master's Thesis*

Presentation: *Poster (TAC Atrium)*

This study investigated the use of mandala art making as a physiological and psychological stress reducer. Physiological stress was measured by blood pressure and pulse and psychological stress was measured by the Depression, Anxiety, Stress Scale (DASS) self-report. The participants (N = 28) engaged in a mandala art making activity. Findings revealed no significant reduction in stress levels as measured by blood pressure or pulse, although t-tests of changes in the DASS and its subscales scores showed a significant reduction between the pre and post measures. These findings suggest that creating mandalas is an effective stress reducer; however, this study did not use a control group to show that these findings are purely due to creating mandalas. Future research should include a control group and more reliable physiological stress measures.

Title: *Bird's Nest Drawing*

Student Author: *Sarah Pigg (M.A.A.T.)*

Faculty Sponsors: *Hilda Speicher & Evie Lindemann (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Master's Thesis*

Presentation: *Poster (TAC Atrium)*

This study examined the validity of the Bird's Nest Drawing (BND) in measuring attachment style and care giving behaviors in adult romantic relationships. Thirty-one participants completed the BND art therapy assessment, the Experiences in Close Relationships – Revised (ECR-R; an attachment measure), and the Care giving Questionnaire (CQ.) ECR-R attachment anxiety predicted classification as insecure on the BND, as expected. However, ECR-R avoidance predicted classification as secure on BND drawings, contrary to expectations. Significant relationships were found between BND and CQ. High proximity maintenance and compulsive care giving on the CQ were correlated with BND secure attachment. Low proximity maintenance on the CQ correlated with BND preoccupied and dismissing-fearful attachments.

BIOLOGY

Title: *Smooth Muscle Proteins are Altered Following Stretch Injury in the Female Mouse Vagina*

Student Author: *LizaMarie Valle (Biology Pre Med/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Marsha K. Guess (Yale University School of Medicine)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Volunteer Research Assistant*

Presentation: *Talk (Devaney Hall/G9-AH)*

Vaginal delivery has been consistently shown to be associated with pelvic organ prolapsed (POP) in women. It is thought to result from stretch injury that occurs with passage of the fetus through the birth canal. The primary objective of our research is to evaluate changes in vaginal smooth muscle proteins following simulated vaginal delivery in a mouse model. Vaginal stretch injury results in decreased expression of vaginal smooth muscle proteins. Loss of smooth muscle may result in loss of tissue integrity and strength. Collectively these findings indicate that short-term changes occur in the vagina following stretch injury that may impact pelvic floor integrity over time.

COMMUNICATION

Title: *Music Video Productions*

Student Authors: *Christina Caputo & Jared Cesare (Communication/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Garret Dell (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Other*

Presentation: *Talk & Videos (Devaney Hall/G9-AH)*

For this project, students were asked to make a Music Video incorporating all stages of the production process: pre-production, production, post-production. Using video cameras belonging

to the Communications Department, students shared, brainstormed, gathered footage, and edited their films using an interdependent approach. This experience allowed students to gain more appreciation for the video production process by immersing them in hands-on work and state of the art non-linear editing technologies.

CULTURAL HISTORY

Title: *Discovering The Real Dominican Republic*

Student Author: *Ana Virginia Rivera (Business & Communication /DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Sean O'Connell (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Independent Research*

Presentation: *Talk (Bree Common/AH)*

Discovering the Real Dominican Republic, is about discovering all the hidden segments that the government and society hides behind closed doors. The reason for this may be that they want to keep tourists coming back to enjoy the perfect paradise vacation spot. Usually people identify the Dominican Republic by its beautiful beaches and top of the line resorts. Although this is all true, what we don't see is the living conditions of those Dominican people that are living in really bad poverty. Year after year I have explored the real story by visiting people that live in poverty in the cities. I wanted to know what they had to say and what they felt needed improvement. I have done a large amount of research since high school and have interviewed a large number of people that live within these conditions. This is a project that increases awareness and opens those closed doors that no one dares to open.

Title: *Yoga Observed: Motion and Meaning in Cultural Contexts*

Student Author: *Kathleen Donohue (M.A.L.S.)*

Faculty Sponsors: *Mathew Waggoner & Robert Bourgeois (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Master's Thesis*

Presentation: *Talk (Bree Common/AH)*

In *Islam Observed* (1968), the anthropologist Clifford Geertz examined how Islam, an ideological and social institution, is interpreted in different ways in the differing social environments of Morocco and Indonesia. Geertz felt that this pointed out the "embedded" nature of such an institution and suggested that a unitary ideological and social construct can be interpreted, appropriated, and changed due to its cultural environment. His work provides a useful template for the examination of the ways in which any institution changes as it moves through time and across cultural boundaries. It encourages us to consider the dynamic relationship between society, culture, action and ideas. I would like to apply Geertz's conceptual model to the case study of yoga. A physical and spiritual discipline originating in India, its practice has changed over time and its spread to the West has encouraged even more variations in interpretation. As a yoga practitioner, I have become interested in the ways in which scholarly approaches to the study of society and culture can help develop a more full appreciation of yoga's complexities. Yoga can be understood as a cultural institution, an artifact that can be

studied holistically by using the analytical tools of anthropology, religious studies, literacy theory and history.

EDUCATION

Title: *Field Experience: An Integral Part of Teacher Preparation at Albertus Magnus College*

Student Authors: *Casey Ellis, Jennifer Kordek & John Snow (Education/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Joan Venditto (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Student Teaching Field Experience*

Presentation: *Talk (TAC Atrium)*

Students will present their experiences at various stages of field experiences within our education program leading to teacher certification -- one from an early experience, one from a middle level experience, and one from student teaching.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Title: *A Taste of Arsenic and Old Lace*

Student Authors: *AMC English Club*

Faculty Sponsor: *Sarah Wallman (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Student Club Work – A Performance*

Presentation: *Performance (TAC Atrium)*

The English Club taps into the creativity of Albertus Magnus students by allowing them to share their art at Open Mic nights and in Poetry and Play contests. Every spring, the English club also chooses and directs an outdoor spring comedy. The English Club plans to show a sneak peak of their spring comedy “Arsenic and Old Lace.” In Act I of the play, Mortimer stumbles upon a very special secret about his Aunts, which nearly causes him to have a nervous breakdown, while Jonathan, Mortimer’s troublesome older brother, makes a return home hoping to stir things up.

Title: *Old English Made New: A Creative Translation of the Husband’s Message*

Student Author: *Nolan Dionne (English/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Paul Robichaud (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Class Project/Assignment*

Presentation: *Talk (Bree Common/AH)*

I will read a creative translation of "The Husband's Message," an Anglo-Saxon poem. The poem is particularly famous among scholars for the uncertainty of the poem's purpose, due to severe burns on the only surviving manuscript in The Exeter Book. This translation was written during the Fall 2010 semester for Dr. Robichaud's course, Reading Old English.

Title: *Stylistic and Structural Technique in Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway*

Student Author: *Casey Ellis (English/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Paul Robichaud (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *A Literacy Analysis*

Presentation: *Talk (TAC Atrium)*

Scholars define novels as “modern” based on the time period it was written; the first half of the twentieth century is considered the peak of the modernist movement. However, modern works are more identifiable based on their presentations. Stylistic elements such as structure and technique were uniquely used by modern writers, and as a result, twentieth century readers experienced a new type of literature that was edgy, yet relatable. Woolf masters her stylistic identity in *Mrs. Dalloway*, which chronicles one day in the life of a wealthy English housewife. This approach allows readers a small, vivid glimpse into the minds of various British busybodies.

Title: *The Husband's Message and Why it is Unique:*

Student Author: *Sydney McAvoy*

Faculty Sponsor: *Paul Robichaud (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *A Literacy Analysis*

Presentation: *Poster (TAC Atrium)*

I will present my personal translation of the elegy, The Husband's Message, and why I have found it is different from other elegies of the time and period. Through practice and insight, I was able to successfully translate the poem from its original form. In addition to identifying the words, I identified and explored the story, comparing it to other poems that I read during EN225W Spc Topic: Reading Old English and to the research of scholars.

PSYCHOLOGY

Title: *Does The Obligatory Activation of Multiplication Facts Extend to Complex Problems?*

Student Author: *Amy Benvenuto (Psychology/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Loel Tronsky (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Research Practicum*

Presentation: *Poster (TAC Atrium)*

Previous research has shown that when simple multiplication operands are presented, the product of those operands is automatically activated. It is not yet known whether this effect extends beyond single digit operands. First, participants will practice complex multiplication problems (e.g. 16 x 3) for 1.5 hours. After practice, participants will complete a number matching task where the target number matches one of the probes. When the target matches the product of the probes, participants should have difficulty rejecting the target as a match, which will indicate obligatory activation of the product of the probes.

Title: *Effect of Youth Group Participation on Overall Health*
Student Author: *Theresa Flood (Psychology/DAY)*
Faculty Sponsors: *Hilda Speicher & James Brine (Albertus Magnus College)*
Experiential Learning Venue: *Honors Research Practicum*
Presentation: *Poster (TAC Atrium)*

By means of a survey administered to 30 high school students that attend a local church youth group, this study will examine how youth group participation affects overall well-being, including parental and adult support, peer relationships, mental health, coping mechanisms, risk behaviors, and a sense of belonging and purpose in the community.

SCIENCE

Title: *Rust Removal by the Process of Electrolysis*
Student Authors: *Rashid Jarrell, Justin Parker, Robin Planeta, & Yolanda Barnes (ND)*
Faculty Sponsor: *Diana Vesely (Albertus Magnus College)*
Experiential Learning Venue: *Class Project/Assignment*
Presentation: *Talk & Video (Devaney Hall/G9-AH)*

This experiment will demonstrate how to remove rust from ordinary ferrous items through the process of electrolysis. The process of using electrolysis to remove rust incorporates basic chemistry procedures. Basically, this experiment is going to show how rust is removed from metal parts by passing a small electrical charge from a battery through the rusty metal to stimulate the exchange of ions when this rusty item is submerged in an electrolyte, in this case a sodium carbonate solution. Our belief is that through the use of electricity and a conductive solution, we will effectively remove rust from submerged rusted item.

STUDENT CLUB PRESENTATIONS

Title: *Students United for a Better World*
Student Author: *Amy Benvenuto(Psychology), Nicole Bernier (Political Science) & Jen Kordek (Education & History) – all DAY program*
Faculty Sponsor: *Robert Bougeouis (Albertus Magnus College)*
Experiential Learning Venue: *Student Club Work*
Presentation: *Talk (TAC Atrium)*

The purpose of our presentation is to inform those who do not know Students United about what we do, what our purpose is, and to show those who are involved in the club how they have affected others lives in a positive manner. We will present a slideshow of pictures and videos of our events. The presentation will involve some audience participation.

Title: *The Student Science Club*

Student Author: *Cara Ann Cama (Biology Pre Med/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsors: *Mark Barreuther (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Student Club Work*

Presentation: *Talk (Devaney Hall/G9-AH)*

The Albertus Magnus College Science Club functions as an extracurricular extension of the Department of Biology and Chemistry. The mission of the Department of Biology and Chemistry is to build upon the liberal arts focus of the College and provide the basic knowledge and experiences that will enable our graduates to be effective and successful scientific leaders, capable of making sound and ethical decisions. Likewise, it helps prepare students for a career in education, research, museums, libraries, industry, and scientific writing and illustration. The faculty works closely with the students interested in pursuing professional or graduate study, helping them to prepare for entrance into both professional and graduate programs.