

**Proceedings of the Albertus Magnus College
Annual Experiential Learning Day
Student Presentations
Volume Five – March 28, 2012
Albertus Magnus College, New Haven, CT**

Presentations:

ART THERAPY

Title: *Cultural Effects on Directionality in Art*
Student Author: *Danit Kenigsztein (M.A.A.T.)*
Faculty Sponsor: *Hilda Speicher (Albertus Magnus College)*
Experiential Learning Venue: *Master's Thesis*
Session Time: *9:45 am – 10:00 am*
Presentation: *Talk - Tagliatela Academic Center (Room 212)*

The rising awareness of multiculturalism raises the need to test some basic assumptions regarding the meaning of direction in art. In this study I attempted to demonstrate that language, as an aspect of culture, influences one's visual spatial orientation, thereby impacting interpretation of artwork used as art assessments. To this end, this project compares the results of Israeli native Hebrew speakers (right to left writers) and American native English speakers (left to right writers) who were asked to complete the Draw a Bridge Assessment by drawing a bridge and adding an arrow depicting the direction of travel.

Title: *Validating the Draw a Story Assessment as a Measurement of Depression Using the Beck Depression Inventory II*
Student Author: *Kristen Wojcoski (M.A.A.T.)*
Faculty Sponsor: *Abbe Miller (Albertus Magnus College)*
Experiential Learning Venue: *Master's Thesis*
Session Time: *2:00 pm – 4:00 pm*
Presentation: *Poster - Hubert Campus Center (Behan Community Room)*

This study investigates Rawley Silver's Draw a Story (DAS) assessment as a valid measure of depression. DAS results were collected from 70 male and female volunteer participants' ages 19-65 years old that also completed the Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II) questionnaires. The relationship between the DAS and the BDI-II is purported to be indicative of whether the DAS can be considered a valid measure of depression. At this moment data has not been analyzed, but a negative correlation is hypothesized. Results will be displayed and discussed via a poster presentation along with sample drawings from the study.

BIOLOGY

Title: *Intravenous N-acetylcysteine's Affects on Renal Dysfunction and Atrial Fibrillation in Elderly Cardiac Patients*

Student Author: *Michelle Battista (Biology and Psychology/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Mark Barruether (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Internship*

Session Time: *10:15 am – 10:45 am*

Presentation: *Talk - Devaney Hall (Aquinas Hall, G9)*

N-acetylcysteine (NAC) provides renal protection from contrast agents at low doses. Many studies have been conducted to determine NAC's effects at high doses when given to patients prior to cardiac surgery showing inconsistent results. We hope to show NAC's benefits on renal protection and atrial fibrillation when administered at high doses in high risk patients both at induction of anesthesia and for 24 hours after surgery. A historical control was established from patients undergoing cardiac surgery from the year 2009 at Bayhealth Medical Center. NAC administered intravenously prior to cardiac surgery and for 24 hours thereafter, in elderly patients may be both a beneficial and inexpensive intervention method to these two complications in this high risk group.

Title: *My Internship: Namibian Dolphin Experience*

Student Author: *Alyssa Avery (Biology/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Mark Barruether (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Internship*

Session Time: *11:30 am – 12:00 pm*

Presentation: *Talk - Devaney Hall (Aquinas Hall, G9)*

Along the Western Coast of South Africa lies a small research facility that studies dolphins and whales that inhabit the bay nearby. During summer 2011 I spent one month studying with the research team at the Mammal Research Institute at the University of Pretoria. There was much more to my internship than simply "playing with dolphins." During this presentation you will learn about the research conducted, my experience and the internship possibilities that exist abroad.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Title: *Pujols vs. A-Rod*

Student Author: *Evell Concepcion (Computer Information Systems/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Wayne Gineo (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Class Research Project*

Session Time: *2:00 pm – 4:00 pm*

Presentation: *Poster - Hubert Campus Center (Behan Community Room)*

The purpose of this statistical analysis is to show the statistical similarities between Alex Rodriguez and Albert Pujols. During their careers Rodriguez and Pujols have been considered two of the best all-around players in baseball. In 2007, Rodriguez signed the richest contract in

Major League Baseball (MLB) history. At the time of the contract Rodriguez was 31 years old. Pujols is now 31 years old and has similar numbers to Rodriguez. Pujols is seeking the same kind of contract Rodriguez signed previously with the New York Yankees. This analysis investigates whether or not Pujols should get the same or similar contract signed by Rodriguez.

Title: *"The Wall Street Experience": Understanding the Corporate Role in Global Emerging Markets*

Student Author: *Hannah Del Vecchio (Business Administration/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Nancy Fallon (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Internship and ePortfolio*

Session Time: *9:45 am – 10:00 am*

Presentation: *Talk - Devaney Hall (Aquinas Hall, G9)*

This presentation will not only give insight to the real world of "Wall Street," but will emphasize the impact global emerging markets have on some of the largest corporations in the world (eg. Citigroup). Furthermore, it will address emerging technology that is currently completely changing the financial operations of Wall Street companies and the importance of this technology. A brief overview of a model on how to manage software as assets globally that I designed during my internship will be provided as an example.

COMMUNICATIONS

Title: *The Importance of Experiential Learning when Applying to Graduate School*

Student Author: *Victoria Verderame (Communications/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Ronald Waite (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Internship and ePortfolio*

Session Time: *11:00 am – 11:15 am*

Presentation: *Talk - Devaney Hall (Aquinas Hall, G9)*

With college attendance rates being higher than ever, having a Bachelor's Degree is simply not enough to give you a jump start in your field. Hence, many college graduates are pursuing graduate degrees right out of college. These graduate programs are not only looking for a good GPA and a solid GRE score, but they also want to know that you have experience in that field. The solution to this is an internship in your chosen field. During this presentation I will discuss the graduate school application process, the building of my ePortfolio, and the crucial role my internship played in my acceptance.

EDUCATION

Title: *Tracking Student Progress through Data Collection and Analysis*

Student Authors: *Starlin Getts & Stephanie Munzi (Art Education/DAY)*

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

Experiential Learning Venue: *Independent Study – Tracking Student Teaching*

Session Time: *2:00 pm – 4:00 pm*

Presentation: *Poster - Hubert Campus Center (Behan Community Room)*

During our student teaching experiences in a high school art classroom, we were able to track student progress through data collection and analysis. We used a variety of methods to monitor student learning throughout the progression of units and lessons from the art curriculum. We then analyzed the data and reflected on the success of our teaching approaches in order to make improvements.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Title: *A Taste of William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, or What You Will*

Student Authors: *Albertus Magnus College English Club*

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

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

Session Time: *10:15 am – 10:45 am*

Presentation: *Performance - Hubert Campus Center (House of Bollstadt Pub)*

The English Club will perform 2-3 short scenes from Act One of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night, or, What You Will* in anticipation of their April 26-28, 2012 performances of the play.

Title: *Literature of the Immigrant Service-Learning Project*

Student Author: *Spring 2012 Literature of the Immigrant Class (DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Deborah Frattini (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Service-Learning Project*

Session Time: *11:30 am – 12:00 pm*

Presentation: *Talk and Posters - Hubert Campus Center (Behan Community Room)*

The value of this Literature of the Immigrant service project, in addition to enabling students to work in and with the community, is to help build bridges among immigrants and students as stories are shared. The recording of oral histories is dually beneficial: immigrants feel validated and empowered by telling and preserving their stories; students work as "armchair ethnographers" and through their research, gain insights into how individuals are changed by, and change, a community culture.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Title: *Neoliberalism and Left-Wing Politics in Latin America*

Student Author: *Diana Velez (Biology/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Christine Dolan Atkins (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Independent Study*

Session Time: *9:45 am – 10:00 am*

Presentation: *Talk - Hubert Campus Center (Behan Community Room)*

The Pink Tide is a current political movement taking place in Latin America characterized by the upsurge of leftist politics. Latin America has observed the rise of left-wing parties and leaders since the late 1990's. Countries such as Venezuela and Bolivia have democratically elected populist leaders, whereas countries like Chile and Uruguay have opted for democratic socialist leaders. These countries, among others, have shifted to the "left" as a reaction to neoliberalism,

which introduced Latin America to capitalism and free trade policies. This essay analyzes the effects of neoliberalism in Latin America and why so many countries have sought left-wing politics as a solution to the issues created by neoliberal policies.

GLOBAL STUDIES

Title: *Inconvenient Truth - 6 Years Later: The Globalizing Force of Ecological Degradation*

Student Author: *Ginette Gonzalez (Global Studies/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Robert Bourgeois (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Class Research Project*

Session Time: *2:00 pm – 4:00 pm*

Presentation: *Poster - Hubert Campus Center (Behan Community Room)*

The purpose of this research presentation is to examine an attempt to address a global problem on a global basis. Globalization refers to the forces and processes which make national boundaries irrelevant. Global warming, a primary cause of ecological degradation, is one of those forces. The Earth's biosphere is one continuous ecosystem that houses all of life. While carbon dioxide and other gases occur naturally in the atmosphere, the human species is now affecting the balance of gases in the biosphere. Fossil fuel emissions, by elevating temperatures, threaten to produce rising sea levels, an increased frequency of extreme storms, and altered and extreme climate patterns, resulting in extinction of species and removal of human habitat for tens of millions. The United Nations, through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ("UNFCCC"), has worked to enact protocols to cap and control emissions globally. National interests in the developed North diverge from those of the undeveloped global South, producing delays and stalemate.

HUMAN SERVICES

Title: *A Dixwell Newhallville Community Needs Assessment*

Student Author: *Randi McCray (M.S.H.S.)*

Faculty Sponsors: *Hilda Speicher (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Service-Learning Project*

Session Time: *11:00 am – 11:15 am*

Presentation: *Talk - Tagliatela Academic Center (Room 113)*

As an action research course, three students contacted a local agency in the Dixwell/NewHallville community and proposed a service project that would involve a community needs assessment. The team of students performed interviews and conducted surveys of youth, parents, and community leaders to ascertain what the needs of the community were from the perception of the community members who would be expected to utilize such

services. The data collected was then analyzed and a full report of our findings was given to the agency. The presentation will present the process and results of this research, as well as reflection on the experience.

Title: *Boys to Men Residential and Educational Treatment Center*

Student Authors: *Sarena Huckaby, Claudette Tracey and Richard Joseph (M.S.H.S.)*

Faculty Sponsors: *Carol Huckaby (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Class Research Project*

Session Time: *9:45 am – 10:00 am*

Presentation: *Talk - Tagliatela Academic Center (Room 113)*

This project involved a group of students in a program evaluation graduate course designing a community based program with an evaluation component. The goal of the project was to have students demonstrate comprehension of how community programs are designed and evaluated. It included, defining a social problem, doing a needs assessment of the problem, and designing a program to address the problem in a community with goals, outcomes and monitoring techniques. The evaluation components consisted of specific methods of data collection and utilizing the data to measure and evaluate the program's outcomes, opportunities and successes.

PSYCHOLOGY

Title: *A Self Reflection on my ADP Research Practicum: Helping to Implement and Analyze the 1st Annual Experiential Learning Day*

Student Author: *Nanette M. Arencibia (Psychology/ADP)*

Sponsor: *Hilda Speicher (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Research Practicum*

Session Time: *2:00 pm – 4:00 pm*

Presentation: *Poster - Hubert Campus Center (Behan Community Room)*

Reflecting on my research practicum, I realized immediately that it was extremely important for me to carefully listen and observe in order to gain a better understanding of the various components of my practicum responsibilities. Through this experience, I finally felt that I was in a whole different level of my academic career where new challenges arose such as, brainstorming for an event, communicating with my fellow peers about certain projects, inputting and analyzing research data, and most importantly my participation in the organization of the first annual Experiential Learning Day (ELD). By being involved in these challenging opportunities, I gained knowledge and a better understanding of the importance of research in an academic/workplace setting. What was most valuable to me in my practicum was that I was forced to reevaluate my self-confidence and this has motivated me to live and think outside of my comfort zone.

Title: *Albertus Magnus College and its Compensation, Recruitment and Employment Laws*

Student Author: *Olga Ortiz (Psychology/DAY)*

Sponsor: *Nilvio Perez (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Internship*

Session Time: *2:00 pm – 4:00 pm*

Presentation: *Poster - Hubert Campus Center (Behan Community Room)*

I will be showcasing my findings from my internship with the Office of Admission. As an I/O Psychology major being able to apply the concepts I have been learning to the organization in which I work, was the goal of my practicum term paper. Compensation, recruitment and employment laws all vary and impact companies differently. In order to determine what procedures are unique to Albertus Magnus College, I interviewed the staff of the Admission Office and reviewed the employee manual.

Title: *Examining the Effects of Texting on All Forms of Communication*

Student Authors: *Emily Matousek, Rebecca Ludwig and Michelle Battista (Psychology/DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Hilda Speicher (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Class Research Project*

Session Time: *11:30 am – 12:00 pm*

Presentation: *Talk - Tagliatela Academic Center (Atrium)*

Research findings were presented at the 2011 New England Psychological Association Conference. The current study was conducted to determine the effects of texting on all forms of communication. The frequency of texting and age were examined to determine whether these were related to other forms of communication. Data was collected from 41 participants at Albertus Magnus College. A short writing task and questionnaire were developed and administered. Results showed that neither frequency of texting nor age had a statistically significant impact on language use; some trends were in the expected direction and others were not. The findings suggest further research is warranted.

Title: *Using Task Irrelevant Fact Retrieval to Test the Identical Elements Model of Arithmetic Fact Representation*

Student Author: *Andrea DeCusati & Alexa Levin (Psychology/DAY)*

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

Experiential Learning Venue: *Volunteer Research Assistants*

Session Time: *2:00 pm – 4:00 pm*

Presentation: *Poster - Hubert Campus Center (Behan Community Room)*

Participants practiced multiplication problems with the larger digit first (16 x 5) or smaller digit (5 x 16) first. In the number matching task that followed, two cue digits were presented and participants decided whether a subsequent target digit matched either cue. When the target was the correct product of the cues (taken from the practice problems), rejecting the target as a match was slowed. This effect did not differ based on whether the order of the cues matched the order of the practiced problems, which provides support for the identical elements model of arithmetic fact representation.

SOCIOLOGY

Title: *The Burden of a Technological World*

Student Author: *Megan Van Hassell (Psychology/DAY)*

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

Experiential Learning Venue: *Class Research Project*

Session Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Presentation: *Poster - Hubert Campus Center (Behan Community Room)*

Students are reporting their findings from research papers in the fall 2011 section of SO 230: Technology, Society, and the Individual. For the research paper, students were asked to pick a technology that interests them, and consider the ramifications it has on some aspect of society. Students were asked to examine their technologies using Tim Healy's "Consequences of Technology," in which both anticipated (with desired and undesired consequences) and unanticipated consequences (also with desired and undesired consequences) are examined. This presentation will focus on the adverse aspects of technology globally.

Title: *The Electric Car and its Impact on Society*

Student Author: *Katherine Ray (Psychology/DAY)*

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

Experiential Learning Venue: *Class Research Project*

Session Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Presentation: *Poster - Hubert Campus Center (Behan Community Room)*

Students are reporting their findings from research papers in the fall 2011 section of SO 230: Technology, Society, and the Individual. For the research paper, students were asked to pick a technology that interests them, and consider the ramifications it has on some aspect of society. Students were asked to examine their technologies using Tim Healy's "Consequences of Technology," in which both anticipated (with desired and undesired consequences) and unanticipated consequences (also with desired and undesired consequences) are examined. This presentation will focus on the impact of electric cars in society.

Title: *Ending Dating Violence: Gender and Abuse in College and Popular Culture*

Student Author: *Alyssa Avery, Amanda Corbett, Jenna Barolli & Sheila Purushothum (DAY)*

Faculty Sponsor: *Karen Kendrick (Albertus Magnus College)*

Experiential Learning Venue: *Class Research Project*

Session Time: 10:15 am – 10:45 am

Presentation: *Talk - Tagliatela Academic Center (Room 212)*

The Sociology of Gender and the Body class has been studying feminist social activism and the politics of the body. After learning that feminists organized around the idea that "the personal is political" we want to share our research on violence in dating relationships among college students with other Albertus students. We will lead an interactive discussion on how cultural ideas about gender, sexuality and the body shape the everyday lives of men and women in college and can lead to abuse in dating relationships. The discussion will be based on fact sheets created in the course; identifying abuse in a relationship, talking to friends about abuse in a relationship and ways to safely end an abusive relationship.

STUDENT CLUB PRESENTATIONS

Title: *What is SGA?*

Student Author: *Briona Jenkins (Sociology/DAY)*
Faculty Sponsor: *Erin Morrell (Albertus Magnus College)*
Experiential Learning Venue: *Student Club Work*
Session Time: *11:00 am – 11:15 am*
Presentation: *Talk - Tagliatela Academic Center (Atrium)*

Getting involved in campus activities is an important part of the college experience. Over the last two years the SGA (Student Government Association) has been revamped. We have created 10 board members and a volunteer committee. The board members are in charge of coming up with and implementing the events, contacting performers, etc. The volunteer committee was constructed for students who want to be involved, but could only do so on a limited basis.