

Trek: Challenge

2018 Research Conference

Roundtable Sessions

Session One

*Moderated by Dr. David Bieler
Mickle Hall 105*

Monday, April 23, 11:00-11:50 AM

Gender Stereotypes with a Side of Masculinity

NA'LANI ZENO/MARISSA LALLY (HAMMOND)

Traditional gender roles are commonly based on stereotypes and are defined as a collection of expectations held of a person based on their gender. "Masculinity" is commonly associated with traits such as dominance, assertiveness, and strength, whereas "femininity" is affiliated with submissiveness, gentleness, and sensitivity. Marissa will argue that ever-present traditional gender roles act as an unforgiving set of rules that result in a person not feeling accepted for who they are or how they act. This lack of acceptance results in a higher probability of unhappiness in romantic relationships. While gender roles are commonly used to describe both men and women's expected positions in society, masculinity is a traditional standard of relationships that is used extensively, even in lesbian relationships. Na'Lani will argue that masculinity is a common assessment that is inadequate when describing a partnership in modern society. Commonly used to describe the person who displays more "manly" characteristics, the term "masculine" is an inaccurate representation of what a healthy relationship stands for. Stereotyping people based on their gender, specifically as either masculine or feminine, hurts the quality of romantic relationships.

#NaturalCure: The Campaign for Medical Marijuana in Louisiana

LILA BEAVERS/BRIAN FLYNN (HAWKINS)

In 1937, the Marijuana Tax Act was enabled, making cannabis illegal at a federal level. Over the past few years, many Americans have begun to realize the benefits of cannabis, and the legalization of marijuana has become a hot topic. States such as Colorado and California have made it completely legal, while in other states it remains completely illegal, Louisiana being one of them. To address this issue, we created #NaturalCure, a social campaign for the legalization of medical marijuana dispensaries in the state of Louisiana. Louisiana recently passed a bill in support of medical marijuana, but patients are still unable to attain cannabis for medical purposes. Though some doctors are slowly inching towards being able to prescribe it, medical marijuana cannot be purchased legally within the state. Thus patients suffering from cancer, Crohn's disease, epilepsy, and other debilitating conditions must resort to the extremely harmful painkillers and chemicals that are legally prescribed by doctors. In order to fight this injustice, we started a petition for medical marijuana dispensaries in Louisiana. Once it has gained a substantial amount of signatures it will be sent to Representative Mike Johnson, Governor John Bel Edwards, Senator Bill Cassidy, and other decision makers for our state. We have advertised

and raised awareness for our petition on Instagram and Twitter @ NaturalCureLA making daily posts in support of our campaign. In this presentation we will evaluate the effectiveness of our campaign, and discuss the validity of social media as a tool for social change.

Wednesday, April 25, 11:00-11:50 AM

Evolving Play and Participation

SIERRA PONDER/OLIVER KEEBLE (DEMERATH)

The complex systems perspective, which sees agents as processing information by developing internal and external components, is used here to explain how sports psychology has evolved. This paper will discuss how it has emerged as its own field, developing a distinct identity and techniques. It will also explain why we see the “boundary maintenance” we do, such as when professional sports counselors distinguish themselves from coaches, both professional and amateur. The systems perspective will also allow us to project plausible future paths of evolution for sports psychology, including one that could mean better mental health all of us, as non-athletes eventually gain access to sport psychology therapies to use for everyday life successes.

Sports, like all cultural behaviors, evolve over time, often with increasing complexity, with extensively differentiated patterns in meanings, behaviors, and organizational forms. This presentation will explore how basketball changed from an elementary game into the forms it takes today. It will explore why changes have and continue to occur as an ever-evolving set of systems. The complex systems perspective allows us to understand such change as a consequence of energy and information processing phenomena such as attractors, energy dissipation, nonlinearity, and emergence. This perspective will also allow us to posit plausible courses of future evolution of the sport, both in the near and distant future.

Why Sex and Violence should be Allowed in the Marketplace

ALEXANDRA NARON/BRITTANY RISNER (MURPHY)

Prostitution is currently considered taboo and is illegal. The legalization of prostitution would allow the market place to be more open and would have positive effects on the economy and the quality of life for all those involved. Legalization is not a new concept and has been tested in several places, with the outcomes being generally positive, which can be compared to places where it is still illegal. Prostitution is currently illegal due to the fears many people have over the effects that selling sex would have on society.

These are the same fears that are considered when violence is bought or sold. It is possible to purchase violence in the form of private police, specifically corporations that sell security guards and private police acting in place of public police. This could open the actual police for more pressing issues and lower the amount of money the government spends on public police. Private policing would be an aid to public police by dealing with traffic issues and petty crime. With strict guidelines private policing would be beneficial to the public. If prostitution is legalized and private policing becomes more accessible, then the economy would benefit.

Thursday, April 26, 11:00-11:50 AM

A case study of three-dimensional printing and research development focusing on levels of happiness displayed by children.

DARELZRAY BELLARD, HAYDEN CLASON, MICHAEL PETIKAS, FREDRIC SISKRON (KELLY)

The purpose of this case study is to discuss the process of developing three-dimensionally printed objects and develop a research plan to gauge the happiness of children before and after they acquire a three-dimensional (3D) printed toy. The generation of ideas followed multiple brainstorming, communication, and team-building activities. The group decided to design, model, and generate 3D-printed toys and gender-specific night-light domes for homeless children at Providence House. The group agreed on several designs generated from multiple brainstorming sessions; these designs include gender-specific night-light dome designs, such as a basketball and net for boys and a flower with stem for girls as well as a toy for children. Next, activities were assigned in TinkerCAD™ to familiarize the group with the program as well as develop 3D modeling skills and design the objects. With this toy and the two night-light domes, an assessment was conducted of the children's happiness when the objects are chosen by two group members. These designated members of our team predetermined factors to monitor expression levels by watching the faces of the children before and after the toys are chosen. The initial expressions the children first display when their toy is selected are measured by focusing on the high traffic areas of the face, the eyes and mouth, for an increase or decrease in happiness. Any expression deemed higher or lower than baseline expression for each child will indicate the determining factor on the child's level of happiness. The hope of our group is our lights and toys will make the children happier.

Session Two

*Moderated by Dr. Christopher Ciocchetti
Smith Building 202*

Monday, April 23, 11:00-11:50 AM

Whose water is it?: Clean water for everybody (not just humans)

HARRIS HALL/ROBERT GUTTRY (BIELER)

Texas has been involved in international disputes with Mexico and interstate disputes with New Mexico over the Rio Grande river for the past century. Water disputes with Mexico on the Treaty of 1944 are still going on today. Conflict with New Mexico has also risen over the Pecos River Compact, which, in turn, has influenced the current Rio Grande Compact's legislation. How might we resolve this conflict over the Rio Grande River and the current water allocation laws associated with it as we face a drier future in an already dry land?

While Texas is undergoing issues of water allocation both at an interstate and international level, it must also consider the toxic contaminants in West Texas drinking water. West Texas is currently struggling with high levels of lead, arsenic, and radiation in the drinking water. The state must properly treat the water in a way that will have a long-term benefit for as much of the effected ecosystem as possible. We will be evaluating the legitimacy of Texas' claims on water allocation and will seek to inform people of the reasoning and results behind proper long-term water treatment to reduce the amount of improper short-term water treatment.

The War within Consumerism

KJ BILBO/MARIA ZABANEH (MURPHY)

WWII's aftermath had both benefits and disadvantages. Though some benefited, why didn't others? Not everyone felt equal even though they were fighting for the same common goal. The economy boomed but the political/racial advances were not what people were hoping for. Examples will come from Lizabeth Cohen and evidence from pre- and post-WWII America, including the Tuskegee Airmen, to show the racial advances in America that did not happen after WWII. During the war blacks saw limited segregation but when they came back home they were not ready to see that home had not changed a bit.

Does individual freedom decrease as consumerism becomes more prevalent? Freedom is the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants. The world is full of products tailored to fit one's desire, and ads and commercials consume the world, reducing individual freedom. The more money you have, the more power you have over your consumers, although the Western and Eastern countries have a different focus. Though consumerism may not be the issue, there is still a lack of individuality. Given that, both extremes are fatal to economies. A healthy balance is the best way to not only attain a strong economy but with it a sense of individuality.

Wednesday, April 25, 11:00-11:50 AM

Infidelity's Varied Effects on Romantic Relationships

TAIGHLOR MCCALLISTER/TIMOTHY VERDUCCI (HAMMOND)

Infidelity involves anything that demonstrates a lack of exclusiveness in a relationship. For some people, this means sexual exclusivity, while for others it might be emotional exclusivity. Timothy will argue that modern technology has altered the definition of infidelity, as well as incorporated even more ways this lack of exclusivity can happen. This is because the internet gives access to many more people in many different places. In contrast to the current emphasis placed on monogamous relationships, Taighlor will argue that non-monogamy is an appropriate form of relating. One reason infidelity happens in a relationship is because one person is sexually unfulfilled. A non-monogamous relationship can counteract this lack of fulfillment.

Morality in Business

TYLER WELCH/CADE LASTOVICA (MURPHY)

What keeps businesses moral? Most people say nothing since companies do crappy things all the time for profit. However, there is a limit provided by the people the company appeals to. Morality can affect a business as much as price and quality. For example, many people stopped buying Ford Pintos after they found out Ford did not care about the lives of the people that drove them. I'll dive into why and how much it matters that companies are still abiding by the moral values of the people they serve in order to keep their business afloat.

With the business world always changing for a profit, you have to wonder if major corporations have any regard for the consumer. In the case of the Ford Pinto, Ford knew that the cars were unsafe, but felt that it would cost more money to fix all the models of these cars. They even totaled the cost of each death and used that as a platform to base this information on. Some more key readings are Friedman's "The Social Responsibility of Business Is to Increase Profits" and Almeder's, "Morality in the Marketplace." Using them I will make a convincing argument on morality in the workplace.

Session Three

Moderated by Dr. Loren Demerath

Magale Library 06

Monday, April 23, 11:00-11:50 AM

#HealthCare4All: Healthcare Disparities in the LGBTQ+ Community

AUDREY GIBSON/BELLA KREKO (HAWKINS)

The LGBTQ+ community has faced many hardships over the years, such as marriage equality and the right to work without fear of discrimination. However, a less discussed topic is the discrimination these individuals face when seeking healthcare. Whether the discrimination comes from nurses, doctors, or insurance providers, the negative impact it has on these individuals is detrimental to all aspects of their health. In order to combat the lack of knowledge surrounding this issue, we began a social campaign to raise awareness. Through the use of Twitter and Tumblr, posts were made that reflected personal struggles of LGBTQ+ members, such as misgendering, which could impact the handling of medical issues. Other posts gave articles and photos including statistics about the healthcare disparities, also connecting followers to donation sites. Through the use of these platforms, we analyzed the effectiveness of social media to address this particular social issue and many others LGBTQ+ individuals face. Our research and analysis of social media as a whole and for this specific problem allowed us to think critically; the application of our results could be used for other social media campaigns, hopefully making them more successful in their goals.

Defying the Norm: Un-Defining Relationships Between Men and Women

ELIZABETH BEAGLEY/BREONNA FRIERSON (HAMMOND)

Modern society has emphasized the normalcy of male and female relationships and the importance of sex between them, however this ignores subgroups of people who do not fit that stereotypic definition. Elizabeth will argue that there is a general practice of tolerance for sexual misconduct in the United States. It is not unusual for people to place blame on the actions or inactions of a victim rather than the actions of the perpetrator. The stereotypical college environment of drinking and hook-ups can easily mask the seriousness of sexual misconduct making it harder for victims to report their experience. Since only up to one-third of instances are reported, some perpetrators continue their inappropriate sexual behavior with little consequence. Another group that goes against the traditional stereotype of men and women is homosexuals. Breonna will disprove the myth that children who are raised by homosexual parents are emotionally unstable, have behavioral problems, and are at a disadvantage. Homosexual parents benefit society by providing a loving home for children. They also tend to be more prepared and committed because of the typically non-traditional methods needed to have a child.

Wednesday, April 25, 11:00-11:50 AM

Flooding in San Antonio and North Louisiana

MAGGIE PITCHER/ROSE MAJORS (BIELER)

Flooding in San Antonio, TX has been a huge problem for decades because of the floods' devastating results. There have been some

efforts to resolve this issue, however more needs to be done to minimize the cost and destruction these floods are having on San Antonio. Many expensive efforts have been done to help with this flooding including flood gates downtown and dams. Even with these efforts there is still a massive amount of flooding. More needs to be done to eradicate the severity and frequency of this flooding.

A flood's impact can be catastrophic, including loss of human life, damage to property, damage to public buildings and facilities (such as roads and hospitals), and destruction of crops and livestock. Flooding has steadily increased in the US from 1929 to today, and we must devote more of our resources and time in learning how to better manage and control floods (Anisfeld). Flooding in north Louisiana has been deplorable in these past years, especially in 2015 when the Red River overflowed and brought about crippling flood damage to many Shreveport/Bossier residents. Therefore, the state of Louisiana should allocate more of its budget towards coming up with better flood control solutions.

Companies and the Importance of Morality

KY'AUA JACKSON/ZACH PARKS (MURPHY)

Morality in the workplace is a controversial topic. Companies will argue that when workers take a job they accept whatever circumstances they may face on the clock. Others argue that companies put their products and services above the safety of their workers. I think that a company's main focus is a profit and increasing that profit by any means necessary, even if it means putting the safety of the consumer at risk. As evidence I will include the case of the Ford Pinto, an article by Milton Friedman, and an excerpt from "Are Bosses Dictators" by Joshua Rothman.

Individuals and big businesses go to great lengths to earn a profit. Businesses have sold products even though they have major defects, and people have put themselves in large personal debt. I think that companies put their income above their product and consumer safety. One example of this is the Ford Pinto, and the dangers that they knowingly involved their consumers with. I feel that individuals unintentionally become consumed into a "bubble" that they cannot escape before disaster hits. This is why bitcoin has become very popular over a recent period of time, and why a "bubble" has had such a significant impact on society.

Thursday, April 26, 11:00-11:50 AM

A case study to show the process of three-dimensionally printed objects and a research plan to determine children prefer more or less complex 3D objects.

MICHAEL DZURIK/JAKIN MORALES/RAEGEN PETZOLD/YU HANG PIUS LAU (KELLY)

This is a case study to show the process of developing three-dimensionally printed objects and whether children prefer more or less complex objects from 3D-printed toys and nightlights. The group participated in various brainstorming activities, promoting problem solving and communication skills. Each student gave a presentation, which allowed them to practice researching a topic and relaying information to an audience in a professional way. The class watched a three-dimensional (3D) printer function and learned how to use TinkerCAD™, a program developed to model and sculpt various objects in a virtual 3D space. Once the students gained an under-

standing of how to use TinkerCAD™, the group started making more complex designs without real-life objects to use as models. The first project on which the group worked was creating two gender specific nightlights. A sphere with star, moon, and other cosmic shapes was designed for the male demographic, and a sphere with flower, heart, and diamond shapes was created for the female demographic. The second project was a gender-neutral toy dog. The group then created the bases for the night lights to develop a lesson plan with which the group would be able to use to teach to those without a previous knowledge of the subject. After teaching the children how to build the night lights, the group allowed the children to play with the 3D-printed toy dogs, then asked the children which 3D-printed object they preferred more.

Session Four

*Moderated by Dr. Michelle Glaros
Turner Art Center 105*

Monday, April 23, 11:00-11:50 AM

Fight for Our Lives: Gun Violence Awareness in America

GABBY BRAUNER/LAUREN MCHAN (HAWKINS)

Today's youth know the daily fears that are perpetuated by gun violence in America. We grew up hearing about Columbine, but as we grew older we continually encountered more tragedies from Las Vegas, Orlando, and Sandy Hook, to Parkland's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School's deadly shooting where 17 innocent people were shot in school. The phrase "mass shooting" has become all too familiar in America. But what are the root issues that are behind these events, and why are they occurring at a rate higher than ever? In this session, we will analyze the March for Our Lives campaign led by high school students across the nation and address how we branched off from that campaign by creating our own social media movement called Fight for Our Lives, using both Instagram and Twitter. The key components to each social movement will be explained along with the successful and unsuccessful moments of our own campaign. The implication of our social media campaign across multiple social media platforms, in-person experiences, and spreading awareness of our campaign will be addressed. The counterargument for not advocating for the legislation pushed by the petition we boosted will be evaluated as well. By addressing all of the components of this movement and becoming involved in the fight first hand, we were able to analyze this movement, why it started, and what can be done to reduce gun violence as much as possible.

Louisiana's Toxic River: A Disappearing Legacy

CHRIS HAGGARD/ CHRIS REESE (BIELER)

In South Louisiana water conservation is a growing topic of interest. This issue is mainly due to the many industrial plants located in south Louisiana. Many of these plants drain polluted water into our fresh water systems. This decreases our water supply and water quality, and hurts the environment. To combat this pollution, we must use water conservation methods used by other states. By looking at other states we can get ideas to control our water pollution problem. If we could cut back on water pollution from industrial plants it would increase water supply and water quality.

The Mississippi River has built and maintained the Louisiana coast for thousands of years. Floods have been a constant threat that has

shaped how the people of Louisiana go about their daily lives and built a unique set of cultural traditions in Louisiana. Floods and accelerating land loss threaten this way of life and cause substantial damage to these cultures. More needs to be done to raise awareness about this issue and what can be done to stop the deterioration of Louisiana coastal lands.

Wednesday, April 25, 11:00-11:50 AM

Nature vs. Nurture: Eco- vs. Techno- Motherhood and How They Affect Us

DANNY PAULK/ABBIE BOUDREAUX/VERONICA JIMENEZ (HAMMING)

In these presentations we will examine the environmental, cultural, and social implications of technology

In popular perception, science fiction, and environmentalist discourse, nature is often characterized as feminine and maternal while technological advancements (often associated with environmental degradation) are characterized as masculine. This presentation will seek to argue that this tacit gender association creates a valuable link between the goals of feminists and of environmental activists.

In the age of digital technologies, human parenting is substituted more and more by “parenting technologies.” In this presentation, Abbie Boudreaux will provide insight into how this shift from a “natural” mother to a “techno” mother has occurred, and how human development has been affected by this shift.

It is common knowledge that the way people are raised affects their behavior as they grow older. As our technologically-raised generation enters adulthood, the way in which we see ourselves and how we interact with other “techno” babies has created a sense of uncertainty about how to relate to others.

Evolving Means to Health and Prosperity/The Evolution of College Admissions

JENNY JACKSON/HARRISON JOHN (DEMERATH)

Pharmacy has evolved as a complex system, both in its internal organization, and in its relationships with other systems. The complexity perspective allows us to see how new technologies and drugs create unpredictability and nonlinearity in both the environment of systems related to medicine, and the pharmaceutical system itself. This paper describes published research and the author’s own pilot studies on how emergent properties have expanded the importance of pharmacy to the organization of medicine. Coevolving systems, punctuated equilibria, and information dissipation towards entropy will all be described as features in pharmacy’s evolution.

College admissions in the U.S. has evolved over time, to the point now where affirmative action policies seek to intentionally increase diversity. Complex systems theory points to the importance of novelty and diversity for fueling the adaptation of systems to their environments. It also allows us to understand changes in admissions policies as responses of admissions systems to other systems of information, such as the U.S. dominant culture that emphasizes opportunity, and research that evidences disadvantage and discrimination. This paper will describe other moments where admissions policies have changed, and may yet change, to again punctuate equilibriums of the status quo.

Session Five

*Moderated by Dr. Jeanne Hamming
Jackson Hall 111*

Monday, April 23, 11:00-11:50 AM

Blue Lives Matter: Addressing the False Dichotomy

AUSTIN WARNER/BROCK YATES (HAWKINS)

Blue Lives Matter is a movement in the United States that advocates that those prosecuted and convicted of killing law enforcement officers should be sentenced under hate crime statutes. It started in response to the homicides of NYPD officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu in Brooklyn, New York on December 20, 2014. The perpetrator claimed his actions were retribution against police officers for the recent deaths of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. Often portrayed as an anti-Black Lives Matter movement, Blue Lives Matter intends instead to show support for law enforcement. It recently paved the way for a new state law in Louisiana which makes it a hate crime to target police officers or firefighters. The mission for the social movement is to raise awareness and enlist the public’s aid for the needs of police officers, to help police officers and assist each other, and to provide a police officers family with comfort and support as they go through hard times. In this presentation, we’ll assess the effectiveness of our own campaign’s efforts on behalf of Blue Lives Matter and the value and limitations of social media as a force for social change in this arena.

What’s It All About?: Changing Intimate Relationships

PEYTON GREER/KIRSTEN MADDOX (DEMERATH)

Intimacy has evolved in ways that show how it is dependent on its context, like any other cultural form. This paper describes how intimacy has changed over time and what characterizes it today. The cultural requirements, standards, and the common practices surrounding the achievement and recognition of intimacy will be discussed. The paper will also examine factors that shape intimacy differences by race, culture, proximity, and attitudes towards sexual behaviors. An original pilot study of data collection and analysis will also be described.

Systems of organizing romantic relationships have evolved over time due to a variety of outside agents. In the U.S. there has been a decline in the amount of marriages throughout the years, creating an all-time low of the percentage of people married. This change has occurred rather quickly and is likely evidence of a punctuated equilibrium. This paper will discuss factors influencing the change such as individualism, feminism, and industrialization, as well as how the emergence of such agents has dissipated order to allow for change in how romantic relationships are organized. The paper will also discuss possible forms and meanings of romantic relationships in future.

Wednesday, April 25, 11:00-11:50 AM

What’s So Great About Money Anyway?

ANDY PURPURA, NIC WATTS, NEIL HAWKINS (MURPHY)

Bitcoin is a cyber currency. Since it is international and unregulated, it provides an excellent opportunity for investors looking to cash in on the new trendy investment. However, bitcoin is quite volatile, and there is a vast amount of skepticism about when the bitcoin bubble

will burst due to uncertainty about its value. What gives bitcoin its value? Will regulation help stabilize bitcoin? Is regulation the right thing to do? Is regulation even possible?

What's the value of money and how does it relate to the standards we hold? Money allows people to easily exchange, but does this suggest that all services are compensated equally? Unfortunately, most people cannot escape this exchange system. A doctor gets paid fruitfully because he goes through years of extensive training. A fast food worker, however, works hard but is only paid minimum wage because it is a low-skill job, and cannot escape the cycle of living paycheck to paycheck because he does not have the means (monetary and skill-wise) to seek a better job.

The question is deeper than the value of money. In America's economy "getting money" is something we are taught to do since we were little kids. But is this really beneficial for the economy? Some would argue no, but I would argue yes. Though this sometimes comes with good and bad consequences, money is a portal to a lot of different things. We are taught to get as much as we want, not as enough as we need, therefore causing a cycle of crime, hard labor, etc.

Thursday, April 26, 11:00-11:50 AM

A case study of developing three-dimensionally printed objects and a research plan to determine if age and gender-specific toy preferences are related in children.

AGUSTIN CAYERE-LOPEZ/HAYLEY HARDEL/KEVIN LE/RONALD NOBLES (KELLY)

The purpose of this case study is to discuss the process of developing three-dimensionally printed objects and a research plan to determine if different age groups choose toys based on the gender of the child. The process began by brainstorming different types of toys to determine the best gender-specific toys and objects for the targeted audience. Each group then researched and chose from a handful of nonprofit organizations to study. Each group then created objects using a program called TinkerCAD® in order to learn how to use the program. Two gender-specific or gender-neutral night light domes were designed using TinkerCAD®. These designs were three-dimensionally (3D) printed in bulk. Then, several children were then given a choice between the two lights. The age and gender of each child as well as the respective light chosen by each child was recorded. The age of the children ranged from six to twelve years old. The data was then entered into a spreadsheet for analysis. The hypothesis of this experiment is as age increases, the children will choose more gender-stereotyped toys. We expect younger elementary aged children to choose night lights based on what they want rather than the stereotyped night light.

Session Six

*Moderated by Dr. Amy Hammond
Centenary Square 210*

Monday, April 23, 11:00-11:50 AM

Stand Up Against Domestic Violence

ARIANNA MITCHELL/CHRIS ROY (HAWKINS)

Domestic violence has become an epidemic in our society and continues to go unaddressed in the public sphere. One in 3 women

and 1 in 4 men have been victims of physical violence by an intimate partner. While addressing the issue might seem daunting, every person has the ability to take action to make a difference in their community so everyone can live in a safer environment. The #WhyIStayed movement addresses the dangers victims face every day due to the fact that they live in fear of the threat of even more violence against them if they try to leave or report their abuser(s). It aims to raise awareness for the more than 12 million women and men who are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States over the course of a year. Statistics like this one show the detrimental effect of domestic violence on society and the ever-growing need for awareness and action from the bystanders and witnesses of domestic violence and abuse. But is social media really an effective tool to address this issue? We'll address this broader question as we assess the effectiveness of our own #WhyIStayed campaign.

Changes in Beauty and Acceptance

CAROLINE OLSEN/AMILIA POWERS (DEMÉRATH)

This paper identifies the complex systems within and surrounding the phenomenon of female beauty pageantry. Historical and contemporary instances are considered, ranging from ancient Greece to American and global competitions, as well as those for children. The difference in pageants over time allow us to identify the way they respond to the cultural context of the society in which they occur, such as highlighting the intelligence of women as their participation in the work force and the resistance to their discrimination has increased.

This paper discusses the evolution of homosexuality acceptance and the influences on that development. A complex systems approach is used that conceptualizes agents of energy and information as systems that self-organize at borders of order and chaos. Each system develops internally and externally, as subsystems emerge within it, and stable relationships with other systems emerge outside it. Relationships of homosexuality's acceptance with media, legal institutions, and historical events are described for how change has reverberated through those relationships. The author will draw from academic research, personal experience, and a pilot study of original data collection and analysis.

Wednesday, April 25, 11:00-11:50 AM

Flood Control Tactics in Houston: South Louisiana Flood Damages

RACHEL PAINE/CONNOR CUDD (BIELER)

Recent flooding due to Hurricane Harvey caused catastrophic damage along the gulf coast of Texas, specifically in large urban centers such as Houston. "Harvey is expected to have a considerable economic impact. The Houston metro area is the nation's fourth-largest city with 6.6 million residents. If it were a country, it would be the world's 23rd largest economy, larger than Poland or Sweden" (Amadeo). Various factors contribute to Houston's vulnerability to flooding, such as elevation, urban sprawl, and proximity to the Gulf of Mexico. Possible solutions to these problems include increasing the amount of green infrastructure, adaptive housing, detention basins, and better city planning.

In south Louisiana, flooding is a repetitive natural occurrence that residents and the ecosystem face. The abundance of rivers, lakes, marshes, et cetera are factors to flooding when heavy rainfall hits

south Louisiana. Homeowners and business owners face the large costs of flood insurance to protect their properties from the high cost of flood damages. These floods continue to destroy more than just buildings; the wetlands across the state are being destroyed because water invades marshes and swamps.

More Profit, Less Morals

SCOTT TERRELL/JAYLEE RIGGS (MURPHY)

In order for a business to grow and prosper, it must make a profit, and businesses do almost anything they can to do this. This is a good thing for businesses, but maybe not others. Do companies value their profit more than their workers and consumers? Cases such as the Case chicken plant, the Ford Pinto, and replacement of worker with machines will be used to show that businesses don't value people as much they should. How much should they value the people? Views from writings by Almeder and Friedman will be used to evaluate this.

The main goal of a company is profit. Over time, companies' outlooks on this have changed. Earlier companies sought to make a profit, but they also took in consideration the morality of customers and employees. As time went on, companies began to care more about the profit than the morals of others. The Ford Pinto and Case chicken plant are great examples of companies taking advantage of their workers and customers for profit. I argue that companies indeed care too much about earning a profit. I will use the writings of Almeder and Friedman to further discuss what is considered right and wrong for companies to do, to make a profit.

Session Seven

*Moderated by Jessica Hawkins
Meadows Museum of Art*

Monday, April 23, 11:00-11:50 AM

Evolutions of Entertainment in Social Contexts

RALEIGH PHILYAW/SAM PADILLA (DEMERATH)

This paper describes the evolution of Disney movies from the perspective of complex systems, which allows us to see cultural products as changing in their own internal structure and their external relationships with related systems. From that perspective, we can understand changes in Disney movies as the result of changes in systems that are related directly and indirectly. Among the changes that will be accounted for are the kinds of cultures and characters featured, such as moving from a "damsel in distress" to a genuine heroine. An original pilot study of data collection and analysis will also be described.

This project discusses an evolution of polytheism in shifting from religious to a postmodern secularist representation within a genre of fantasy fiction. This polytheism has come to be used as a resource for constructing one's identity in way that is consistent with how social theorists have described postmodern society. An increasingly complex society increases the desire for creative expressions of identity. Fans of this genre use fictional gods to orient and assert their personal realities. A complex systems perspective allows us to understand how a cultural genre is a system that can help mediate the relationships of other systems, such as the relationship between the individual and society.

Is Drinking Water Really Safe?: Regional Solutions for Regional Problems

HIFZA SIDDIQ/ANTHONY JAURE (BIELER)

Water is not only used for drinking but cooking, bathing, washing and other purposes; somehow it comes in contact with our bodies. According to the World Health Organization over 3.4 million people, mostly children, die annually from waterborne disease, said to be world's leading killer. Contaminated drinking water can cause many diseases (for example, bacterial dysentery, cholera, and typhoid) and may increase cancer mortality rates. Chlorination is commonly used to kill harmful bacteria, but it also creates carcinogens. Safer alternatives may exist and should be explored as ways to provide clean drinking water.

In recent years, alerts of water contamination have been on the rise. The quality of water has seemed to be getting worse and worse regarding the health of the people. Water is used in various ways such as drinking, bathing, cooking, and other utilities. It is safe to say that water is a vital resource to our lives. The severity of contamination varies based on each geographical area and its surroundings, but the solution remains the same no matter what the case may be. There are several ways of filtration that can be used to prevent contamination, ultimately leaving the people unharmed.

Wednesday, April 25, 11:00-11:50 AM

Ford Pinto / Businesses, Morality in Check?

ALEC MELVIN/PRESTON LUDWICK (MURPHY)

Is it possible for businesses to use morality to help grow their name and profit? My answer is yes. In class we discussed that the only way to maximize profit is to do everything legally but with no ethics. My argument is that businesses can use morality in a way that would help them socially and in profit. I will use Chick-fil-A as an example since they are a proclaimed Christian business, due to this their name is tied with the religion, and Chick-fil-A is a successful business with them focusing on a moral aspect like religion.

Another example of morality being checked is the incident with the Ford Pinto. Ford is a huge car company, but had a setback in 1968 with the Pinto. The Ford Pinto was a smaller car with engineering problems such as the gas tank being exposed on the back of the car, making it explode if hit in the gas tank over a certain speed. The question is, who is responsible for this flaw in design and what does it say about the morality of workers? I will argue my point in how making a simple change in design could have saved many lives and helped profit Ford.

The Effect of Technology on Developing and Maintaining Intimate Relationships

LULU LESSENBERRY/AERIAL REEVES (HAMMOND)

Technology has changed the way people communicate by allowing people to begin and maintain intimate relationships regardless of their physical separation. Aerial will argue that these advances have a negative effect on intimate relationships and people should spend more time in person, rather than online, to improve their intimate relationships. Many people rely on online communication to avoid in-person communication causing a decline in people's ability to make effective eye contact, start conversation with strangers, and resolve conflict. While Aerial argues that technology has negative effects on most intimate relationships, long-distance relationships

benefit from the use of technology. LuLu will argue that using social media increases the amount and quality of communication between couples in long-distance relationships, which leads to a relationship of greater trust and reliability.

Thursday, April 26, 11:00-11:50 AM

A case study to show the process of learning how to print three-dimensional objects and develop a research plan to determine if children select groups based on gender and race.

TAYLOR ABSHIRE/PAYTON FOWLER/RAYLON HARDY/ARIELLE THOMAS (KELLY)

This case study explores the process of learning three-dimensional printing technology and research focusing on the choice specificity of children when selecting a mentorship group and if mentorship group diversity, racial and gender, is a deciding factor of children from poor socioeconomic backgrounds. Our group is testing whether or not gender and racial diversity of the group will alter the patterns of specificity of poor socioeconomic groups of children.

Many activities were completed by the group to improve group communication skills, such as design and construction exercises as well as brainstorming ideas for new concepts. The group also learned how to use TinkerCAD® software to design and model 3D objects. The 3D modeling activities used to familiarize people with the program were of designing and modeling a glitter-glue bottle and night-light domes. Each step of the group project required brainstorming and group communication. The gender and racial diversities of each group vary within the class by sex and ethnicity. The hypothesis states a diverse group in both gender and race will attract children at a greater rate when compared to groups which are less diverse. The rate in which children select mentorship groups and fill the group seats will be monitored to determine statistical variance.

Session Eight

*Moderated by Dr. Kinsey Kelly
Mickle Hall 110*

Monday, April 23, 11:00-11:50 AM

Taste and Tech: The Evolution of Food and Health

DOROTHY MIMMS/ALLIE WHATLEY (DEMERATH)

This paper uses a complex systems perspective based on energy and information processing to understand how and why human food has evolved to increase human access to free energy and information, and how the practices and institutions related to food have themselves evolved in accordance with changes of other systems in their environment. Food processing is conceptualized as energy processing, putting food into lower states of entropy and higher states of order and information concentration. Food processing has and will continue to evolve as a result of many factors to be discussed, including food processing that has caused health problems, environmental harm, and unethical treatment of animals.

The evolution of three medical technologies are explored: medical imaging, immunization, and pain relief. Each has been used to prevent ill health, but in ways that have also shown the importance of their societal contexts. These technologies have emerged and coevolved with industries such as those surrounding medical

supplies and health supplements in ways that have affected their outcomes. Overall, this paper will discuss how these technologies have evolved, and will continue to evolve, to increase the processing of forms of information and energy such as rates of illness, economic profit, and meaning.

Limiting water pollution on Texas: Impact of water pollution on sort fishing; Water pollution impacts on wildlife and fish

COLE GODKIN/ALEX DETRAZ/DREW THOMAS (BIELER)

Water pollution affects much of Texas and in areas such as Houston is a big concern. The levels of pollution can cause dramatic changes over the course of time. "Texas companies are the biggest offenders for water pollution." On 938 different occasions, Texas companies released pollution that exceeded levels permitted by federal water regulations. The bad thing is that the contamination is more inside the houses than outside. We need to be more aware of these things so we will do more to prevent these things from happening.

A huge part of the lifestyle in Southern Louisiana is sport fishing. It is a hobby, a job, and often a source of food for many residents of the South. Unfortunately, the system that Congress derived to protect these fishing waters (the Clean Water Act of 1972) often fails to do its job. The *New York Times* shows a collection of 500 facilities in Louisiana alone that are permitted to release pollutants into surface waters. These pollutants can be a wide range of things such as thrown trash or chemicals such as mercury, DDT, flame retardants, and coolants.

The year is 2050. The freshwater supplies have been heavily contaminated by agricultural and industrial pollution and are undrinkable due to hormones present from large farm runoff. The damage cannot be undone. If precautions are not taken now to deal with Louisiana's agricultural, industrial, and recreational pollution, our diverse freshwater ecosystem may be forever changed. Hormones introduced to increase what agricultural yield are devastating our freshwater ecosystems. Fish are experiencing mutations and changes in sexuality and reproduction. We are just now starting to understand how this may affect the people in Louisiana. We cannot wait to take measures to minimize the impact of these substances.

Wednesday, April 25, 11:00-11:50 AM

Technology's Role in Decreasing Relationship Communication

MORGAN ERSOFF/BECCA MCGOUGH (HAMMOND)

The increase of technology use also increases the ease of lying to, avoiding, or ignoring one another in relationships. Becca will argue that technology is slowly causing communication to decline in friendships, families, and romantic relationships. We have come to value a screen in our pocket over the person directly across the table from us, and it is resulting in neglect and loneliness. These problems are especially prevalent in romantic relationships. Morgan will convince the audience that in romantic relationships, our cell phones have made it much easier to lie to our partner because of the daily separations caused by work or school. Technology allows people to avoid their problems because of the many communication methods besides face-to-face. Although technology can allow us to stay connected throughout the day, overall it is hindering the interactions we have with people every day.

The Age of Mechanical Humans

BRENNEN TEMPLETON/JONATHAN HARVEY (HAMMING)

The age of technological human-beings is upon us, and the world is blind to it. Our daily lives have become dependent upon technology, as jobs now revolve around digital information, connection, and resource. The world is blind to its technological extensions and their effects within business, art, and life. In science-fiction, we have created concepts of mechanical humans, using them as representations of ourselves. In today's world, we are no different than cyborgs. We have integrated technologies within ourselves for an increase in survivability, health, and effectiveness within our work. In short, science-fiction can be used to represent our relationships with technology.

In the realm of science-fiction, humans remain ignorant to the influences of their greatest creations: the android. Separate from robots, androids are modelled after human beings in every way. We either build these androids to be parallel to human beings, or to surpass us. Each android in fiction passes the Turing test. In the Turing test, androids measure their empathic abilities to prove their sentience. If their sentience can be proved, then it means that they're considered truly alive. Despite this, we subject androids to the same roles as robots, forcing them to do hard labor too dangerous for human beings to perform. If not labor, they are objectified, used for the deepest desires of humans. We depict these undeniably human creatures in positions of slavery and suffering, and we do so because we're afraid that we could be lesser to our creations. We fear belittlement at the hands of our inventions so we dehumanize and debilitate them to stay in our service.

Session Nine

*Moderated by Michael Laffey
Jackson Hall 304*

Monday, April 23, 11:00-11:50 AM

Putting an End to Sex Trafficking: #17Redlight

JILLIAN POOL/BLAIR MCLAUGHLIN (HAWKINS)

Approximately fifteen times a day, a child under the age of seventeen is trafficked and sold for sex. Sex trafficking is perceived to be strictly a foreign problem. However, it runs rampant in the United States. Many cases of trafficking go unreported in the United States due to the fact that it is a prohibitionist country and those who have fallen victim to sex trafficking fear prosecution. We started #17Redlight to raise awareness not only to the trafficking of minors, but also the prohibitionist laws of our country. It is the responsibility of the American citizen to drag this issue into the spotlight and end it, which was the ultimate goal of this campaign. Our campaign used the social media platforms Facebook and Instagram to share survivor stories, statistics, and links to petitions. In our presentation, we will examine our use of these platforms, our strategy in types of posts used, and the outcome of our social campaign. Using this data, we can analyze what exactly works for campaigns of this type and whether or not we succeeded in our goals.

Recycling Water in Texas: Greywater for Household Irrigation

AERON TISDALE/AUTUMN ANTHONY (BIELER)

California has a larger population than Texas, but it faces many of the same issues when it comes to water shortages. One of the things California does to battle this is recycling water and distributing non-potable water wherever they can. Non-potable water is water that is not for ingestion, so it's distributed to factories, farms, and different urban sources. There are different statuses of non-potable water however, such as grey water which is the most common. If Texas recycled more water, it would not only be preparing against future droughts and dry spells but would help lessen the socioeconomic effects.

Greywater is the common term for water recycled from bathroom sinks, showers, and washing machines. At this time recycled water can only be used to water lawns and should be used for underground irrigation systems instead of above ground sprinkler systems because greywater can only be used on the property the recycled water had originated from. Greywater systems allow for the easy removal of recycled water from the home when connected to plumbing systems. Many families can save water and money by changing faucets, toilets and washing machines to ones that use less water, or by fixing old plumbing structures.

Wednesday, April 25, 11:00-11:50 AM

Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Foundations of a Strong Relationship

ZHARIA ELOBY/DEUNYA SMALL (HAMMOND)

The foundations of a romantic relationship are built on both partners' relationship with themselves as well as each other. A healthy relationship comes from the individual's ability to think about their relationship realistically and to be considerate of their partners. Zharia will analyze the differences in loving yourself and loving others. Loving yourself is often looked at as a prerequisite to loving others, but this may not be true. The journey to love yourself often takes a deeper level of acceptance and understanding than the journey to love others. Deunya will describe the origin of relationship expectations focusing on the expectations surrounding commitment and intimacy in a relationship. Holding high expectations is sometimes seen as wanting the best for yourself, however, these expectations may come from an unrealistic standard for relationships.

Techno-dependent: Connected and/or Alone?

HARRISON STARRETT/ZACH PALUMBO (HAMMING)

Today, more and more people are becoming "techno-dependent," meaning they depend on technology for logistical and emotional purposes. But is techno-dependence voluntary or involuntary? These two presentations seek to explore this "techno-dependence" and illustrate its positive and negative effects. Harrison focuses on the negative effects concerning relationships between people and people's ability to feel empathy. Harrison fears that people choose to be emotionally dependent on technology to avoid others, causing a sense of apathy to rise in our ever-growing "connected" society. Zach views techno-dependence differently. To him, the screen is a way of communicating and bringing people face to face. Though many people say that the screen has a detrimental effect on the way people interact with others, the research Zach has done says otherwise.

Through the rigorous binge watching of “Black Mirror,” Zach has seen the positives of all the technology to come. Technology has been created to help people contact each other. Most people think that technology will become too advanced and consume our lives, but Zach thinks that may not be the worst thing. Harrison and Zach hope to ask questions that make people think deeply about their relationship with technology, and maybe even change the way they think about technology in their lives.

Session Ten

Moderated by Dr. Matthew Murphy

Magale Library 10

Monday, April 23, 11:00-11:50 AM

Minding the Gap: Addressing Gender Inequalities in Wages through #GapBreak

HAYLEE WASHINGTON/REGINALD PORTER (HAWKINS)

Women are almost half of the workforce. They are the sole or co-breadwinner in half of American families with children. They receive more college and graduate degrees than men. Yet, on average, women continue to earn considerably less than men. The pay gap affects women of different races, age, occupation, and education levels. In 1963, the Equal Pay Act aimed to abolish wage disparity, and 55 years later the wage gap continues to be a prevalent problem. In 2016, women working full time in the United States made, on average, 20 percent less than men. Women have been making positive advancements in education and in the work force, causing the gap to decrease, but it still hasn't closed completely. Joining the ranks of organizations campaigning for wage equality like Equal Pay Today!, the National Women's Law Center, and UN Women's The 23% Robbery, we created #GapBreak, a social media campaign to create awareness about prejudices and discuss the gender inequalities in the workplace, including expectations, standards, respect, and payment. We'll discuss our campaign platforms and tactics, analyzing the effectiveness of our specific campaign as well as the broader effectiveness of social media to move the needle on issues like gender inequality.

Health Consequences of Sexual Activity in Teens and Sexuality Education

SHELBY WADSWORTH/NICHOLAS BRABY (HAMMOND)

In the United States, transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is prevalent in communities especially among those aged 15 to 24. The rate at which cases are reported for the past two years has increased for many diseases such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, and primary and secondary syphilis. While most people are aware of and think negatively about sexually transmitted infections, relatively few preventive measures have been implemented that have effectively stopped or reduced the increased reported cases of STIs. Nicholas will argue that the current methods of teaching sex education are ineffective for teens who choose to be sexually active, instead mentors should provide a sex-positive education in addition to existing abstinence-based programs. Shelby will argue that Louisiana needs a comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) because of the state's high rates of unplanned pregnancies and STIs in teens. When CSE is taught in schools, teens receive an education that gives medically accurate information about contraceptives and physical and emotional health linked with sex. This training results

in teens who have fewer partners, STIs, and unwanted pregnancies. The data suggest that abstinence education programs are failing, therefore healthcare providers and teachers in public schools should implement comprehensive sexuality education.

Wednesday, April 25, 11:00-11:50 AM

Water Breaking the Bank: Grow More, Waste Less

HAILEY ROSS/BRETT SHOFFSTALL (BIELER)

Centenary's campus has seen multiple water line breaks this year, most notably the break that occurred on Greek Row, which was allowed to flow for several days. These breaks were not only an inconvenience to students, but also sent a lot of tax paying dollars down the drain. Shreveport's water infrastructure is old. Old pipes leak and break. Water is lost due to the broken pipe and from the amount of time it takes to repair it. Money is also lost from the water loss and the cost of repairs. Solutions to this problem are to locate vulnerable areas and replace them and potentially consider a digital monitoring system to anticipate repairs.

Water is essential to life on earth. It provides us with energy for power, food for nutrition, and gives a home to million of water seeking animals. With more mouths to feed and less resources becoming readily available, it's clear we need to change something on our production side of agriculture. Traditional methods take up over half of the available land and swallow up 80 percent of the freshwater in the United States. Farming is unnatural in our ecosystem; by switching methods of agriculture, we can exceed our original crop production while reducing are water and land consumption.

Human Interactions in the Modern Age

JAMES CRAWFORD/BRANDON ARMSTRONG (HAMMING)

We all need and value human interaction. With the rise of technology the value of these interactions have changed. We're becoming more and more isolated from each other, hiding behind our technology and ignoring the loneliness that a lot of us feel. Technology has brought us together but at the same time has separated us in new ways.

A popular trope in science fiction is humans losing their humanity, of technology hindering us emotionally. Using SF books like *World Made by Hand* and *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*, Brandon will consider the meaning of being human, both in a world of extreme technology (*Do Androids Dream...*) and in a world marked by its disappearance (*World...*).

Session Eleven

Moderated by Dr. Ross Smith

Hurley Music Building 107

Monday, April 23, 11:00-11:50 AM

#StopEarlyRecruiting: A Campaign

KEYLEE ADAIR/PAYTON LEBLANC (HAWKINS)

Children under the age of 18 are legally known as minors who are not allowed to vote, sign contracts, or make many other crucial life decisions. So, why do people think that 12 and 13-year-old children should be able to commit to a college athletic program, a decision that impacts the rest of their lives? Early recruiting forces these kids into making big decisions at a young age, and it also tears other kids

down about why they are not good enough or talented enough to play the sport that they are still growing to love. #StopEarlyRecruiting is a social movement that aims to hold off the recruiting process for athletes until after September 1st of their junior year in high school. We will discuss the disadvantages of early recruiting, pointing to benefits of waiting to recruit later in a student's athletic career. We will then discuss our contribution to the social movement through social media platforms over the past few weeks and evaluate our effectiveness, while offering an assessment of social media as a tool to address the early recruitment problem.

Changes in Getting What We Need in Bed and at Home

ALI IBRAHIM/ KAT FROST (DEMERATH)

The evolution of sleep is understood here from the perspective of complex systems, and the way environments are made up of systems that can affect each other unpredictably. Sleeping times of teenagers and adults, for example, have been directly influenced by their environment and the systems within them. In the current generation, sleeping begins later and is shorter in duration than past generations due factors that will be discussed here. Often, these factors are unpredictable emergent properties of systems, reflecting the nonlinearity of all naturally evolving complex systems.

This paper traces the evolution of family in both its internal structure and its external relationships with other agents of information and meaning. Beliefs and values regarding family have changed due to many factors, including gender roles, parenting roles, socio-economic status, and racial and ethnic cultures. Family has changed partly in response to changes in those other agents. By using an information processing perspective that sees all agents as motivated to process energy and information, we can see how family has evolved to help all related agents process information and energy. It also allows us to consider certain radically different forms of family as plausible in the future.

Wednesday, April 25, 11:00-11:50 AM

The Soulmate Myth: Choice and Effort in a Relationship

ERIN LEWIS/NAOMI MORENO (HAMMOND)

A soulmate is someone perfectly suited for another who parallels another in attitudes and beliefs. However, the existence of soulmates is questionable because reliance on fate alone cannot sustain a relationship. Erin will argue that love is a result of choice, not fate. Daily we make a conscious decision to love. When you love, you are re-confirming your affection for someone else. You choose to look past the negative attributes of your partner and love them in spite of their flaws. Choosing who you love challenges the idea that there is one person you are meant to be with. Naomi will also argue that the idea of soulmates is not healthy; specifically that valuing putting effort into a relationship instead of focusing on finding a soulmate tends to result in healthier and more stable relationships. Those who believe that finding a soulmate is most important demonstrate more destructive qualities such as exaggerating a partner's faults or favorable traits. This often results in unhealthy, less stable relationships, whereas people valuing effort deal with problems more realistically without giving emotions as much power.

Robots, Resources, and the Revenge of Nature in SF Films

GREG PETREAS/CHASE BURCHETT (HAMMING)

Our presentations will identify and analyze three key themes in popular SF films: Artificial Intelligence's rapid growth, nature punishing humans for disrespecting their habitat, and the overlapping matters of technological capture of natural resources paired with the disposal of humans as resources that can be bought and traded.

Greg Petreas' presentation will focus on the ruination of environments when humans take what isn't theirs. *Alien*, *Life*, and *Avatar* demonstrate prime examples in different magnitudes of the consequences we can face in the scientific field of research. It is not only present in science fiction motion picture, but can be applied to our current hazardous disregard for the fields we research in.

Chase Burchett's presentation will discuss how humans interact with technology and how this interaction is making humans more and more dependent on technology. This dependency will lead to a change in human nature by allowing the technology to think for us instead of humans themselves. Three movies that demonstrate human reliance on technology are *Robocop*, *Wall-E*, and *Sleep Dealer*, as well as the *Black Mirror* episode "Men Against Fire." *Robocop* describes a human being that has a computer in his head that suppresses his feelings and actions. *Wall-E* depicts a future where humans rely on robots to do absolutely everything for them, and don't observe anything around them. *Sleep Dealer* shows how technology can take humans as almost slave labor. All of these movies demonstrate different points of human reliance on technology while changing human nature itself. They also outline the slavery of humans being used as resources in each of these features.

Large Group Presentations

Friday, April 27, 11:00-11:50 AM

Presentation One (Ciocchetti)

KILPATRICK AUDITORIUM, SMITH BUILDING

Making a Change in Shreveport Through Education

Shreveport has many problems. These problems include crime in lower class neighborhoods, high incarceration rates, poverty, an unequal school system, lack of community communication, and poor election turnouts. Since we can only tackle one problem, the class decided that the most important problem to address is the inequality in the education system. The broken education system in Shreveport will negatively impact the future leaders of not only Caddo Parish, but the whole country. Problems in the education system itself include unequal funding, unequal neighborhood advantages, outdated technology, and insufficient resources. The source of all of these problems in the education system comes from the Caddo Parish School Board because its members are responsible for the school system. The membership of the School Board can be changed through the involvement of the community by voting in elections. The community needs reliable information on candidates to vote effectively. We will propose some steps you can take to help improve voter turnout and effectiveness.

Presenters: Ashlynn Albert, Cara Armstrong, Austin Craig, Gabriela Curtis, Grace Dodd, Blake Hastings, Kayla King, Cheyenne LaComb, Jerlicia Morris, Marissa Ramsey, Eva Self, Ashley Strawder, Taylor Wells, Eliezer Williams, and Sarah Wynn

Presentation Two (Glaros)

WHITED ROOM, BYNUM COMMONS

Highland Story Project

The Highland Story Project is a mission to report the unreported. Too often, the Highland neighborhood is seen through the lens of statistics and crime rates and not through the lens of culture, history, or diversity. The Highland Story Project is an opportunity. It is a chance to discover the depth of the community, working with its people to uncover their stories, experiences, and values. The Highland Story Project is a dedication. It is a commitment to unearthing the multi-faceted personality of the neighborhood and its members. It is a project of communication, of observation, and of stories: stories told by us. For this project, students chose individual research sites within the Highland community. Each student was responsible for observing the activities that occur at their site, conducting formal and informal interviews with community members that visit or have a connection to the site, and gathering secondary research to contextualize findings. Students began by identifying initial opinions and assumptions about their sites and the community in general. Many were indifferent, precautionary, or even apprehensive. However, overall our opinions were transformed by the insight provided by community members and the individual experiences of visiting our sites. Although the selected research sites were diverse, ranging from tattoo parlors to cat rescues to art galleries to parks, striking patterns and folklore elements that overlapped emerged throughout the research. This is the heart of Highland, a diverse neighborhood that finds strength in its willingness to be cohesive.

Presenters: Brian Barker, Kyla Bartley, Maddy Brown, Anthony Castillo, Ethany Cosby, Alyssa Fyfe, Gage Garber, Elliott Gill, Jerrica Harris, Connor Lee, Dee Powell, Jayman Reed, Lizzy Sanders, Marcus Thomas, Lauren Tuggle

Presentation Three (Laffey)

HURLEY MUSIC BUILDING 201

Innovation

Question: Do our best ideas come in a flash? Does a light bulb suddenly pop on and illuminate the darkness?

Answer: Not so fast.

Our course has spent the semester engaging with the argumentative strategies and tactics deployed in two 21st century books by Steven Johnson. Johnson is an American popular science author and media theorist whose work closely explores, examines, and explains the fundamental characteristics and roles that innovation plays both in natural history and in human cultural development. In the first of these texts, *Where Good Ideas Come From: The Natural History of Innovation*, students were challenged to think differently about many of the “common sense” and “commonly accepted” everyday descriptions and explanations about creativity and invention. With Johnson’s second text, *How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World*, students were presented with unfamiliar

stories behind six things we take for granted in our everyday lives: glass, cold, sound, clean, time, and light. Students were assigned to conduct further research and produce arguments concerning the unexpected and unfamiliar roles played by that which we often overlook. These students’ research has been presented throughout the semester in written essays, oral presentations, and now, in audio documentary recordings that have been assembled in the form of a podcast meant to provide a complementary supplement to Steven Johnson’s publications. This audio project will soon be broadcast on KSCL-FM 91.5 FM, the Centenary College radio station.

Glass	Tyler Erickson, Rhys Harris, and Christopher Stevens
Cold	Krystle Griffin, James Helzer, and Faith Nailes
Sound	John Beaudion and Josh Gatewood
Clean	Jesseca Hageman, Meg Hamilton, and Hunter Todd
Time	Tristen Bransom and Savanna Stewart
Light	Shimirimana Eliya, Nathan Lim, and Gin Pau

Presentation Four (Smith)

MICKLE HALL 114

Mormonism in America

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is increasingly recognized as an important part of American culture and religious life. The question of a Mormon’s place in society demands increased understanding of who and what a Mormon truly is. Fear and distrust of Mormons results from a lack of information and understanding. We find that most people have a genuine curiosity about Mormons, but many are afraid to ask because they don’t want the pressure to convert. This presentation discusses doctrinal, historical, gender, sex and chastity issues, marriage, politics, race, and cultural aspects of Mormonism in America and explores the challenges and processes towards bridging Mormonism and society. The LGBT community as it pertains to the LDS community is a topic of heated debate, and is addressed in this presentation. Cosmic beliefs, Articles of Faith, temples, and garments are all explored. Interviews were conducted with Centenary students, pastors, and members of other denominations, Mormons, and people on the street in which we asked about common stereotypes and myths and opinions regarding the place of Mormons in American society. Many assumptions about Mormonism are simply not true and have given rise to such ridicule as the comedic Broadway musical “The Book of Mormon.” Mormons have also had a large influence on American economy, businesses, and culture. In reality, the Mormon church and its members have made an enormous impact on the world and the society in which we live, and the LDS community continues to affect the lives of those around them with relief care packages and lifesaving medical care during natural disasters and other times of need. This presentation seeks to promote understanding and a better informed relationship between society and Mormonism.

Presenters: Piper Beilke, Cathryn Cabell, Janine Cunningham, Marshall Davis, Drew Echols, Pamela Fonesca, Hannah Langley, Sydney LeBoeuf, Lang Manasco, Laura Meade, Kailey Morgan, Lauren Pilcher, Olivia Stone, Kennedy Wilcher, Matthew Young

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