FACULTY ORAL PRESENTATIONS

9:30 a.m. | 30 min | IC 153

Jennifer Carlson, Ph.D.

Navigating the Path to Professionalization: A Comprehensive Review of Efforts and Recommendations for the Emergency Management Field

As Gray (2019) noted, the field of emergency management has "...evolved and grown through the post-9/11 years...there has been a push toward professionalization, and recognition of emergency management...rather than merely an extension of the police and/or fire service" (p. 136). Since Gray made these assertions in 2019, the world has experienced a global pandemic, requiring concerted efforts to regain traction toward professionalizing the field. This presentation will review these efforts, suggestions, and the impact made by members of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and emergency management professionals.

A study was conducted in 2022 using interpretive phenomenological analysis (IPA). Interviews with emergency management professionals nationwide resulted in seven group experiential themes (GETs) developed from 48 personal experiential themes (PETs) collected from participant statements. These findings partially replicate similar studies in the field. Recommendations from the study suggested the convening of focus groups to examine further the components identified as necessary for emergency management professionalization for inclusion in a strategic management plan and implementation plan, using the Hoshin Kanri continuous improvement framework. A proposal was written and accepted in 2023 for this study using PAR methodology. These focus groups will convene in 2024 to develop recommendations for a commission to be formed by resolve H.740, legislation which has passed through committee and is moving through the legislative process in Massachusetts.

11:00 a.m. | 30 min | Nolder

Bruce Cohen

Skills for Effective Organizational Communication

This presentation will guide audience members in developing communication skills necessary to be an effective member of an organization. The skills displayed during this presentation will help people understand how to create effective oral presentations and thus successfully transmit messages to their audiences. This discussion will highlight how to display information, how to initially engage audiences and sustain their interest, which will result in the presenter being able to ensure that members of their work groups, are motivated to adopt ideas of that presenter. This skill set will also provide individuals with the ability to create the correct context, format and design messages, to ensure that organizational goal attainment is achieved.

10:45 a.m. | 30 min | Jacques

Barbara Driscoll de Alvarado, Ph.D.

The U.S.-Mexican Border Region: Toward a Multi-dimensional Definition—Revised and Updated for 2024

The binational region that encompasses the United States -Mexican Border stretches from San Diego, San Ysidro-Tijuana urban area to Brownsville-Matamoros on the Gulf of Mexico and has come to symbolize many of the contemporary challenges facing the country. Indeed, it is difficult today to turn to any major news outlet and not see something about the region.
In 2019, I presented a very general multi-disciplinary introduction to the Border Region at the Academic Symposium, looking at the people, geography and select problems, with a particular view to prepare students with a few basic tools to understand the region's complexity and recognize its . Indeed, the Border region is not isolated from the rest of the country. However, since that time, the situation along the Border has changed in ways that none of us would have anticipated.
Unprecedented migration from countries heretofore not represented in Border migratory movements, policy agreements and disagreements between the U.S. and Mexican governments (including building a wall), and the pandemic have seriously affected the region and our perception of it. In spite of these developments, last year of 2023, for the first time in twenty years, the United States purchased more from Mexico than from China; most of the goods are shipped through border cities.
I propose to make a PowerPoint presentation for the Academic Symposium that summarizes a general introduction to the region, but also to provide background about contemporary issues such undocumented immigration from countries other than Mexico, constructing walls and other obstacles and commerce on and near the Border.

11:00 a.m. | 30 min | IC 159

James Duggan, Ph.D.

Implementing NIMS: Lessons Learned from the Boston Marathon Bombing

Many opportunities to learn from the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing have not been capitalized on. The terrorist attack was launched in the heart of Boston, a densely populated urban area with a population of approximately 670,000. Those numbers are amplified by the hundreds of thousands of spectators that line the streets along the Marathon route, with most at the finish line on Boylston Street. Two pressure cooker bombs were detonated in the finish line area, killing three and injuring 264. Among the injured were 16 who suffered traumatic amputations. Numerous reviews of the response and investigation identified positive aspects to be expanded upon and others needing improvement. This monograph presents lessons learned within the context of the National Incident Management System. Individuals who responded to and investigated the attack provide insights into what went well and, more importantly, what didn't in the days and weeks following the attack. How would the proper implementation of Unified Command have improved outcomes? Find out from those who were there, have separated from service, and are now free to speak. The lessons presented provide critical guidance for the proper preparation for and response to terrorist attacks in urban environments.

11:00 a.m. | 30 min | IC 153

Mark Griffon, DSc

Safety Culture: What is it and Does it Work?

The term Safety Culture was initially coined in an investigation report considering the causes of the nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986. More than thirty five years after the Chernobyl disaster, academics and practitioners alike struggle with the definition of safety culture. However, even with lack of clarity of how to exactly define safety culture it has been implemented, in various forms, across many different types of industries around the world. This talk will explore the use of safety culture in various industrial sectors. Cases from the nuclear sector, the oil and gas sector, and the healthcare industry will be presented in order to provide an understanding of the concept as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the approach. Critics of the approach are concerned that safety culture can become a catch-all answer to all safety problems which actually prevents companies and workers from addressing underlying factors responsible for poor safety performance or that safety culture is just a ruse for management to further control worker behavior. They point out that slogans such as 'safety first' can become nothing more than empty rhetoric to the company workforce and that without considering power dynamics within a workplace these programs are ineffective. Finally, the question will be posed: how can safety culture programs and safety culture assessments at a workplace be useful in improving safety? After more than 35 years of experience, have these programs worked?

9:45 a.m. | 15 min | IC 153

Sang Kim, Ph.D.
Identification of the senescent-specific markers in cancer cells treated with chemotherapy

Senescence is a cellular response to a variety of stress signals that is characterized by a stable withdrawal from the cell cycle and major changes in cell morphology and physiology. Also, it has been shown that cancer cells can induce a senescence signature in response to the treatment of various cancer drugs. This induction of senescence includes changes in cells' chromosome morphology and their expression profiles, broadly called the Senescence-Associated Secretory Phenotype (SASP). One of characteristics of senescent cells includes resistance to therapeutic agents. This resistance to the treatment in cancer cells with various cancer drugs could be accounted for by the resistance to apoptosis. These cellular changes in the senescent cancer cells could be used for the selective eradication of these cells through senolysis. Since the next-generation sequencing data at the single cell level are available in the public domain, this study aims to relate senescence associated signatures to the mechanisms of resistance. Also, this study aims to identify regulators or cellular mechanisms for senescence driven resistance. A longer-term goal through this study would be to identify candidates for targeted knockdown or expression screens.

11:00 a.m. | 15 min | Nolder

Paul LaCava
Empowering Educators and Students and Integrating AI into the Classroom

In the rapidly evolving educational landscape, Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents an unparalleled opportunity for enhancing teaching and learning experiences. This 30-minute presentation aims to explore the multifaceted role of AI in the classroom, highlighting its potential to personalize learning, automate administrative tasks, and foster an inclusive learning environment. We will delve into current AI applications, including adaptive learning systems, AI-powered tutoring, and automated grading, illustrating how these tools can cater to diverse learning styles and needs. Additionally, the presentation will address the ethical considerations and

challenges of integrating AI in education, such as data privacy and the digital divide. Faculty members will gain insights into effectively incorporating AI technologies to enrich curriculum delivery, engage students, and prepare them for a future where AI is ubiquitous. The presentation will also encourage an open dialogue on shaping a forward-thinking educational strategy that leverages AI to enhance teaching efficacy and student outcomes, setting the stage for a transformative learning experience.

10:00 a.m. | 30 min | Nolder

Gene LaCava
Chatbots in Education

The integration of chatbots into educational environments, particularly at the college level, represents a significant shift in the traditional pedagogical landscape. This presentation will explore the multifaceted role of chatbots in enhancing learning experiences, streamlining administrative tasks, and providing personalized support to students. By harnessing the power of artificial intelligence and natural language processing, chatbots can offer instant feedback, facilitate interactive learning sessions, and address queries around the clock, thereby fostering a more engaging and responsive educational
ecosystem. We will delve into various possible use cases that illustrate the implementation of chatbots in college settings, highlighting the improvements in student engagement, satisfaction, and academic performance. Additionally, the presentation will address the challenges and ethical considerations of deploying chatbots, including privacy concerns and the need for human oversight. The aim is to provide faculty and students with a comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and limitations of chatbots in education, encouraging an informed dialogue about their future role in academia. By examining the use cases, this presentation will offer valuable insights into how chatbots can be effectively integrated into college-level education to support both teaching staff and students, paving the way for innovative teaching methodologies and enhanced learning outcomes.

10:45 a.m. | 15 min | IC 153

Kerriann Marden, Ph.D.
Food of the Gods: Using Human Dental Calculus to Explore the Concept of Ritual Elites in Pre-Columbian Chaco Canyon

This research project tests the long-held assumption in Southwestern Pre-Columbian archaeology that elite inhabitants of Chaco Canyon consumed cacao, a bean which had to be imported into the region. Trace quantities of theobromine, the chemical marker for cacao, were found in ritual ceramic vessels from Chaco Canyon, which has been interpreted as a strong archaeological indicator of ritual ties to Mesoamerica and a clear signifier of Chacoan social hierarchy (Crown and Hurst, 2009). However, the presence of this chemical in ceramic vessels does not necessarily indicate who actually consumed cacao, or indeed, whether it was consumed at all. Collection and retention of cacao does not provide direct evidence that the beans were used for the production of the Mesoamerican ritual chocolate beverage. This project analyzed ancient dental calculus, which is the mineralized end product of a biofilm that traps substances consumed orally, for the presence of theobromine in dental calculus. Our results not only confirm that cacao was consumed, but also provides information on precisely which individuals in Chacoan society consumed it.

11:30 a.m. | 30 min | IC 153

Ann Marie Mires, Ph.D. & Jasmine Powers
Predictive Modeling in Missing Person Cases

At this time there are approximately 111 missing children in Massachusetts that have been missing since the early 1970's and have not been found. With the advent of technology to identify unknown remains (genetic genealogy) and the development of databases to align missing persons with unidentified remains (NamUs) some of these long-time missing cases have been located and returned to their families. In an effort to get justice for these unfound children, who cannot speak for themselves, this research looks at previously collected data on missing and murdered children cases in order to discern patterns in these cases, highlight potential offender behavior, and utilize this data to predict where children may be located. Utilizing ArcGIS, a visual mapping software that analyzes and displays geographically referenced variables and information, variables can be mapped within a 5-mile search area around where the child went missing. ArcGIS will allow us to pinpoint areas and work with law enforcement search and recovery teams to demarcate areas that are potentially connected to these crimes and provide areas that can be searched to see if those children might be deposited in that area. It can also help to reveal the area where the offender may be living and operating which may lead to providing more areas to search for those missing children. Case examples include a recent missing person case and more remote cases of children missing in Massachusetts.

9:15 a.m. | 15 min | Jacques

Jason Ostrander, Ph.D.

The Influence of Political Ideology and Political Engagement on the Political Activities of Licensed Social Workers

Political engagement in social work has "waxed and waned in concert with broader societal shifts in economic, political, and social conditions" (Meyer, 2008). Jane Addams and Mary Richmond's comparable but separate trajectories may explain the profession's inconsistency in political intervention. Both women used government control of programs and services to change social conditions and define social work practice differently. Addams advocated communal and legislative transformation. Richmond wanted social workers to provide direct assistance, not structural changes. Richmond also thought social workers should be politically neutral. Finally, the social work profession codified its commitment to political activity in its professional ethical codes and standards. This presentation will outline the impact of political ideology and political engagement on licensed social workers' engagement in political activities. A survey was created and distributed in 2017 to better understand licensed social workers' civic and political engagement. Three thousand thirty-three randomly selected licensed social workers from 24 states started the survey, and 2,350 finished it. The data analysis revealed that political ideology and party affiliation (not the same construct) were significant predictors of political engagement; political ideology emerged as the more significant factor influencing political engagement and political activity. The study's examination of licensed social workers' specific ideological affiliations affirmed the conclusions of existing literature that social workers identifying as left-leaning or more liberal are more likely to engage in social action and political activity.

10:30 a.m. | 15 min | IC 153

Robert Pijewski, Ph.D.
Investigation of the Effects of Lead on Cell Proliferation and Neurite Outgrowth in Embryonic Dorsal Root Ganglion Isolated from Gallus gallus domesticus embryos

In recent years, the levels of lead found in drinking water in many parts of the United States have been found to be significantly higher than the limit of 5ug/dL blood lead level (BLL). Studies have linked prenatal and postnatal lead exposure to an increase in neurodevelopmental issues including behavioral abnormalities, ADHD, and more. The proposed study is a continuation of research started in collaboration with the University of Hartford and provides students a unique opportunity to learn developmental neuroscience, sterile technique, and microdissection skills. Gallus gallus domesticus or the domesticated chicken is used as the model organism for this study as they have high homology or similarity to human genes and proteins. Additionally, the developmental mechanisms of neurogenesis are conserved between chickens and humans which make chickens an excellent model to study such processes. Previous studies have shown that lead prevents neurite outgrowth by an unknown mechanism. In this study, lead's potential effects on dorsal root ganglion development are explored by using an in vitro whole-mount organ culture system. Results show that lead significantly decreased neurite quantity and length. Additionally, we show that cell proliferation can be detected after the addition of lead suggesting a developmental switch from differentiation to proliferation, which can be detrimental to a developing organism. Our results suggest that the CDC guided safe level of lead may still have effects on the development of the nervous system.

10:30 a.m. | 30 min | IC 159

Seth Racusen, Ph.D.
Insisting on her Rights and Other Afro Brazilian Repertoires of Resisting Everyday Gray Zone Racism

This paper examines how the Brazilian racial order shapes Afro-Brazilian resistance to racism. Most incidents reported to the police contain a racist insult, the most evident expression of racist aggression. This paper especially examines ongoing public displays of racist aggression, which involve the interplay of multiple parties to the aggressions. As Achilles Mbembe and Primo Levi have insisted, domination is not simply manifest between "perpetrators" and "victims" but a "spectacle" in which many perform varying, intermediary roles. The victim who recognized and challenged racism against her is dependent upon the racial consciousness and positionality of the bystanders to her aggression and operates in a "gray zone" of tremendous uncertainty. The Brazilian racial hierarchy has successfully inserted many Afro Brazilians as instruments of the oppression of others and the national narrative of racial democracy legitimates their actions. As a consequence of these societal dynamics and the considerable problems in the application of law, victims pursue alternative strategies to legal challenges. What repertoires do victims enact to contest racism at the site of aggression, and how do social dynamics inform those repertoires? In instances of ongoing aggression, what social and legal repertoires do victims enact to manage the ongoing harassment while a legal claim is being processed? This paper draws from 70 interviews conducted with Afro Brazilians who contested racist experiences with a public entity in Sao Paulo, Salvador, and other cities, and shows their strategic choices and creativity in their repertoires of resistance

9:15 a.m. | 15 min | Nolder

Dr. Lawrence Sasso, MSM
Financial Literacy

Today's financial products are more complex than ever before, it is essential that we educate our students the essentials of Personal Finance. This presentation will introduce many of the financial products and decisions young adults will be faced with now and for the rest of their lives. Recent news has reported that financial literacy is a subject matter that young adults want to learn about, unfortunately many times it is not offered to them until they get to college. Even at the college level Personal Finance may not be a required course, and without good mentors or advisors, students graduate from college without ever taking a financial class.

We will investigate the following in this presentation:
budgeting, good and bad debt, credit versus debit cards, owning versus leasing a vehicle, renting versus purchasing a home, good interest and bad interest & compounding interest

We will close out the presentation with ways students can invest in themselves. As the legendary author, Stephen Covey (The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People) named it, Habit #7 "Sharpen the Saw."

10:00 a.m. | 15 min | Jacques

Danielle Shaver & Dr. Jennifer Viveiros, PhD, RN
Voluntary Attrition in Undergraduate Nursing Programs

The purpose of this review was to synthesize what is known about voluntary attrition from nursing programs. Findings of this review are intended to guide admission criteria and retention efforts in traditional undergraduate baccalaureate nursing programs.The search strategy outlined by Whittemore and Knafl (2005) was employed for this review. CINAHL, PsychINFO, ERIC, and MEDLINE were searched generating 68 articles. Ten studies met review criteria. Studies showed underpreparedness academically and emotionally, economic challenges, feelings of isolation, differences between the perception of nursing and realities of professional practice, and incongruence with learning objectives in clinical settings leading to dissatisfaction. Continued work in needed the area of public awareness of nursing as a rigorous college major. The realities of nursing school, feelings of acceptance, and academic preparedness must be addressed by educators. Interventional research in this area has the potential to enhance retention efforts.

11:30 a.m. | 30 min | Jacques

Marc Tumeinski, Ph.D.
What's in a Name? A Spiritual Architectural Tour

Our spaces can to some degree influence us, including our sense of self, our understanding of what is important and what we are capable of, knowledge of our history, our emotions and behaviors, and even our relationships. As students, staff, and faculty, we may spend years among the buildings, pathways, and natural spaces here at Anna Maria. Take a walk across our beautiful College campus and we are invited by what we see to contemplate the joy and charism of the Sisters of Saint Anne. Take note of the multiple signs of Catholic faith and reminders of the Catholic intellectual tradition which has informed the educational mission of the Sisters since their founding in 1850, and of Anna Maria College since 1946. The charism of Mother Marie-Anne was to follow Jesus and to share Christ's mission as Educator, motivated by the desire "for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls." This desire is echoed in the College theme of pursuing 'something greater,' and reminds us that the spirituality of the Sisters is rooted in the tradition of discernment and renewal established by St. Ignatius of Loyola. The College was planned by the Sisters to offer a liberal education that "enlightened the intellect in truth, strengthened the will in good, and elevated the heart through love." We see these same elements written into our current mission and values and inscribed across our campus.

11:30 a.m. | 30 min | IC 159

Dianne White, J.D., Ph.D.
Juveniles and Life Sentences: Legal evolution in American justice systems

This research project addresses the phenomenon of juveniles who commit murder and their subsequent processing in both the juvenile justice system and the adult criminal justice system in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Specifically, this research project examines the issue of juveniles who were convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole prior to the United States Supreme Court ruling in Miller v. Alabama (2012) that rendered such criminal sentences unconstitutional. In light of this ruling, all states were compelled to re-evaluate the sentences of over 2500 inmates in the U.S. The study extrapolated from the total universe of the Massachusetts cases on point to answer the questions: What happened to this class of criminal convicts following Miller? And is society put in jeopardy or otherwise threatened by the re-sentencing of the once juvenile lifers?

FACULTY POSTER PRESENTATION

Ingyu Moon, Ph.D.
Determinants of COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy: 2020 California Health Interview Survey

Determinants of COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy: 2020 California Health Interview Survey. Although the COVID-19 vaccine is a key intervention against the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, vaccine hesitancy is a major barrier to decreasing mortality and achieving population immunity. To reduce vaccine hesitancy, the factors affecting it must be addressed. Based on the determinants of health approach, this study aimed to investigate whether the distribution of determinants of health differed between the vaccine hesitancy group and the vaccine acceptance group and to identify determinants of participants' hesitancy to receive the COVID-19 vaccine if it was available. This study utilized the 2020 California Health Interview Survey. Data were collected using a population-based web and telephone health survey. Data from 21,949 participants in California were included, and 4,183 (23.4 %) showed vaccine hesitancy. The following determinants were positively associated with vaccine hesitancy: female sex, Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native ethnicity, smoking, poverty, U.S.-born citizen, having a safe neighborhood, frequent use of social media, food insecurity, and limited healthcare access. Older age, not having severe psychological distress, and not having diabetes were negatively associated with COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. This study also found that increased use of social media potentially threatened vaccine uptake, whereas frequent internet use was negatively associated with vaccine hesitancy. Public health and other relevant service providers should address the determinants of vaccine hesitancy and develop effective strategies and interventions for vaccine-hesitant groups.

Kerriann Marden, Ph.D.
A Study of Taphonomic Changes Associated with Variation in the Freeze/Thaw Cycle

Although taphonomic changes caused by freezing temperature have been examined in a forensic context, the effects of cold temperatures are not yet well understood. Most research has been conducted in outdoor contexts, in which variables beyond the researchers' control, such as scavenger activity, often impact the results. While some studies have taken place in controlled, laboratory settings, these have focused primarily on uniform research conditions such as temperature, thaw time, and freezing time, and have allowed specimens to thaw fully at room temperature between freeze events, which does not adequately represent observed weather conditions. This project employs a controlled lab environment but introduces variability in temperature during thawing, length of thaw cycle, and moisture, to determine how different conditions might impact postmortem changes to fleshed and skeletonized remains.

15-MINUTE STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

9:00 a.m. | Nolder

Joshua Alexander

Chess And its relation to being an Effective Manager

This presentation will discuss how strategies used in chess can be similar to those used in Managing people in a corporate environment. This presentation will highlight chess stratagems and general leadership principles that will give examples of the theories of management and how a manager may motivate employees to accomplish organizational goals, similar to arranging and moving chess pieces on a board. The audience will gain an understanding of how having learned the game of chess will help prepare one to become an effective manager.

9:00 a.m. | Jacques

Ezekial Diaz

Mental Health First Aid Trainings for First Responders

Mental Health is a major concern for first responders. This population is exposed to increased incidents of violence and trauma, has a high suicide rate, and can experience increased prevalence of depression and substance use disorders. Since the COVID-19pandemic, mental health concerns have been rising around the world, especially among first responders in the United States. Mental health training programs such as Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) are becoming more necessary than ever. This presentation will provide a context background of MHFA. It will discuss the purpose, intentions, methods, and effects of MHFA training for first responders. Data analysis will explore pre- and post-training evaluations given to MHFA Instructors trained through Anna Maria College's Department of Justice federal project. Discussion will include the direct effects of MHFA training on first responders, their perceptions on mental health, skills they have gained in the training, and their perceived effectiveness of the training in this community.

9:00 a.m. | IC 153

Samuel Knox, Liam Bedenkop & Madison McCutcheon

The Critical Minutes: Enhancing AED Accessibility to Improve Early Shock Delivery in Campus Emergencies

"The Critical Minutes: Enhancing AED Accessibility to Improve Early Shock Delivery in Campus Emergencies" will highlight the vital need for rapid defibrillation in cases of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) within and around the Anna Maria (AMC) campus, a campus with a complex multi-building layout with a current deficit of automated external defibrillators (AED). Surveying current AED locations on campus and timing possible response times, this project will identify critical gaps in AED placement around the campus, identify why there needs to be an increase in AEDs and propose possible strategies to acquire new AEDs for the campus and ensure proper training. Using these methods, this project aims to reduce the time to first shock in cardiac emergencies, improve survival rates, and decrease long-term deficits from prolonged cardiac arrest.

10:15 a.m. | Jacques

Sydney Stebbins

Life is Good Sometimes

"Life is Good Sometimes" is a sequel to last year's presentation of "Life Sucks Sometimes" which explored themes of isolation, growing up in a troubled world, the female experience, and identity in lyrical form. This year's focus is to tell the opposite perspective from the perspective of a college student in the midst of her growth. Life is Good Sometimes delves into the unexpected and miraculous transformations that occur, demonstrating that life's journey is an unpredictable adventure. The sequel depicts the essence of how, through resilience and personal evolution, life can take extraordinary turns, often defying initial expectations. "Life is Good Sometimes" stands as a testament to the human ability to find it within oneself to blossom through perseverance, finding true family, and acceptance. It will be a collection of two short stories and three poems.

10:30 a.m. | Nolder

Victoria Leger

Disability Representation in Film

This presentation will examine the scholarly research regarding disability representation in the film industry. It will delve into statistics, real-life examples, disability portrayals, and case studies to explore historical trends and suggest better practices for the future. The statistics will include how many disabled people are employed vs unemployed, what is the job market for disabled people, how many disabled actors get acting roles. The real-life examples will include personal accounts of disabled actors in the field, historical content of disability rights, and advocacy work that disabled actors do. Disability portrayals will include the history of portraying a disabled person, what the difference is between disabled and non-disabled actors playing the roles, and what are good and bad disability portrayals. The case study will include the personal accounts of disabled actors battling accommodation needs and access barriers to auditioning and being on the set.

10:30 a.m. | Jacques

Ann Mann

See Judge Act

This paper explores the treatment of people with disabilities over the years by applying the "See, Judge, Act" lens of Catholic Social Teaching. In particular, we will identify when the documented start of disability abuse began in the 19th century; how the Catholic faith implores all of its faithful to protect those who cannot protect themselves; and what future steps we can take to improve the lives of those who are disabled. We will apply the principle of solidarity to understand why all people matter and why we should all become advocates for those in need. We will apply the principle of participation as well, meaning every person has a right and a duty to participate in society. This is not just a matter of the rights of the disabled but also how this injustice affects the community and how more community outrage can greatly benefit those with disabilities when it becomes a generator of activism and change. Helping to ensure people with disabilities get their God-given and constitutional rights is a noble pursuit, one which will make the world a better place in the end. But to get there, we must see the injustices and obstacles, judge what needs to be done for and with people who have disabilities, and act to remove the obstacles and injustices.

11:15 a.m. | Jacques

Penelope Chappel & Robert Pijewski, Ph.D.

A Systematic Review on the Neurological Basis of Love

Researchers have just begun diving into the molecular mechanisms of love—from the butterflies in your stomach to the heartache and despair when love ends. Through a systematic review of primary research, the essence of falling in love, being in love, and experiencing a heartbreak can be evaluated. Studies have shown that specific chemicals and regions are activated during each stage. When falling in love for example, there is an increased release of the chemicals including dopamine, adrenaline, cortisol, oxytocin, and vasopressin. Additionally, it has been found that serotonin levels decrease in the ventral tegmental area, which is directly involved in the increased release of dopamine in the reward circuit. Research indicates universally the effects on the brain of falling in love, being in love, and how heartbreak can break us on the neurological level. We can see that love is more complex and engaging than we ever knew. Such findings and studies can be incorporated into therapy and inevitably we can learn how to build healthier relationships, brains, behaviors, and bodies. Love can be strenuous to keep, difficult to let drift away, and physically and psychologically impactful to loss. Learning about love can help us reduce stress and anxiety so that in the long run we can live a healthier and happier life. There is perhaps "no better way of realizing our brain's full cognitive potential, than by being in love" (Cacioppo, 2022).

30-MINUTE STUDENT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

9:00 a.m. | IC 159

Kaitlin Morin

Ethics and Professionalism in the Public Service

Ethical guidelines and principles in the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA) Code of Ethics are essential for accountability and effective public services (Code of Ethics, 2023). Eight ethical standards in ASPA: advancing public interest, upholding constitution and law, promoting democratic participation, strengthening social equity, fully informing and advising, demonstrating personal integrity, promoting ethical organizations, and advancing professional excellence (Code of Ethics, 2023). These principles analyze municipalities, highlighting strong management practices. Evaluation methods include positive attributes, like strategic planning for long-term goals. Commitment to the public interest is crucial for all municipalities. The Democratic process requires ethical public meetings, accessible public officials, and information-sharing platforms. Commitment to social equality, diversity, and inclusion training is imperative. A strong correlation exists between employee success and transparency in management. Municipal officials should dedicate themselves to welcoming new staff and communicating clearly with communities. Collaboration is vital to success, involving experts, labor councils, town councils, employees, and volunteers. Personal integrity enhances employee professionalism. Mentorship, coupled with human resources, is ideal for town managers. Municipalities should align mission and vision with public interest, democratic participation, and community service. Public trust is necessary for maintaining ethical guidelines. Evaluating ethical processes ensures municipalities successfully promote positive public programs for constituents and employees.

9:30 a.m. | Jacques

Shawn Davis

The Law of Social Cycles; A New Way to Interpret Human Psychology and World Events

The presentation will include a power-point presentation outlining the essential ideas of the theory of the Law of Social Cycles, generate a group discussion, and also offer an optional written personality assessment, which students can choose to fill out to find out what historical personality type each individual's personality traits match up with. The Law of Social Cycles is one of the most innovative and prescient theories of the late twentieth/early twenty-first century, and yet I have rarely met a college educated person who knows about it. The respected and nationally-known author and economics professor, Dr. Ravi Batra, discusses the theory in his various insightful non-fiction books – some which accurately predicted many of the economic and political challenges we have faced in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Aside from its predictive value, the LSC theory also explains how power shifts from different personality types and leadership styles throughout history; it is an invaluable historical analysis tool. LSC describes and explains what political, economic, and social policies worked in the past and which ones didn't. The theory's unique insights can help us to make the vital reforms we need today to maximize our productivity and happiness worldwide. After many hours of research, I discovered that both the Athenian and Roman Empires both progressed according to Batra's theory of the Law of Social Cycles. In addition, the Medieval, Renaissance, Enlightenment, Industrial, and Modern Periods have all followed the patterns described in the LSC theory.

9:30 a.m. | Nolder

Chloe Giordano

Social Media Marketing Plan for the New Hampshire Fisher Cats

This presentation will devise a social media marketing plan for the New Hampshire Fisher Cats baseball team. This plan will include a competitive analysis, strategies, platform specific tactics and tools. Included with this plan will be a return-on-investment analysis to ensure that the plan will provide team management with the requisite return on expenditure.

10:00 a.m. | IC 159

Marissa Brown, Serena Dennis, Gabi Gibson & Daniel Leinweber

Exploring the Topic of Stress and Youth Through a Social Worker Lens

This study explored the topic of stress in social workers and its relationship with effective helping and therapeutic outcomes. Information was gathered through interviews and involved delving into the various dimensions of stress experienced by the social worker as reported by interviewees. The project assessed perceived stress levels in various realms of daily life i.e., school, family, social stressors etc. through in-person interviews of social workers and sought to uncover various activities that may effectively mitigate such stress, as identified in interviews. Results from this PAR project may add to the existing foundation of previous studies by aiding social workers and students through information learned; researchers hypothesized. With a preliminary review of the literature, the results of this study showed the essential skills needed for an environment that's conducive to the studied environment. Recommended essential skills are explored with developing effective strategies to mitigate negative impacts and promote the mental and emotional well-being of those served and serving. Reducing stress not only improves mental health but leads to better physical health and quality of life.

10:00 a.m. | IC 153

Jasmin Powers & Ann Marie Mires, Ph.D.

Brittany Tee-Mapping for the Missing

Brittany Tees' disappearance on January 10th, 2023, is still a mystery. There have been multiple search efforts, groups, media posts, outreach groups, etc. This has been a tragedy for Ms. Tee's family. The goal of this presentation is to highlight the importance of mapping every step of a missing person because any step they may have taken could change the investigation. The use of ARC GIS technology from the course offered by Dr. Jennifer Carlson and knowledge from the forensic archaeology course offered by Dr. Ann Marie Mires has made this presentation possible and will bring important information to light.

11:00 a.m. | IC 153

Mensur Bacaliu & Prof. Michael Harris

Methodology of Forensic Photography and A New Reflective Method

Forensic photography is probably the most crucial part of forensic investigation. Photography is the first step in any collection of evidence. In this presentation, I will go over the methodology of forensic photography. As well as a method of forensic photography that me and Professor Michael Harris have worked on over the course of this semester, photography of latent impressions in hard to shoot areas using mirrors. I will discuss why this is important and give examples to demonstrate the significance.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Cassandra Almendarez
Best Practices for Pregnant Women with Pregestational Diabetes

Diabetes mellitus has grown to be a major chronic condition that puts a significant burden on modern healthcare. As the prevalence of diabetes mellitus continues to grow, incidences of pregestational diabetes mellitus have risen globally. It is crucial that the registered nurse follows the best evidence-based practices to care for and treat pregestational diabetes mellitus and prevent adverse pregnancy outcomes. Current interventions for treating pregnant women with pregestational diabetes mellitus include implementing diabetes self-management education and support, promoting lifestyle changes, using virtual healthcare modalities, and screening for depression.

Damien Alston Jr.
The Impact of Mental Health in Underserved Communities

The focus of this project will be on how communities that face poverty, high levels of crime, unemployment, limited opportunities, limited resources, and limited access to resources have an impact on mental health. Mental health struggles are a huge societal issue that affects all demographics across the globe. Specifically, this presentation will highlight communities that face those issues and are also faced with mental health struggles. How mental health can further damage and negatively impact those in underserved communities further than their current disposition. Along with this, an exploration of how that can trickle down to families and the development of future generations in those struggling communities will be provided.

Melissa Auger
Benefits of Rooming-In Postpartum

During postpartum hospitalization, the use of the rooming-in practice has proven to hold several benefits for the mother and newborn. Rooming-in is defined by a newborn remaining in the postpartum mother's hospital room for at least 23 hours a day during their hospitalization. The practice of rooming-in has been proven to have a positive correlation with exclusive breastfeeding. Maternal confidence also rises when room sharing with their newborns, which in return decreases the risk of maternal psychological distress (Handelzalts et al., 2021). Room sharing between mother and child is highly encouraged by the WHO and CDC, as it encourages more skin-to-skin time and allows the mother to recognize the newborn's hunger cues (CDC, 2023). Although this practice holds evidence of its significance, many still do not practice rooming-in postpartum. One obstacle that presents itself is the lack of education on the topic and promotion of the practice from providers to the first-time parents (Wang et al., 2021). Ergo, by engaging, encouraging and educating mothers on the benefits of the rooming-in practice, this will provide a positive outcome for the mother and newborn.

Abbey Bazinet
Evidence-Based Practices to Prevent Central-Line Associated Bloodstream Infections

A central venous catheter, commonly referred to as a central line, is a tube that doctors insert into a sizable vein located in the arm, neck, chest, or groin area to quickly perform medical tests or administer fluids, blood, or drugs. Central line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) result in extended hospital stays, rising healthcare expenses, and an increase in mortality. According to estimates, 250,000 bloodstream illnesses happen each year, and the majority of them are caused by the use of intravascular devices (Haddadin et al., 2022). This paper explores various evidence-based practices that have been studied and used in several different hospitals to help decrease the rates of CLABSIs. Studies range from the use of chlorhexidine wipes and caps to educating patients on the proper care techniques for a central line. Results from each of the studies show that with the implementation of these practices, there were decreases in CLABSI rates at each hospital.

Grace Bond
Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection

The longer a catheter is inserted in a patient, the greater the likelihood that they will develop a catheter associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI). CAUTIs are an infection that runs rampant across the country. They are seen in both males and females, and in patients of any age from pediatric to geriatric. Patients with CAUTIs have increased hospital stays, increased costs and decreases in their physical and mental health, as well as a risk of mortality. Nurses can improve the outcome for patients with CAUTIs by communicating effectively with physicians who may not be aware of catheter insertion in their patient as well as indications for catheter insertion. Increased education for patients, nurses and physicians increases positive outcomes for patients. Research states that shared responsibility in monitoring for CAUTIs daily, increased communication between patients and their care team, as well as decreasing the amount of time that the catheter is inserted, all directly increase the patient's safety as well as decreases the probability of them getting a CAUTI.

Stacie Brimmage, Madison Belanger
Kyle George, Hussein Mohamed, Misha Johnson
The Relationship of Psychological Distress and the COVID-19 Pandemic Affected the Amount of Alcohol Consumed

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented global crisis. Many men and women turned to alcohol to cope with stressors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, many men and women experienced psychological symptoms such as depression, anxiety, loneliness, isolation, and financial hardship.This study used data from the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), collected annually by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The sample in this analysis included 45,022 adults 18 and older. Multivariate regression analysis was used to examine the effect of how much, if at all, the COVID-19 pandemic affected the amount of alcohol drank on psychological distress, measured by the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale. The independent variable was 'how COVID-19 affected the amount of alcohol drank.' Other substance use variables include the use of the following substances within the past year: marijuana, heroin, cocaine, opioids, tranquilizers, stimulants and sedatives. Analysis from the study indicated that drinking more alcohol during the COVID-19 pandemic was associated with increased psychological distress (=.05, p<.001), and this association was greater than all other substance use variables. Conclusions and Implications: Results indicated that increase alcohol consumption is a leading factor associated with psychological distress in the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic. Social work practitioners should be aware of this risk factor in direct practice and advocate for resources to address both mental health and substance abuse disorders.

Marissa Brown, Serena Dennis, Gabi Gibson, Daniel Leinweber
Exploring the Topic of Stress and Youth Through a Social Worker Lens

This study explored the topic of stress in social workers and its relationship with effective helping and therapeutic outcomes. Information was gathered through interviews and involved delving into the various dimensions of stress experienced by the social worker as reported by interviewees. The project assessed perceived stress levels in various realms of daily life i.e., school, family, social stressors etc. through in-person interviews of social workers and sought to uncover various activities that may effectively mitigate such stress, as identified in interviews. Results from this PAR project may add to the existing foundation of previous studies by aiding social workers and students through information learned; researchers hypothesized. With a preliminary review of the literature, the results of this study showed the essential skills needed for an environment that's conducive to the studied environment. Recommended essential skills are explored with developing effective strategies to mitigate negative impacts and promote the mental and emotional well-being of those served and serving. Reducing stress not only improves mental health but leads to better physical health and quality of life.

Elie Charles
Using social media marketing to promote fan attendance at Pittsburgh Steelers game

This presentation will include content for various platforms in which to connect fans to the team. This presentation will also provide a branding strategy to further accomplish the goals of social media marketing. Social media marketing is the use of social media, the platforms on which users use to promote a product or service build social networks, and share information to build a company's brand, increase sales, and drive website traffic. Social media platforms provide a high level of connectivity and interaction between sports businesses and their target audience. Social media platforms have become powerful tools for sports organizations, athletes, and brands to engage with fans, build their brands, and drive revenue. Social media platforms have opened up new avenues for fan participation through polls, contests, and interactive features, further enhancing the overall fan experience. With its ability to create a sense of community, enhance fan engagement, amplify athlete personalities, create sponsorship opportunities, drive revenue, and provide real-time data and analytics, social media has transformed the way sports organizations approach marketing and fan interaction.

Leika Cherubin
Best Practices to Reduce Healthcare Disparities among Minorities

This paper provides evidence-based practice strategies and appropriate ways on how to build rapport and establish mutual trust between racial, ethnic minority populations and healthcare professionals of different race and background. As caregivers, it is imperative to provide exclusive care for all patients, as well as increasing mutual understanding. Building rapport requires transparency. The 2019-2021 COVID-19 pandemic was the most disastrous infectious disease of modern times, and data has shown the discrepancy in hospitalizations, deaths, and financial burdens between the different ethnic groups in the United States. The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated and amplified the harsh reality of health inequities experienced by racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States. Members of these groups have disproportionately been infected and died from COVID-19, yet they still lack equitable access to treatment and vaccines. Lack of equitable access to high-quality health care is in large part a result of structural racism in US health care policy, which structures the health care system to advantage the white population and disadvantage racial and ethnic minority populations. The purpose of this paper is to introduce evidence-based practices to increase cultural competence in health care by acknowledging health inequities, staying vigilant as caregivers while rapport can be built.

Alana Conti, Eden Forget, Shayla MacDonald
The Civic Engagement of Freshman Compared to Senior Anna Maria College Students

This study hypothesizes that college students do not feel they impact the decision-making of the government (local, state, and federal), whether they vote or not. The importance of the research is to highlight the factors contributing to college students' civic engagement, as well as their feelings towards the government. Kornbluh et al. (2022) illustrate that there are socioeconomic disparities in civic participation, and "these disparities can be attributed to inadequate access in adolescence to civic developmental opportunities, education systems, and community based resources" (p. 2954). This cross-sectional, quasi-experimental design study examines civic engagement among Anna Maria College students. The survey was anonymous, and the data was collected using convenience sampling strategies. A total of 157 students, faculty, and alumni participated in this voluntary survey, with the majority being Caucasian women. The respondents reported low civic engagement and a lack of knowledge about government. The objective of this study is to compare those who vote and how much they feel they impact the government's decisions. We hypothesize that senior college students engage more civically than first-year college students.

Danae DelPrado, Lauren Miller, Nicholas Morley, Bernard Ofosuhene, Elena Shyta, Brian Trefry

Global Health Challenges

In our poster we present some of the urgent global health challenges of this decade. With a focus on high-threat pathogens, non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, and the pervasive mental health crisis encompassing disorders such as anxiety and depression, this work illuminates the urgent need for education and policy reform. Intersections with economics, politics, the environment, and mental and physical health are explored. Beyond the confines of national borders, the stark realities of global health disparities are unveiled, exacerbated by the heightening impacts of climate disruption and air pollution. While much of the United States enjoys unparalleled access to technological advancements and healthcare infrastructure, the troubling trend of escalating diabetes rates underscores the complexity of the crisis. Rapid technological innovation shows promise in the way specific diseases are diagnosed and treated, yet an overall focus on the fair distribution and accessibility of healthcare technology is needed to address the most pressing global health challenges currently faced. We aim to inspire policy interventions and foster greater equity in access to cutting-edge healthcare solutions.

Hailey DePault

The effect of Magnet Hospitals on Occupational Burnout

Occupational burnout is defined as the state of emotional, physical, and mental exhaustion brought upon by work-related stressors. The most prominent reason for occupational burnout in nursing practice is the result of working conditions and is not a lack of compassion or a poor work ethic on the nurse's part. In 2023, it was determined that almost 62% of nurses are currently experiencing or have experienced occupational burnout or "nurse burnout." (ANA, 2023.) Nurses who experience mental, emotional, and physical exhaustion as a result of nurse-burnout are less likely to provide patient-centered care; one of the main components of the health-care delivery system. The focus of this research paper is to pinpoint the key factors related to high job satisfaction and decreased levels of burnout through evidence-based practice.

Carly Drew

Congenital Heart Defects

The most common birth defect in the world is Congenital Heart Defects (CHD). One in 100 babies are born with a CHD, with a CHD baby born every 15 minutes (The Children's Heart Foundation, n.d.). For the longest time, CHD individuals were not likely to live past adulthood. With recent medical and technological advances, now more than 90% are living into their adult years. However, almost 90% face discontinuity in healthcare. This presents significant risks to the holistic well-being of adult CHD survivors, encompassing their social, mental, physical, and emotional dimensions of wellness. Our research focused on understanding the psychosocial challenges of emerging adults with CHD. We pursued three key objectives: (a) exploring the developmental period of emerging adulthood, spanning typically from 18 to 29 years of age. Since emerging adults are no longer adolescents and not adults yet, transition programs should acknowledge and examine the developmental milestones, tasks, strengths and challenges unique to emerging adults; (b) conducting a comprehensive meta-analysis of recent literature on psychosocial variables, spanning the last 3-5 years, pertinent to both pediatric and adult CHD populations. The common variables studied are heart-related quality of life, resilience, and well-being indices (e.g., anxiety and depression); and (c) analyzing and proposing strategies to address challenges specific to the underrepresented or overlooked emerging adult CHD population within the psychosocial literature on CHD. This includes peer coaching interventions and family support, building behavioral and emotional autonomy, consideration of intersecting factors (e.g. socioeconomic status with religious beliefs), and gender differences.

Talia Eckbold

Caring For Newborns Addicted to Opioids

The incidence of opioid abuse and subsequent drug withdrawal is exponentially on the rise in the United States for many populations including newborns who are born to drug-addicted mothers. Heil et al reported that pregnancies are common in women who abuse opioids, with as many as 86% of pregnancies being unintended in that population. With this rise in infants being born addicted to opioids we are seeing an increase in Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome happens when babies are exposed to drugs while in the womb. It is a postnatal withdrawal syndrome that manifests shortly after birth in infants born to women with drug use (Jansson et al, 2019). Infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome often show signs of dysregulation within the body in four main categories, sensory processing, state control and attention, autonomic control, and motor control. These infants often show manifestations such as visual and auditory hypersensitivity, patterns of respiration, hiccups, gagging, hypertonicity, tremors, and seizures. With this problem on the rise, we are seeing new and innovative research being done. Pharmacologic versus nonpharmacologic treatment methods are being explored.

Angelina Fernandes
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Peer Support

Do you know any children going through a hard time and wonder how you can help make a positive impact? This presentation will bring more insight into Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) by defining what they are and who they affect. ACEs are traumatic events that have occurred during childhood. ACEs put tremendous weight and pressure on children, a weight carried into adult years, making it difficult to navigate through worldly obstacles and reach goals of success. However, with the use of peer support, children and adults who have ACEs can learn to manage and remove the weight that's been carried for years, which allows them to have a more successful future than statistics predict. This presentation hopes to deliver an awareness of ACEs and inform how peer support can help success and mental health effects.

Carloline Gerry
"It's OKay" social emotional learning an assessment game

"It's Okay" is a social-emotional learning and assessment game for ages 5-13. The board and feeling cards are based on the zones of regulation curriculum. The Mindfulness cards are based on current research in the field that links using these tools with improvements in self-awareness and emotional regulation through practice. Due to the fight or flight response in our nervous systems, it is hard in the moment when a child is emotionally escalated to access that part of their brain that holds all these tools, but through practice, the use of tools can strengthen the neural pathways to allow access through practice. The game rules are extremely flexible, allowing a practitioner to either teach or assess through play. Teaching involves emotional identification, association with words, classical storytelling through picture and practicing yoga poses (which can resemble flexible thinking as well as body). Players are allowed to substitute similar sitting poses if space is lacking. In assessment a child's mental abilities and development progression can be assessed. Practitioners can Assess which development stage the child currently is in as these don't always match the physical age. Through the use of storytelling, practitioners can also assess a child's ability to think abstractly and their ability to string along events in a cause-and-effect relationship.

Deependra Ghimire
Poverty and mental health issues in Nepal

A complex link between poverty and mental health disorders in Nepal is examined in this abstract to shed light on how people navigate the struggle between financial hardship and psychological well-being. Because of Nepal's wide range of cultural practices and economic inequalities, mental health problems have grown in prominence. These problems are often worsened by poverty, a widespread problem across the country. Mental health services are frequently unavailable or inaccessible, preventing many people from seeking help for mental health difficulties. Mental health treatments must be made more accessible and inexpensive, and knowledge of mental health concerns must be increased in order to minimize stigma. Mental health assistance should also be integrated into current services, such as medical care and social welfare. Finally, local initiatives should be implemented to guarantee access to mental health services in remote regions. This research addresses the significance of mental health assistance and how it might be made more accessible. Mental health care should be available to everyone, regardless of where they are or their financial status.

Allison Gionet
Family Presence During Resuscitation in Healthcare

The purpose of this literature review is to evaluate the benefits versus risks of involving family members when caring for pediatric clients undergoing painful, invasive and/or traumatic procedures. The literature review was conducted in January of 2023 and refreshed in March of 2023 to ensure inclusion of all appropriate articles relevant to the practice problem using databases PubMed, CINAHL, OVID, BioMed Central, JSTOR, MEDLINE Plus, and NCBI for scanning. Search terms included "family presence during procedures", "family presence with children procedures", "invasive procedures in children", "family presence", "children or adolescents or youth or child or teenager", "(family presen* child*)", "pediatric OR child* OR adolescen*", "(family presen* procedure)", "painful OR traumatic OR invasive". The JHNEBP Research Evidence Appraisal Form and subsequent Strength of Evidence and Quality of Research criteria were used to determine best evidence for use of this paper, which was synthesized according to the patient, intervention, comparison, outcomes, time strategy (PICOT). A collection of five articles were ultimately reviewed and included in the work, including hundreds of parents, thousands of children, and over ten thousand nurses and their response to the four qualitative and one quantitative study included, not accounting for the many studies that were reviewed as a portion of their own research processes. Clients and families display a greater decrease in anxiety and increase in effective grieving when present for traumatic procedures and experiences, but further research into the caregiver perspective is crucial for continued improvement of nursing care.

Aleice Harmon, Alisha Ditaranto, Velvelina Monteiro, Dianis Sanchez
What Role Does Religiosity Play in Understanding Civic Engagement and Civic Literacy?

This study examines religion's role in association with civic engagement and civic literacy at a Roman Catholic college based on self-report measures from college students. According to Pew Research Center (2019), those active in religion tend to be more civically engaged than those who are not. The Higher Education Research Institute surveys, conducted over 40 years, have tracked the decline and growth of political and service activities among new students. Recent surveys have concentrated on matters related to spirituality and faith. Recent Presidential elections have shown a renewed energy in politics; however, there is a paucity of research on college students, religiosity, and civic engagement (Andolina et al., 2006). A quasi-experimental, cross-sectional study was conducted at Anna Maria College to understand and explore the relationship between religiosity and the level of engagement and literacy in civics. The survey measured demographic questions, civic engagement, civic literacy (average score was 71 out of 100 grade), and political efficacy. A convenience sampling strategy was used by asking students at Anna Maria College to complete the survey using a QR code. A total of 116 students completed the study, with the majority being 18-24, over 70% women, Caucasian (72%), heterosexual (82%), and 65% identifying as having a religious tradition. By shedding light on these issues, we can better understand the impact of religion on civic engagement and civil literacy of Anna Maria College students. This study is crucial to better understanding religion's role in civic engagement and civil literacy.

Elizabeth Hubbard
Best Evidence-Based Practices to Reduce Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia

Hospital-acquired pneumonia (HAP) occurs in patients 48 hours after admission, it is one of the most common nosocomial infections and accounts for 25% of all health care-associated infections. Hospital-acquired pneumonia is classified as either ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) or non-ventilator-associated pneumonia. Ventilator-associated pneumonia occurs in patients receiving mechanical ventilation for at least 48 hours, this nosocomial infection has the highest morality rate, negative patient outcome, and high costs per case (Rathbun et al., 2022). When patients are intubated, many of their normal defenses for infections are impaired. The endotracheal tube bypasses normal filtration, warming, and humidification processes, as well as disrupts the normal mucus and secretion clearance (Cooper, 2021). Due to these factors, microorganisms have easier access entering the sterile respiratory tract, which leads to infections. This research paper focuses on the best evidence-based practices nurses can apply to reduce the incidence of ventilator-associated pneumonia.

Clare Jankowski
The Best Practices for Self-Administration of Insulin

Diabetes is an endocrine disease which requires the administration of lifelong insulin therapy. Patients need to be able to administer insulin themselves when they are not in a hospital or health care setting. There are guidelines for the best practice when it comes to self-administration of insulin, but many patients are not properly educated in the correct and safe way to administer insulin. The best practices of insulin self-administration require proper and thorough education through a variety of media, means and routine education reminders to promote the overall well-being of diabetic patients.

Colin Johnson, Molly McKee, Michael Roberge, Faith Whitney
The Impact of Social Media Use on Anxiety in Anna Maria College Students

Humans inherently need connection and companionship, and social media is a common and easy way to connect. However, social media usage can positively and negatively affect individuals. Since 2019, approximately 45% of the population has been active social media users, and since the rise of COVID-19, that number has doubled. Social media use is linked with increased anxiety among college students (Savci, 2020). The quasi-experimental study at Anna Maria College utilized a short 20-question, anonymous survey that included demographics, social media use, and anxiety-related questions, such as questions on the amount of time using social media, the number of social media platforms, and the impact social media had on participants mental health. The GAD-7 (anxiety measure) was included in the survey to determine if there was a correlation between social media use and anxiety. A convenience sampling strategy was used by asking students who entered the Anna Maria College dining hall to complete the survey using a QR code. A total of 66 students completed the survey, with the majority being 18-24, women (62%), Caucasian (75%), and heterosexual (72%) individuals. The respondents reported social media had an impact on their mental health, specifically anxiety-related symptoms. A variety of questions were asked within the survey regarding media and anxiety, including time using social media and effects of anxiety, number of social media platforms, and amount of time using social media.

Mylee Juskavitch
End-of-Life Care for Advanced Heart Failure Patients

Heart failure is a complex and progressive disease that affects more than 6 million Americans. According to the American Heart Association, more than 10 percent affected are living with advanced heart failure. Heart failure is projected to impact 8 million people (3% of the population), costing an estimated $69.8 billion in healthcare costs by 2030. As heart failure progresses to stage D (advanced or end-stages), hospitalization in the intensive care unit (ICU) also increases, consequently, increasing the chances of mortality. When the incidence and progression of heart failure increases, it is imperative the registered nurse and multidisciplinary team implement evidence-based best practices to ensure optimal care for patients within all clinical and home settings. Continuity

of care, patient, caregiver and family education, and palliative care are essential components to managing advanced heart failure to achieve a better quality of life during the patient's end-of-life care. The focus of this project is to explain why it is important for the registered nurse and the multidisciplinary teams to implement end-of-life-care evidence-based best practices to provide the best possible outcome for advanced heart failure patients.

Soultana Kalampouka
Career Development of Anna Maria College Students

College is a critical period for individuals to explore their interests and develop the necessary skills for professional success. Through regular career counseling and engagement in various opportunities (e.g., networking, internships), students can navigate the complexities of career decision-making. By investigating students' experiences and initiatives longitudinally, our research in collaboration with Career Services Center at AMC aims to understand student initiatives and experiences around career confidence, concerns, and readiness for the workforce. At two key points in the academic year—during career workshops and fairs in Fall 2023 (N=36; Time 1; late October) and three months after the career services center-sponsored programming (N=18; last week of January to mid-February)—we presented a survey asking undergraduate students across the college years to discuss their perspectives on career confidence, concerns, skills and readiness for their future career. Results suggest that at Time 1, career confidence (M = 34.68, SD = 5.80), career readiness (M = 2.98, SD = 1.03), and skill awareness (M = 22.63, SD = 4.20) were comparable to that of career confidence (M = 34.56, SD = 4.34), career readiness (M = 2.67, SD = 1.24), and skill awareness (M = 23.11, SD = 3.43) at Time 2. That is, Anna Maria students were above average on their level of confidence, readiness, and awareness of their skills. Further analyses will be conducted to understand the similarities and differences between students who participate in career services programming and those who do not across Time 1 and Time 2.

Nicole LaCoste
Eat Your Treatment

As the discussion of mental health is becoming less stigmatized, there has been an increase in research on the best treatment methods to assist individuals suffering with mental health conditions. The expansion of treatment options that are available for all varieties of mental illness has served to increase the numbers of people who are seeking and utilizing these methods. My research is on the effect of proper diet, including diverse micronutrients, on the impact that mental health treatments have on patients. This research includes the effectiveness of eating a healthy diet alone on an individual's mental health as well as the effects that a proper diet has when combined with other mental health treatment options.

Nathaniel MacIntosh
Improving patient outcomes in times of disaster

Disasters in medicine have become more and more frequent in recent years. Most notably, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed how hospitals will deal with future mass outbreaks of disease. Healthcare workers that have lived through the pandemic for three years are uniquely suited to bring about change in hospitals around the world. Improving patient outcomes in times of disaster is the most important duty of all members of the healthcare team. Multiple studies that will be discussed further below have found that the most important aspect of readiness to perform during a disaster is training. Training must be executed within the hospital and outpatient clinics in order to prepare healthcare workers for scenarios where the facility encounters a high volume of patients in a short amount of time. Healthcare workers that receive training report feeling more prepared for a disaster scenario and can then help workers that may not have as much training. Ensuring that workers are prepared for a disaster is relevant more now than ever and needs to progress. Keywords: Survival, disaster, preparedness, evidence-based practice, nursing, hospital, community health.

Ayden Mapplebeck
Capillary Glucose Monitoring

Capillary glucose monitoring is taught to those who are diagnosed with diabetes. This process involves obtaining the level of circulating glucose within the blood measured by glucometer analysis of a fingerstick sample, requiring a specific meter, and lancets. Proper patient education on how to obtain a capillary blood glucose test is important in order to obtain accurate data, as well as achieving levels of diabetes control. Also, looking at different strategies to enhance patient adherence on how to properly and consistently check their blood glucose levels is important in order to collect enough data to improve and start those lifestyle changes. Those who are uneducated or do not commit to glucose monitoring adherence, are unable to exhibit healthy lifestyle changes, and therefore suffer from an increase in diabetes related complications. Continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) is used to reduce the number of fingersticks that are required, as well as providing important data and trends related to a person's blood glucose levels. This led to a significant rise in the adherence percentage for glucose monitoring, as well as reducing the rate of diabetic related diseases.

Kwabena Amofah, Kiera Edmonds, Naomi Moura, Betty Santos, Alejandra Torres, Brian Trefry

A Study of Taphonomic Changes Associated with Variation in the Freeze/Thaw Cycle

Although taphonomic changes caused by freezing temperature have been examined in a forensic context, the effects of cold temperatures are not yet well understood. Most research has been conducted in outdoor contexts, in which variables beyond the researchers' control, such as scavenger activity, often impact the results. While some studies have taken place in controlled,

laboratory settings, these have focused primarily on uniform research conditions such as temperature, thaw time, and freezing time, and have allowed specimens to thaw fully at room temperature between freeze events, which does not adequately represent observed weather conditions. This project employs a controlled lab environment but introduces variability in temperature during thawing, length of thaw cycle, and moisture, to determine how different

conditions might impact postmortem changes to fleshed and skeletonized remains.

Kelly Masembe

Identification and Intervention of Elder Abuse

Elder abuse has been an under-identified and under-reported, yet complex issue in such a big and rapidly growing population in the United States for a long time. With the proper awareness education and better screening tools, nurses have the capability to identify and intervene when maltreatment is suspected in a way that ensures the safety of the patient during their hospital stay and after they've been discharged. Nurses play an important role in the detection of maltreatment as they are to do a physical assessment, screen every patient that comes in, and overall, be aware of possibly harmful dynamics with family, other healthcare workers, etc. Research has shown that elderly patients disadvantaged with mental disabilities and physical disabilities are at the most risk for abuse. This includes but is not limited to physical, psychological, and sexual abuse, as well as neglect. This research review summarizes a collection of scholarly research articles and findings that contribute towards the future of efficient nursing practice with elderly abuse identification and intervention. Keywords: Elder abuse, elderly maltreatment, neglect, dementia, screening, intervention

Rose Melendez

Supporting our Working Students

As a student, have you ever questioned if you were suffering from burnout? Or, are your community and surroundings doing enough to check in on you? People may become distracted with their own goals and may forget that sometimes they just have to breathe, step back, and take it all in for a moment. Becoming so focused on work and studies to forget that it's okay to reach out for help whenever it's needed and to focus on making sure that self-care is being incorporated. This research will primarily focus on students who are employed and the mental strain this sometimes causes, but looking at this topic from a broad lens, anyone can benefit from self-care and making sure their hard work and mental health are being acknowledged.

Ahna Mento

Effects of Poverty on Childhood Development

Poverty in America has always been a prevalent thing but within the last few years we have seen how it has increased as more and more families fall below the poverty threshold. Poverty brings a ton of concerns as it can affect one's mental and physical health. But how is it affecting kids? This poster presentation will display information on how being exposed to poverty is affecting children's development. People develop a lot of key functions such as emotions, cognitive skills, and social skills during our childhood years. Children who are being raised in poverty are experiencing delays in development. Compared to kids who don't have to endure the hardships associated with poverty.

Kiyiana Minton

Surgical Site Infection Prevention

Surgical site infections (SSI) are one of the healthcare settings' biggest complications after clients have surgery. A surgical site infection is any infection that develops where a surgical incision has been created. This infection occurs anywhere from twenty-four hours up to thirty days after surgery. SSIs are common in hospital settings, according to WHO (World Health Organization), one in every ten patients who have a procedure develops a surgical site infection (WHO, 2018). The CDC has implemented guidelines for health care professionals to follow before surgery, during, and after. These guidelines are sought out from evidence-based practice ensuring proper care for clients at the bedside to prevent an infection from occurring. Preventing surgical site infections should be the health care provider's main goal after a client has undergone an invasive procedure. With inclining rates yearly at hospital facilities nurses and all medical staff should be incorporated into educational training to teach infection control and hygiene processes that way at all stages the client has the least possible risk to develop a surgical site infection (CDC, 2017) Keywords: Surgical site infections, SSI, surgical incision, infection, hospital, WHO, CDC, evidence-based practice, prevention, nurse, medical staff, infection control, hygiene.

Eliany Monteiro, Kenya Mosquea, Carissa G Pierre, Ernina Pierre-Louis
Exploring Phobias: Unveiling the Senses

This presentation delves into the interesting world of phobias, focusing their impact on our five senses: sight, smell, touch, sound, and taste. By choosing these 5 distinct phobias (Achluophobia, Phonophobia, Food neophobia, Haphephobia, Bromidrophobia), this project hopes to provide an overview of their manifestations (physical and mental), while shedding light on various therapeutic and coping strategies.

NJogu Mungai
Effective Interdisciplinary Practice for Global Health Issues

This paper discusses the global coronavirus pandemic and the different interdisciplinary health practices set in place to combat it. Looking at Taiwan for example, various measures were put in place that included hospital screenings and triage, prevention policies and strategies, inpatient management strategies, worker management strategies, protection of policies for nursing personnel, environmental disinfection and waste management, psychological empowerment, and education just to name a few (Liu et al., 2020). In addition, the paper considers how the COVID-19 pandemic's consequences have rekindled public discourse on mental health and attracted scrutiny from a variety of angles onto the state of mental health services. Research by Cambridge discovered alarmingly high levels of stress and anxiety as well as poor health, which outlined the extreme strains endured by front-line responders during the pandemic. There was a dire need for a solution to help maintain the mental health of the youth and the frontline workers. Moreover, the stigma and terror around the immense loss of life and the high rate at which the virus spread, made critical care administration extremely difficult. The research also sought to examine how the multidisciplinary cancer care team can use telemedicine. Telehealth was much needed in response to the limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic on the delivery of interdisciplinary cancer services. Telehealth offered a solution that enabled the patients to receive care promptly without having to leave the convenience of their homes for appointments and consultations. (Patterson et al., 2020).

John Nadeau
The Impact of Nomophobia

In recent years, people are becoming more and more attached to their phones. It is becoming a fear if people do not have or cannot use their phones, which is Nomophobia. In society, this issue is becoming more relevant than ever as young children are starting to receive smart phones and tablets, which they are getting to attached too, and parents are not targeting the issue. It is dragging into the education system, and they do not have good control over the issue either. This research poster reviews the psychological and societal impacts that Nomophobia can behold and ways to help relieve the factors that come with it, and different ways to help treat it.

Nora Nolan
Child Abuse

Child abuse is any recent behavior by a parent or caretaker, whether intentional or unintentional, that results in a child's death, significant physical or emotional suffering, sexual abuse, or exploitation. According to estimates, 1 in 4 American children will endure abuse at some point in their lives. More than 6.6 million children and their families have been turned over to Child Protective Services in 2014 for suspected child abuse. Child protection organizations examined about 3.2 million of them, and 702,000 of the children were discovered to be victims of child abuse. When compared to the overall child population, abused children that encounter both physical and mental health have worse outcomes. The effects of enduring child abuse can last a lifetime and can affect adulthood. There are various laws and structures enacted to promote reporting of child abuse. Of those various laws and structures there is a mandatory reporting legislation across the United States. This requires professionals who work with children to report any suspicions of child abuse. This includes law enforcement, teachers, childcare providers, mental health clinicians, and health care providers. More than three fifths of all child abuse reports in the United States were made by these professionals in 2014. Compared to a non-professional working with children, professionals are more likely to find proven cases of child abuse. Mandatory reporting legislation has proven that the amount of child deaths has lowered greatly as well as the number of confirmed cases of child abuse increasing (Ho et al., 2017).

Catherine Ojatabu
Best Practices for Women with Diabetes Who are Pregnant

This clinical evidence-based practice problem examines best practices, care and treatment for women with gestational diabetes. Gestational diabetes makes the mother open to developing long term complications, which includes developing type 2 diabetes mellitus in the future. A multidisciplinary process is needed to care for the mother and infant through every stage of the pregnancy inclusive of post birth. To attain this, five evidence-based literature articles published within the past five years were analyzed to outline the best practices for the clinical problem. The articles give an insight on the different diagnostic measures and screening used. It shows that there is need for continuous education about how best to manage gestational diabetes mellitus. The teachings are done by healthcare professionals. The findings of the research show that it is important for the women involved to be part of their own plan of care, that their views and how they feel should be taken into considerations, and that the care provided be tailored to each individual and is patient centered. It also shows that exercises and lifestyle changes play a huge role in the management of the disease. Furthermore, it is recommended that the education plan should include families. Including them in the plan of care has been shown to help clients and patients in becoming more successful in achieving their intended goals. Overall, the purpose of this research is to help nurses and other healthcare professionals provide quality care for pregnant women who have gestational diabetes mellitus.

Elizabeth Putnam
Best Practices in the Treatment of Opioid Use During Pregnancy

There have been different approaches towards treatments for pregnant women who use opioids. Nurses need to assess treatment of opioid use during pregnancy reduces the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome. The use of harm reduction policies and how effective these policies can be. There are two main therapies that are used during pregnancy: maintenance therapy on either buprenorphine or methadone, and medication-assisted withdrawal. Nurses should assess for the barriers that may prevent pregnant women from seeking treatment. Lastly, nurses should always be monitoring the different medications during pregnancy.

Alicia Ross
Medication Errors

A medication error is a healthcare worker's worst nightmare. A medication error is defined as a preventable mistake that may be harmful to a patient. When a patient is admitted to the hospital, it's the nurses job to provide them with the correct medications while they are admitted. During a nurse's shift, things can change in the blink of an eye. External factors including codes, interruptions, miscommunication all play a role in why such a thing could occur. During the medication administration process, a mistake can be made at any given moment. A famous story involving Dennis Quad will be introduced to shed light on how one mistake can be so impactful in the nursing community. Due to this increasing problem across the U.S, numerous interventions like the five rights to medication administration and bar-code medication administration (BCMA) systems have been put into place in hopes to reduce those numbers and ensure patient safety.

Betty Santos
Empowering Journeys: Supporting Children with Autism

The poster will represent the experience of working with kids who have been diagnosed with Autism and how it is enriching, and this means has been able to strengthen the role and objectives and understanding of the field more. The main aim is to be a part of a support system and offer an environment and a personality tailored to each kid's needs and behavior plans. The program's involvement teaches communication skills, social skills, an understanding of behaviors, and how to manage them effectively. By displaying learning outcomes of specific trends and skill sets, the learning of the importance of support and growth to help the development of those with Autism has helped many. This experience has highlighted a growing knowledge of patience, understanding, and learning new ways of structured interventions that will allow each kid to have the privilege to work with others to reach their full potential, along with individuals whom the center constantly supports.

Elizabeth Tokarowski
Exploration into the Benefits of Skin-to-Skin Contact in Full Term Infants

In current practice, it is up to the mother and sometimes the nurse's discretion if skin-to-skin contact will be initiated after birth. Sometimes infants come into the world and get pulled away from their mother for vital signs, bathing, and testing. The mother gets to see the infant for only a few minutes directly after birth, if skin-to-skin contact is not prioritized (Francis, K., & Pugsley, L., 2018). Skin-to-skin contact has numerous benefits both physically and emotionally for both the mother and infant (CDC, 2019). Many mothers have a hard time voicing their needs and wants during birth, as it is a very vulnerable time, and skin-to-skin contact may be pushed away. Research has recently shown that skin-to-skin contact is beneficial for both mother or father and the infant. Skin to Skin allows the mother and infant to both: become more relaxed; stabilizes the infant's vital signs: and allows for the infant to adjust to being outside of the womb. By allowing the infant to be on their mother's chest, they recognize their mother's familiar voice and the infant calms down. This research includes the benefits of skin-to-skin bonding, for both the mother and infant.

Hannah Tomaino
Expressive Art therapy In Pediatric Oncology Patients

Throughout history, artistic expression has been used as a tool when it comes to expression for people suffering from both physical and mental illness. The term Medical Art Therapy, however, was not coined until the 1900s. When it comes to children, they have less vocabulary to express the same emotions that adults do. Art can bridge the gap in the communication barrier. It is shown in many studies that the children who are given the chance to express themselves will show themselves in ways that fight off their own pain: depicting themselves as superheroes or in a much simpler way with a glass of ginger ale to fight off their upset stomach. They also often depicted their family and how they saw their families, sometimes not in such a positive way. Even though art therapy is a new form of therapy, it is still important to the growth of the field and should not be invalidated, but nor should other forms be thrown out. All forms of therapy are vital in healing and creating a healthier life for everyone, and all techniques will be used for years to come. This project looks at evidence-based research articles showing how art can be used to bridge the gap in communication with children with oncological pain.

Brianna Tooley
Kangaroo Care

Kangaroo care, skin to skin contact, is a beneficial intervention that can be conducted for preterm infants in the neonatal intensive care unit. Kangaroo care is able to provide an essential bond between infant and parent that may not be experienced. Preterm infants in the neonatal intensive care unit are under physiological stress that can be improved by this intervention. While there are barriers to this, there are many benefits that not only help the preterm infant improve but it has also been shown to help the parent with their physiological stressors as well. Kangaroo care is easy to implement as well as easy to educate about. The outcomes of preterm infants in the neonatal intensive care unit are improved unless there are other medical things happening to the infant that led to their demise. In these cases, the parents are grateful for kangaroo care for the time they had due to the building of a bond with their infant.

Litzy Torrez
Pressure Injury Prevention

Even though pressure injuries are preventable, they are still prevalent in the healthcare system. There are extensive measures that nurses and health care providers can take to prevent pressure ulcers from forming. Unfortunately, the incidence of pressure ulcers increases as compliance to prevent them decreases. Barriers can be taken care identifying those at high risk using an assessment tool, the Braden Scale, that includes an assessment of sensory perception, moisture, activity, mobility, nutrition, and friction/shear. For those who are identified as high-risk, implementation strategies such as repositioning, support surface use, moisture management, minimizing linen layers, and providing adequate nutrition can all help prevent pressure injuries from forming and ultimately reduce the risk of secondary infections from developing, lengthy hospital stays that results in an increased cost not only for the patient but for hospitals.

Kaissa Wagnac
How unresolved childhood trauma affects adulthood

Is it hard for you to trust others but don't know why? Do you avoid things just to avoid the feeling? You may be self-sabotaging yourself. Positive lifestyle ideologies may be unfamiliar because you never were exposed in childhood. No fault of your own, however certain actions/reactions to certain situations are a direct reflection of how your're taught to react. My project focuses on how certain actions like neglect, physical/mental abuse, and trauma negatively impact one's behavior. Some children are forced into operating in survival, when does just surviving end? Ex: attachment styles (anxious/avoiding etc)

Devon Weidman
Leadership in Nursing

Healthcare is an ever-advancing field of practice that continues to grow in its relentless pursuit of providing the best care possible to those in need. In today's hospitals and healthcare facilities, several teams are often working together with one unifying goal: providing patient centered care. With the strategy of interdisciplinary teams working together to provide care, collaboration becomes necessary to provide effective and efficient care. The pinnacle of great collaboration is great leadership to help guide the teams in meeting their designated goals. Nurses stand on the forefront of this new model of healthcare as they are at the bedside of the patients that these facilities seek to provide quality care. Nurses hold a unique position unlike that of other healthcare professionals due to the proximity in which they work with their patients. This gives them a better opportunity to advocate for their patients' healthcare, making them the tip of the spear of patient centered care. Providing high quality care at the bedside requires strong leadership in order to facilitate effective and efficient care. Studies show that promoting effective leadership in nursing has positive impacts on patient outcomes (breed., et al 2020). keywords: leadership, nurse leadership, patient centered care, patient outcomes, interdisciplinary teams, promoting effective leadership, WHO

Jillian Zeena
Instagram and the Mental Health of Young Adults

Over the last few years, social media has quickly become one of the most popular ways people interact online. Social media has attracted the attention of millions of users across the globe and it offers fast communication, access to a vast amount of information, and its widespread dissemination. Some of the most popular social media platforms people use include Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, WhatsApp, and more. While there are some benefits, increased use of social media can lead to problems due to their attractions. Such problems can be depression, anxiety, lower well-being, lower self-esteem, and cyberbullying. Specifically, Instagram has certain features that hook young users and harm their mental health. This led to lawsuits all across the United States. These features are the harmful recommendation algorithms, likes, notifications, photo filters, and Instagram stories. This project will focus on how Instagram in particular can impact the mental health of young adults.