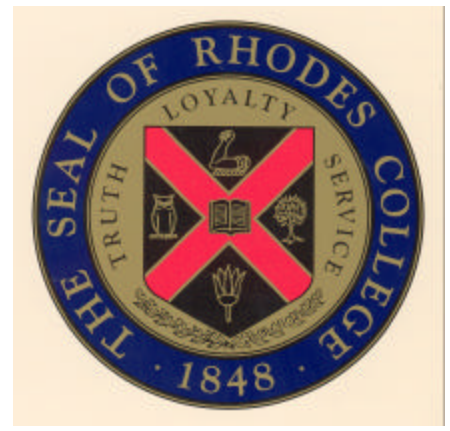


**Undergraduate**



**Research**

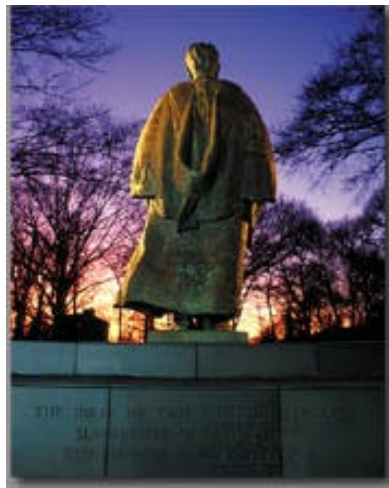
**&**

**Creative Activity  
Symposium**

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**Rhodes College**

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April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2003 – Memphis, Tennessee

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### **Symposium Planning Committee 2003**

Eric Gottlieb (Natural Sciences)

Eric Henager (Humanities)

David Jilg (Fine Arts)

Thomas McGowan (Social Sciences)

Richard Redfearn (Natural Sciences)

Jack Stewart (Student Representative)

Alison Stohr (Student Representative)

## **Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Symposium 2003**

### **Abbreviated Schedule:**

#### **Plenary Lecture:**

**Dr. Michael Long, B.S. Biology, B.A. Psychology, Rhodes College, 1997;  
Ph.D., Brown University, 2003**

***10:30-11:30 am, Frazier Jelke Lecture Hall B***

**“Six years after Rhodes: My life in science so far”**

This presentation will give an overview of Michael's journey through science beginning at Rhodes College, continuing through a brief stint as a technician, and ultimately arriving at the completion of his graduate work in Neuroscience at Brown University. He will introduce a number of the techniques used in the laboratory and discuss some of the results from his thesis work.

#### **The Student Presentation Sessions:**

***1:00-4:00 pm, various locations on the Rhodes campus***

#### **Closing Reception and Announcement of Outstanding Presentation Awards:**

***4:30-5:30 pm, Frazier Jelke Amphitheatre  
(Rain location: Hardie Auditorium, Palmer Hall)***

## **Fine Arts Oral Presentations – Session 1**

***112 Hassell, beginning at 1:00 pm until 1:40 pm***

**1:00-1:20 *Gianni Schicchi: The Development of Art Historical Research into Theatrical Space***

Jenna Sadar

Faculty Mentor: David Jilg

Departments of Art and Theatre

The set design for Puccini's one act comedic opera, *Gianni Schicchi* was conceived as the culminating project for an interdisciplinary major combining art history and theatre. Art historical research was conducted on the domestic architecture and furnishings of the Italian Renaissance and was then transformed into the design of a theatrical space. That space was then constructed for the McCoy Theatre's 2002 production of *Gianni Schicchi*.

**1:20-1:40 *Norman Rockwell: The Problem We All Live With (1964)***

Benjamin Groover

Faculty Mentor: David McCarthy

Department of Art

Norman Rockwell is known for his non-controversial images; for decades, that was all he produced. However, Rockwell's famous knack for capturing the daily life of middle class America served him equally well when he began to express his political views. In 1964, *The Problem We All Live With*, a Rockwell illustration depicting racial strife in the United States, was published for the first time, and it presented the problem in a non-threatening way that forced his audience to pay attention.

## **Fine Arts Oral Presentations – Session 2**

***Payne Recital Hall, beginning at 2:30 pm until 3:30 pm***

**2:30-2:50 *Die Schöne Müllerin, by Franz Schubert***

Adrian Killebrew

Faculty Mentor: Diane M. Clark

Department of Music

A song cycle is a group of songs related through textual ideas or musical elements that are designed to form a musical entity. *Die Schöne Müllerin (The Beautiful Miller Maid)* is a song cycle of poems by Wilhelm Müller set to music by the early Romantic composer Franz Schubert, and tells the tale of a young man who experiences and deals with unrequited love. Schubert uses many musical elements in the cycle which help to portray the different emotions of the young man; a brook is introduced in the opening song and plays its important role throughout the cycle.

**2:50-3:30 *An Evening's Affair, a new musical***

Erin Gabbert

Adrian Killebrew

Jeff McCrary

Nicole Vazquez

Travis Williams

Faculty Mentor: Anthony C. Horne

Department of Theatre

A collaborative effort that has taken the span of a semester to create, this original one-act musical tells the tale of five friends who have come together over dinner and are finding out things about each other that they never would have imagined.

## **Humanities Juried Oral Presentations**

***108 Buckman, beginning at 1:00 pm until 3:40 pm***

**1:00-1:20 Justice Through the Ballot Box: The Civil Rights Movement in Fayette County, Tennessee, 1959-1964**

Grace Williams

Faculty Mentor: Russell Wigginton

Department of History

In 1959, an African-American man named Burton Dodson was tried for murder in Fayette County, Tennessee. It was clear to all blacks in Fayette County that neither this man, nor any other African American could ever receive a fair trial in a place where no one of his race was eligible to serve on a jury. The jury selection for Burton Dodson's trial reinforced to other African Americans in Fayette County that they would have to fight for equal representation on juries and in political offices. As a result, blacks in Fayette County, realizing that the right to vote was central to their social, political, and economic status, organized a movement with the primary goal of obtaining the right to vote. Fayette County African Americans were able to sustain their movement through harsh resistance from local whites and without the presence of national civil rights organizations. This study examines ways in which the struggles, and the successes, of their movement to gain the right to vote compared with other places during the Civil Rights Movement.

**1:20-1:40 Don't Know Thyself: The Comedy of Self-Ignorance**

Benjamin Groover

Faculty Mentor: David H. Sick

Department of Greek and Roman Studies

Many studies exist on the subject of tragedy and the tragic hero; few define the comic hero, however. Starting from Plato's claim that comedy results from self-ignorance, this paper examines self-ignorant characters from several major works, starting from the classical period. Characters from prominent Greek, Roman, and English playwrights, such as Plautus and Shakespeare, reflect self-ignorance on biological, psychological, and sociological levels. The culmination of the study is an original dramatic scene incorporating the theories discussed.

**1:40-2:00 Of Reverence and Rivalry: An Analysis of Reputation in Dryden's Aureng-Zebe**

Ann Young

Faculty Mentor: Jennifer Brady

Department of English

In the prologue of his final rhymed play *Aureng-Zebe*, John Dryden declares he is "betwixt two ages cast," revealing a disturbing sense of displacement that is echoed throughout the accompanying text and transmitted into the play proper (14: 21). Indications within this work and its accompanying texts suggest that Dryden is undergoing an acute sense of alienation from his literary precursors and successors, which was particularly troubling for Dryden, who felt an intense filial attachment to his Renaissance fathers Shakespeare, Jonson, and Fletcher. His sense of estrangement resulted in a directional crisis that coincides with the point of departure for a dramatic stylistic shift, away from heroic rhymed verse, as found in *Aureng-Zebe*, to blank verse, the style of his predecessors. Previously, Dryden had suggested rhymed verse was a genre that would allow him to establish a distinct yet equal reputation among his Renaissance predecessors. His announced intention within the accompanying text of *Aureng-Zebe* to abandon rhymed verse brings Dryden out of the realm of unchallenged reverence for his Renaissance precursors, and into the uneasy position of revering rival. In the accompanying text of *Aureng-Zebe*, Dryden's intense thematic focus on longing for a legitimate position within the continuum of literary tradition is infused with repeated declarations of self-doubt and despair. This shift matches Sigmund Freud's characterization of melancholia, and the resulting

crisis reverberates throughout the dedication, prologue, and epilogue in numerous references and examples. Both Dryden's melancholia and unease towards his perceived position between two strong generations are transmitted into the play proper.

2:00-2:20 **Irony in American Culture**

Erin Kitchell

Faculty Mentor: Joseph A. Favazza

Department of Religious Studies

Jebediah Purdy's *For Common Things* is an examination of the American culture's stance on civic duty. Turning our backs on a world that fails to meet the expectations society teaches us to build is a growing trend. Our generation is immersed in a culture that believes value comes from outside of ourselves, viewing it as a material thing that should rightfully fall into our lap. We increasingly neglect our own responsibility to shape the world as we wish it to be. Instead, we expect it to automatically conform to our expectations, withdrawing from it when it fails to do so. Irony, in Purdy's sense of the word, can be held accountable for most if not all of the civic disengagement typical of Americans. It takes its place at the center of our current, and largely unacknowledged, cultural crisis. Purdy's book offers an explicit challenge to this way of life. His words illuminate the burden of our culture and call for a rededication to the values central to our self-image. Purdy simultaneously traces the roots of our disillusionment and passionately exhorts a return to civic engagement that is particularly pertinent in light of contemporary American politics.

2:20-2:40 **Ground of Christian Belief**

Carson Weitnauer

Faculty Mentor: Pat Shade

Department of Philosophy

My paper is a philosophical consideration of proper ways to ground faith in the Christian God. After analyzing the failure of the evidentialist debate to prove the existence of God (due to incorrect epistemological assumptions), I present Alvin Plantinga's epistemology to show how we can have faith in the Christian God. If Christianity is true, then a cognitive faculty known as the "sense of divinity" is designed to produce in us properly basic, warranted true beliefs about God. I conclude that we are justified and internally rational to believe that with the Holy Spirit's aid our sense of divinity is restored to proper function and leads us to accept Christian belief as properly basic. With renewed cognitive faculties we may also understand that sound arguments provide non-basic grounding belief. As for our hearts, I argue that we enter into a love for God through proper affective function.

2:40-3:00 **The Wicked, Aborted Narratives of Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart**

Mia Hood

Faculty Mentor: Brian Shaffer

Department of English

My talk will focus on the various narratives Achebe employs throughout *Things Fall Apart* and how they work as arbiters of power within Ibo culture. Specifically, the essential difference between masculine and feminine narratives lends to the former's supplanting of the latter. By extension, the feminized Ibo narrative—that is, its many sub-narratives, its culture and practices—comes to be dominated by the western, Christian narrative by the end of the novel.

Most telling of these narratives are those that revolve around Ezinma, the precocious young girl whose character is abruptly dropped from the novel half-way through, and whose disappearance signals a premature abortion of the feminine narrative. Her disappearance relates to the subordination of the feminine more generally.

Okonkwo's constant efforts to build his identity as masculine are dependent upon his power of narrative. This consumption with story-telling eventually leads to his culminating but futile act of literally and figuratively killing the messenger, again reaffirming this insistent idea that narrative is the currency by which power is negotiated.

3:20-3:40 **‘Wretched Women’ and ‘Docile Bodies’: Female Deviancy and Social Discourse in Memphis, Tennessee, 1850-1870**

Elizabeth P. Smith

Faculty Mentor: Gail Murray

Department of History

This study focuses on black and white women who transgressed the social norms of nineteenth-century Memphis society. Presenting deviance as a cultural construction, I adapt the ideas of Michel Foucault to this historical analysis of deviance as a conflict within the networks of social power. In particular, I argue that the actions of these deviant women can be classified into three categories: ideological, legal, and physical deviance. Although these classifications can overlap in certain instances, such distinctions prove useful in understanding the variety of behaviors labeled “deviant” by mainstream white society.

Furthermore, I also argue that this mainstream social discourse often encoded women’s deviance according to racialized terms and assumptions. Chief among these racialized constructions of gender stood the perception that white women’s deviance was somehow unnatural and therefore reformable while the transgressions of women of color were inherent to their racial character. As a result, social discourse treated black women’s deviance as unreformable—a perception that upheld the racist attitudes of white society. To support these arguments, I have analyzed various documents preserving the local social discourse of the day, particularly the *Commercial Appeal* and Freedmen’s Bureau records.

**Humanities Nonjuried Oral Presentations**

***110 Buckman, beginning at 1:00 pm until 3:40 pm***

1:00-1:20 **The Long Road to Athens: Theseus Transformed and Reformed**

Caroline Bishop

Faculty Mentor: Susanne Hofstra

Department of Greek and Roman Studies

Most prominent figures of Hellenic myth developed before the concept of writing had traveled to Greece. The character of Theseus, however, has a myth cycle that developed relatively late. Theseus was adopted as Athens’ patron hero, and made a transition from a backwater woman-stealing tyrant to a benevolent (sometimes democratic) king. In my paper, I examine the reasons, both political and cultural, for Theseus’ transformation. I trace the development of Theseus’ myth cycle through the period of the Pisistratids in the mid sixth century through Cleisthenic Athens, using both Henry Walker and W.R. Connor’s hypotheses on the ascendancy of the myth. I also outline Theseus’ importance in the Persian invasions, and the more radical democracy of the fifth century. My final section looks at the character of Theseus in several Attic tragedies, in which his final culmination as the stereotypical Attic hero is complete.

1:20-1:40 **Cancer in Ancient Greece and Rome**

Veena Rajanna

Faculty Mentor: Kenneth Scott Morrell

Department of Greek and Roman Studies

As the culmination of my four years at Rhodes, I thought it would be interesting to intertwine my two majors, Greek and Roman Studies and Biology. Thus, for my senior project in Greek and Roman Studies, I have researched the disease, cancer, in ancient Greece and Rome. Both archaeological and literary evidence have revealed that cancer did exist during ancient times. However, in comparing the prevalence of cancer between ancient times and the present, it is seen that cancer was not as widespread then as it is today, due to differences in such factors as average life expectancy and diet. Yet, several ancient medical authors, including Hippocrates, Celsus, Pliny, Galen, and Aetius of

Amida, have still provided a variety of descriptions and coined terms to describe cancer and other “cancer-like” symptoms. In addition, these authors have also given detailed accounts for treatments of cancer, the most common of which was surgery. Nevertheless, the Greeks’ and Romans’ incomplete knowledge of cancer is demonstrated in their depictions of cancer in both sculpture and literature. Through a historical analysis of the disease, possible explanations for the increased frequency of cancer today could be elucidated.

1:40-2:00 **Hope of the Kingdom at Hand: The Eschatological Vision of the Azusa Street Mission**

Bob Davis

Faculty Mentor: Tom Bremer

Department of Religious Studies

The worldwide Pentecostal movement was born in an old stable on Azusa Street, Los Angeles in 1906, to a religious community that was marginalized by class, race, ethnicity, and gender. The rapid spread of the movement may be attributed to its eschatological vision of an imminent, premillennial return of Christ to earth. This eschatological vision helped form a countercultural spirituality and ethic in the earliest Pentecostals that was at once continuous and distinct from its Wesleyan Holiness roots. The eschatological fervor of the Azusa street revival inspired radical personal and ecclesial transformation, the dissolution of social and cultural barriers, and empowerment of society’s most marginalized to take part in realizing their ultimate hope and joy—the Kingdom of God. Its vision of the Kingdom is far from irrelevant to contemporary theological reflection on Christian eschatology, and may be able to promote a more complete and useful understanding of the role of apocalyptic hope in the life of Christian faith.

2:00-2:20 **Calderón y su Gran teatro del mundo**

Allison Prickett

Faculty Mentor: P. Eric Henager

Department of Modern Languages

Durante el Siglo de Oro, Pedro Calderón de la Barca escribió *El gran teatro del mundo*, un auto sacramental que señala una manera de vivir moralmente. Como escribe Robert L. Fiore, “*El gran teatro del mundo*, through the allegory of life as a drama, emphasizes moral rather than theological problems in an effort to explain man’s anguish as he is confronted with his involuntary presence in the world” (40). En el presente estudio, examino estos aspectos morales y su incorporación tanto en la obra de Calderón como en ciertas otras obras en las que la figura de Dios y la del autor se aproximan. Estas obras ponen en escena una conversación literal entre Dios y creación (autor y personaje) como estrategia para representar ciertos dilemas filosóficos. Dios, como autor, se representa como el que da todo lo que el ser humano tiene y, por eso, el que puede quitarlo si el ser humano no hace bien su papel.

2:20-2:40 **Los de abajo: La representación de la mujer**

Cynthia Hallums

Faculty Mentor: P. Eric Henager

Department of Modern Languages

La Revolución Mexicana fue una lucha para los que no tenían una voz política durante la presidencia de Porfirio Díaz. Después de la Revolución, las vidas de todos los grupos que antes luchaban cambian, pero la vida que cambia más es la de la mujer. *Los de abajo* (1915) de Mariano Azuela cuenta una historia de la Revolución y el papel que las mujeres desempeñaron en la lucha. En *Los de abajo* Azuela usa a Camila y a La Pintada como una representación de la mujer en la Revolución. Camila representa la conciencia revolucionaria al mismo tiempo que representa la víctima, mientras que La Pintada representa el papel del hombre tradicional y la asesina de la conciencia revolucionaria. En *Los de abajo* La Pintada y Camila existen en contraste y representan aspectos diferentes de la cultura mexicana. En la sociedad tradicional de México, Camila representa la mujer

ideal y obediente, mientras que La Pintada representa la contradicción de este ideal y tiene ciertas acciones machistas. Las mujeres en *Los de abajo* existen en yuxtaposición y representan imágenes contrastivas de la mujer en la Revolución Mexicana.

2:40-3:00 **La religión en Latinoamérica: El sincretismo en La aurora en Copacabana por Pedro Calderón de la Barca y So Far From God por Ana Castillo**

Tamara L. Martin

Faculty Mentor: P. Eric Henager

Department of Modern Languages

Aunque Latinoamérica es muy heterogénea y abarca muchos climas y tierras, desde la época colonial, la religión católica ha sido un constante en la región. A pesar de su constancia ha sufrido continuas alteraciones. En el catolicismo moderno se percibe todavía un sincretismo entre varios conceptos prehispánicos y la religión que los conquistadores llevaron a las Américas hace cuatro siglos. La palabra “sincretismo” significa la unión entre varias corrientes ideológicas a pesar de la aparente dominación de una sobre las otras. El presente estudio es una comparación entre la representación del sincretismo religioso en *La aurora en Copacabana* (1672) por Pedro Calderón de la Barca y *So far from God* (1993) por Ana Castillo.

3:00-3:20 **The Family: A Concept in Transition in La casa de Bernarda Alba and So Far From God**

Kimberly Kirkpatrick

Faculty Mentor: P. Eric Henager

Department of Modern Languages

The traditional definition of a family generally includes a couple that society considers to be in a durable relationship. Throughout literary history, a variety of cultures have challenged this concept. Frequently, a family may lack a father, a mother, or both. The families may consist of two or twenty members with different styles of life. In two important works, *So Far From God* (1993) by Ana Castillo and *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* (1936) by Federico García Lorca, the idea of a traditional family is challenged by two families made up exclusively of women.

3:20-3:40 **El poder del amor: Una lectura budista de Demasiado amor por Sara Sefchovich**

Anne Kathryn Rice

Faculty Mentor: P. Eric Henager

Department of Modern Languages

Se puede decir que es igual de posible vivir sin suficiente amor que vivir con demasiado. Es verdad que recibe mucha atención el hecho de que a la humanidad le falta un sentido de amor y hermandad, pero en su novela *Demasiado amor* (1990), Sara Sefchovich llama la atención al otro extremo. Amar demasiado es el gran error de la protagonista, y por eso sufre mucho. Sin embargo, la palabra “amor” en el título y por toda la novela es un poco ambigua por lo que quiere decir. Este tipo de amor al que se refiere la autora tiene cara de obsesión y sentimientos que dominan el espíritu. No es el amor que hace tanta falta a la humanidad sino el amor que debemos evitar. Encontrar la línea entre amar suficiente y amar demasiado requiere mucho empeño, pero acercarse a la línea sin cruzarla es más difícil aún.

La disciplina del budismo se enfoca mucho en evitar los dos extremos. Uno sólo tiene que vivir la vida muy consciente de sí mismo para acercarse a la línea sin cruzarla. Hay que estar siempre consciente del cuerpo, de los sentimientos, de los deseos, de los pensamientos y del momento presente. Lamentablemente esta conciencia es muy difícil de mantener mientras que se vive una vida muy rápida con muchas metas para el futuro. Examino en este estudio cómo la perspectiva budista puede iluminar ciertos aspectos de la novela de Sefchovich.

## **Humanities Nonjuried Poster Presentations**

***Buckman Foyer, beginning at 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm***

### **Single Parent Families: Does TennCare Really Care?**

Cindy Hallums

Julie Hallums

Jenna Groner

Natalie Pennington

Mark Wilson

Faculty Mentor: Gail Murray

Department of History

When examining the complex issue of poverty in the United States today, adequate healthcare is a pressing concern for impoverished individuals, policy administrators, and professionals in the field. With the recent budget cuts facing the state of Tennessee, TennCare has taken a significant role in providing relief to low income families. For our project, our group examined the structure, rules, and regulations of TennCare as an organization as well as the problems in accessing the benefits that TennCare provides. Additionally, we used a hypothetical family to demonstrate how actual individuals are affected by the healthcare system and state policies like TennCare. Through the use of our “family,” we are also able to portray the pressures and strain that single parent family’s face when attempting to overcome the obstacles intertwined in the Tennessee healthcare system.

### **To Eat or Not to Eat: The Trade-Offs of Low-Income Food Budgeting**

Leah Walter

Charlie Patrick

Lori Steger

Phaedra Fisher

Faculty Mentor: Gail Murray

Department of History

Our project is a study of what it takes for a single mother to feed three children, two of which are school-age, with only one income source and whatever public assistance is available. First, we calculated an approximate take home salary based on part-time work taking into account social security and taxes to be withheld. We determined how much she would receive each month in food stamps and vouchers, and we confirmed that the children would receive up to two free meals at school. After taking these steps to determine how much she would have to spend each month, we then went to several grocery stores to compare prices and discover what one in this situation would have to sacrifice in order to give her family healthy, balanced meals. We also account for such factors as distances to grocery stores, generic vs. name brands, and fast food meals that may be necessary for convenience sake. The project is intended to demonstrate that even with public assistance, a single mother with three small children will have a difficult time feeding her family on a limited income.

### **Full-time, Part-time, or Double-time for a Lifetime: An Analysis of Wages, Benefits, and Entry-Level Work in Memphis**

Grace Williams

Katharine Etchen

Marci Hendrix

Tyler Sanders

Faculty Mentor: Gail Murray

Department of History

This project explores the wages for a variety of entry-level jobs in Memphis. The project seeks to determine any discrepancies between gross pay and net pay including expenses toward uniforms and equipment, or amounts withheld for health benefits. In addition to discrepancies between gross and net pay, the project also

evaluates the possible benefits associated with low-wage jobs. Examples of possible benefits include contributing toward one's retirement, which may seem positive, but is not necessarily helpful to someone who is barely able to sustain his or her family. Other examples include the number of paid sick days or vacation days provided and whether the employee has to work for a certain amount of time before accruing these benefits. To conduct our investigation, the research group interviewed managers in eight different service sector jobs. We were able to conclude that it is unlikely that people working in the service sector will be able to support themselves, let alone their families, solely on the income of one of these jobs. To sustain a family in Memphis without some outside source of assistance, it would be necessary either to have the income of two workers in each home, or in single parent families, to work multiple jobs.

### **No Place to Call Home: Low Income Housing in Memphis**

Lindsey Seifert

Greg Matthews

Laura Dallas

Ashley Crosland

Rebecca Kynes

Faculty Mentor: Gail Murray

Department of History

This research project will investigate affordable housing opportunities for the working poor in Memphis, Tennessee, based on a fictional family headed by a single mother, who earns minimum wage, working twenty five hours a week, supporting three children. Housing options, such as transition housing for the homeless provided by Memphis Interfaith Association (MIFA), public housing, section eight vouchers, and low priced apartment units will be investigated. Interviews with authorities and low-income renters, Internet sources, and fieldwork will be utilized as resources. This project will demonstrate the dire need for more and better affordable housing opportunities to be made available in Memphis for low-income families that are not homeowners. Thus, the research will evaluate both current options and offer suggestions for improving the horrible housing situation in Memphis, based on the success of progressive initiatives in other American cities.

### **Navigating the System and the Hidden Costs of Poverty**

Christine Coy

Bob Davis

Mary Grace Fields

Sarah Tuttle

Faculty Mentor: Gail Murray

Department of History

This research explores available relief and services for those who live in poverty in the city of Memphis. The project examines what different agencies offer and the hidden costs of these services. Government and non-profit services such as those provided by MIFA, the Department of Human Services, and the MATA system, will be considered, as well as businesses that offer goods and financial services targeted to the poor, such as cash advances, title loans, second-hand goods, and cut-rate auto insurance. The goal is to better understand the institutional support system that is available to those who live in poverty or with the threat of poverty in Memphis. This will include analyzing the feasibility, costs, obstacles to utilizing these services, and suggestions for strengthening and streamlining the relief and support system for those who are poor in the city.

## **Social Sciences Oral Presentations – Session 1**

***Frazier Jelke Lecture Hall A, beginning at 1:00 pm until 2:40 pm***

**1:00-1:20 Tracking COACT: A Study of Community Policing Practices in Madison Heights**

Shayla Nicole White

Faculty mentor: Michael Kirby

Urban Studies Program

Very little is known about community policing practices in Memphis and even the literature about community policing in other cities is limited. Community policing services and activities are hidden from view to the community and are very difficult for researchers to study. This study was able to obtain unique access to viewing the activities of community policing officers in the Madison Heights neighborhood of Memphis. The student “shadowed” the officers for four days and quantified the extent of time the officers spent on specific community policing activities. This research was supplemented with interviews of residents in the area. The hypothesis of this study was that the officers were not performing community-policing activities in the Madison Heights area. The research did not confirm the hypothesis and found some evidence of effective community policing practices. The study also suggests some ideas for improving community policing of this unit.

**1:20-1:40 A Redevelopment Strategy for the Sears Crosstown Building**

Curtis Thomas

Faculty Mentor: Michael Kirby

Urban Studies Program

This project is a study of the redevelopment potential of the Crosstown Sears building in Memphis. The Memphis building is one of many identical buildings that were abandoned when the Sears Corporation left the catalog business in the early 1990s. The goals of this project were twofold: First, to make an informed prediction about the likelihood of a rehab of the building based on an examination of what has been done with similar Sears buildings across the country. Secondly, to present a redevelopment proposal for the site that is sensitive to the needs of the surrounding community, as well as economic trends in Memphis. The redevelopment proposal is based on interviews with community association leaders and experts in the community, as well as an examination of market research and similar development projects. This proposal suggests a community-city partnership to initiate a redevelopment project, which entails a partial demolition of the building coupled with a mixed-use development including retail/service industry and mixed-income housing.

**1:40-2:00 Drug Treatment Courts: A New Approach to Substance Abuse and the Judicial System**

Laura Bishop

Faculty Mentor: Michael Kirby

Department of Political Science

Drug treatment courts combine judicial power with substance abuse treatment. A drug court team, including the judge, attorneys and treatment providers, administers the program. The program consists of 12 months of treatment, in lieu of a prison sentence, that includes counseling, random drug screens, job assistance and sanctions for non-compliance.

The objective of this project is to identify the various elements of the drug treatment court in Shelby County and to compare and contrast the perceptions the team and the clients have of the components of the drug court. Surveys were distributed to both the drug court team and the clients asking them to assess the importance and effectiveness of the components of the program. The survey included questions about motivations for entering the program and the importance of the various team members to the success of the clients. The survey also asked both team members and clients to rate the

likelihood of the clients using drugs, drinking alcohol, maintaining full-time employment, and continuing to attend therapy sessions after completing the program.

**2:00-2:20 Is Quality Day Care Accessible for Low-income Families?**

Sarah Tuttle

Faculty Mentor: Michael Kirby

Urban Studies Program

Quality day care is important to any child's development, but especially for children of low-income families. This research project studies where quality day care centers are present in the city of Memphis, their accessibility to low-income families, and what characteristics of the program determine its level of quality. Quality is determined by the rating system of the State Department of Human Services. This research looks at facilities that care for over thirteen children within four zip codes surrounding the Rhodes campus. Through interviews and observations of individual centers, factors that create high quality centers in low-income neighborhoods will be determined.

**2:20-2:40 Identifying precursors to White privilege awareness and White guilt**

Nicole Lindner

Faculty Mentor: Chris Wetzel

Department of Psychology

Research into White privilege awareness and White guilt has contributed to psychology's understanding of racial discrimination and Whites' racial attitudes. This study employed scales measuring White guilt, White privilege awareness, and a variety of other race-related constructs to identify both the simple correlations between the constructs and the causal paths, using path analysis, related to White privilege awareness, White guilt, and the other constructs. The path analysis, and the preliminary factor analysis that isolated the major constructs represented by the 158 questionnaire items, allowed us to better understand how race-related attitudes related to the other constructs. These constructs measured attitudes concerning and experiences in the dimensions of discrimination experience, racial contact, racial interests, racial prejudice, racial identity, belief in a just world, discrimination awareness, White guilt, prejudice suppression, White privilege awareness, and support for affirmative action. It was found that White guilt, discrimination awareness, and belief in a just world were the central variables in the path model, while White privilege was predicted positively only by discrimination awareness and, paradoxically, by racial prejudice. White guilt and suppression of prejudice had a strong reciprocal relationship with each other and were both strongly predicted by discrimination awareness.

**Social Sciences Oral Presentations – Session 2**

***302 Clough, beginning at 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm***

**1:00-1:20 Forty Weeks: An Ethnographic Study of the Home Birthing Midwifery Service**

Erin Hoekstra

Faculty Mentor: Prof. Susan Kus

Department of Anthropology and Sociology

Ethnographic field work allows in-depth study of a cultural scene and includes a dialogic mode of gathering information rather than relying on formal and delimited interviewing. This method allows for a penetrating look at cultural complexity, rather than an experimental based glance at a single facet of culture. Through a semester-long "conversation" and participate-observation study with the two certified professional midwives and the lay midwife at the Home Birthing Midwifery Service, I have encountered a cultural scene that offers women a safe and healthy alternative to hospital birthing. My presentation explores the central premise of the midwives' model of care and its implications for the services offered to their clients. The care they provide is based on the premise that pregnancy is natural to women. Consequently, pregnant women do not need to be treated as if they had a disease;

rather, the midwives recognize that women's bodies are capable of giving birth without medication which may harm the mother and her baby. As a result, midwifery centers women in the birthing process in a way that gives them responsibility and autonomy over their bodies and ownership of the health of both themselves and their babies.

**1:20-1:40 Nurses, Catholic School Girls, Hookers and Little Red Riding Hood: A Thick Ethnographic Description of the Strip Club Sub-Culture**

Jennifer Marshall

Faculty Mentor: Peter Ekstrom

Department of Anthropology and Sociology

This ethnography uses thick description to portray the physical and human characteristics of the sub-culture setting of a strip club in Memphis, Tennessee with particular attention to issues of gender relations between men visiting the club and women working at the club. All of the research for this ethnography was obtained through the participant observation and informal interview conducted within the strip club. The data collected is a detailed description of the physical characteristics of the strip club, the workers and the customers, of the interactions between the various parties and of the rituals performed in the strip club. This detailed description shows how physical space operates in defining interactions in the club and the exaggerated social norms of interaction among men and women. These preliminary findings are ripe in possibilities for further research in gender and spatial relations with the fields of anthropology, psychology, sociology, geography and other fields.

**1:40-2:00 Unionization at Federal Express: Friend or Foe?**

Jenna Groner

Faculty Mentor: Tom McGowan

Department of Anthropology and Sociology

For this project, I examined the sociological process of unionization and how it affects the culture of Federal Express pilots. Specifically, I studied how unionization altered or affected crew interactions, relationships with the company, personal job satisfaction, and relationships outside of Federal Express. To do this, I took a small sample of pilots and asked them to submit narratives on a common question, and their participation was both voluntary and anonymous. I collected these narratives and examined them for common themes and patterns. I found that these narratives, while giving various opinions on unionization at Federal Express, also had similar concerns and views on the cultural changes that have taken place since the Air Line Pilots Association has been associated with Federal Express. I believe this research is important, because it gives first hand accounts of people who are directly affected by unionization, which can be used to improve collective bargaining techniques and relations among workers, union leadership, and company executives of other unionized airlines.

**2:00-2:20 "Rainbow-Colored Glasses: A Social/Cultural Look at Color"**

Rania Garnem

Faculty Mentor: Thomas McGowan

Department of Anthropology and Sociology

The purpose of this study is to show how the symbolic meaning of colors changes based on the context in which colors are applied. How the symbolism of color has been socially constructed to represent cultural and religious ideologies is of main concern and will be demonstrated through a series of historical examples. My methodological approach involved an intense literature review of works from the anthropology, sociology, art and history fields. I collected a considerable amount of information illustrating how the meaning of color is created and manipulated, and I found support from several authors who emphasized the context-specificity of color symbolism. I also found that meaning is created both deliberately and often unintentionally, and that racial, descriptive and "natural" color categories are all formed and defined by context. Suggestions for further research would entail an

even more comprehensive literature search to explore how color has been approached, utilized and incorporated into everyday life and meaning throughout the past and present day.

2:20-2:40 **Rearranging the Typical Discourse of Ethnography: A study of photography and anthropology.**

Sarah K. Hays

Faculty Mentor: Susan Kus

Department of Anthropology and Sociology

There exist many criticisms of photography and its uses in the areas of anthropology. These critiques range from the cost of equipment and specialized skills required, to the potential bias of the photographer and the myriad of interpretations and meanings that can be derived from a single shot. Rather than attempting to illustrate the validity of photography in the field of anthropology, the potential ways photography can be used in field research are addressed. This project utilizes photographs and members of the Memphis community to demonstrate the multiple perspectives that can be derived from photographs. Ten photographs of different interactive situations were printed and taken back out into the community to gather individual views and observations of the prints, rearranging the typical discourse of ethnography. The results of this exercise yielded a variety of narratives regarding each photograph. Several similar elements were present across the participants' descriptions, providing interesting insights into the Memphis culture. The premise of this project provides for many possibilities of similar future research; focusing on specific groups utilizing more prints and interpretations relating to the group's specific need or problem.

2:40-3:00 **“The Athenian Agora: Creating and Perpetuating Objective Reality”**

Jenna A. Altherr

Faculty Mentor: Thomas McGowan

Departments of Anthropology and Sociology and Greek and Roman Studies

My research focuses on the Athenian Agora, where I demonstrate how the physical layout and material artifacts of an area illustrate the shared objective reality of a group. The paradigm I am operating in utilizes Berger and Luckman's concept stating that reality is socially constructed; this construction delineates group norms. I performed my research by Kevin Lynch's image of the city. The data was collected from primary sources of physical building remains, ancient layout and building descriptions, and works of ancient authors. My findings and conclusions show physical material artifacts as not only mirroring the current objective reality, but also helping to perpetuate and further create the objective reality. By means of the environmental image, a city can be “read” to discover a group's objective reality. For further research, I suggest compiling the environmental images of Greek cities to determine a *Greek* objective reality in addition to *individual* realities.

3:00-3:20 **Teach For America: does it matter where you live?**

Julie Hallums

Faculty Mentor: Thomas McGowan

Department of Anthropology and Sociology

My project aims to answer: does the corps member's immersion within the community, living inside or outside of their school area, affect their experience within Teach For America positively or negatively and does it influence them at the end of their two years to continue with the program? I collected personal narrative accounts from four Teach For America corps members and examined their written content. I found that the location of the corps members, either within or outside of their student population did not influence their experiences positively or negatively. Instead I found that a large influence was their success professionally and/or personally. With an overall success professionally and personally the corps members were more motivated and more invested in the program than others whom only had success personally or professionally. Some of the corps members living outside the community were more invested in comparison with those that lived in the community because they initiated and invested time in their students and families.

3:20-3:40 **Sticks and String: An ethnographic study or "Yarn to Go"**

Leah Coffman

Faculty Mentor: Susan Kus

Department of Anthropology and Sociology

Participant observation, as the corner stone of cultural anthropology, is the research method of observing a culture while living in it. This method leads to a more complex and comprehensive understanding of a culture because the researcher has spent an extensive amount of time in the culture, and on some level, lived it. I have spent the last semester doing ethnographic fieldwork in "Yarn to Go," a specialty yarn shop, and have observed and participated in the culture of knitting. Knitting is no longer for grandmothers; the craft is experiencing a revival among younger women. This paper will explore knitting as a social statement and knitters as both technicians and artists.

3:40-4:00 **The World according to Burke's: an Ethnographic Study of an Independent Memphis Bookstore**

Leslie Isaacman

Faculty Mentor: Susan Kus

Department of Anthropology and Sociology

The core and enduring anthropological methodology of participant-observation, through an immediate and intimate interaction with a cultural scene, often allows one to gain an intimate and novel perspective of one's field of study. This semester I have been able to go into the field of Burke's Book Store, a local, independently owned bookstore which provides a unique approach to bookselling in our modern and commercialized chain-store world. The combination of old, rough interior features with the musty smell of used books mixed with "funky" eclectic styles of décor and new books makes the store a conundrum in itself. These features, along with others such as the store's relation to Memphis and its diverse customer base, give the store a feel of coziness and relaxation not found in other stores. The store, itself, is a reflection of Memphis, cementing the local roots and character of the city all the while combating the monoculture of Barnes and Noble and Starbucks. This presentation will discuss how Burke's Book Store provides us a basis for a critical analysis of the monocultural, globalizing tendencies of our consumer society.













































