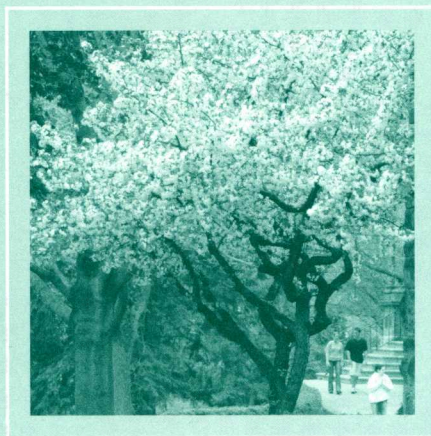


# SENIOR PROJECT CELEBRATION



◆  
ALLEGHENY COLLEGE  
2006



*I*N KEEPING WITH ALLEGHENY'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE

STUDENTS WITH A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION OF HIGH STANDARDS,

---

**THE SENIOR PROJECT IS NOT A MERE REPORT**

---

OR SEMESTER PAPER, BUT A SIGNIFICANT PIECE OF

INDEPENDENT STUDY, RESEARCH OR CREATIVE WORK

CONDUCTED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF ONE OR MORE

FACULTY MEMBERS. THE OUTCOME OF A SENIOR

PROJECT IS MORE THAN A GRADE OR A WRITTEN

DOCUMENT; FOR THE STUDENT IT OFTEN RESULTS IN

A NEW WAY OF LOOKING AT COMPLEX PROBLEMS AND

INSPIRES AN APPRECIATION FOR THE POWER OF IDEAS

THAT MIGHT PREVIOUSLY HAVE SEEMED LIKE ABSTRACT

CONCEPTS IN A TEXTBOOK. OFTEN IT CAN BE A PIVOTAL

MOMENT WHERE A STUDENT REALIZES HIS OR HER OWN

ABILITIES AND POTENTIAL.



## HISTORY

Since the College's first commencement in 1821, Allegheny students have showcased their exceptional academic achievements through a senior capstone experience of one kind or another. At times it involved an oral defense, at others a written thesis. The notion of a written Senior Project coupled with a comprehensive oral examination first appeared in the 1942 College Catalogue. In the 1970s, oral examinations shifted from a general defense of disciplinary expertise to a more focused verbal presentation of the Senior Project findings.

## PREPARATION

The Senior Project provides students with an opportunity to integrate discipline-specific scholarship with the communication and research skills necessary for professionals in the 21st century. During their first year at Allegheny, students write, speak, and research frequently in their first-year seminars. By the sophomore year they are ready to undertake the complexities of writing and speaking in a specific discipline. They further hone these disciplinary communication skills in a junior seminar, the final preparatory phase for the Senior Project. By the senior year students are sufficiently prepared to undertake a scholarly endeavor approximating those experiences they will face as professionals in their field.

## REALIZATION

The culminating experiences of the Senior Project are as varied as the disciplines that produce them, from recitals, performances, and exhibits to written and oral presentations on laboratory research. Many illustrate unusual combinations of disciplines, interests and skills. The Senior Project Celebration offers an open forum for students to present their projects, allowing seniors to refine their skills in presenting to a broad audience and share ideas with other students and the campus community.



# QUICK SCHEDULE

◆  
**1:00–1:15 p.m.**

**Evaluating and Explaining Uneven Indigenous Rights in the States of Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico**

**Aaron Fossi**

Major: Political Science / Minor: Biology  
Room 301

**Women in Argentina: Creating a Public Identity Through Social Movement Activism, Breaking the Barriers of Traditional Roles**

**Katie Lazar**

Majors: Political Science and Spanish  
Room 302

**“Speaking with the Dead”: The New Historicism and Two Renaissance Plays**

**Ryan Zurowski**

Major: English / Minor: History  
Room 303

◆  
**1:20–1:35 p.m.**

**The effect of sulfur-containing amino acids on cognitive performance in young female rats**

**Emilie Gilbreath**

Major: Biology  
Room 303

**Building Bridges between Americans and Hispanic Immigrants in the United States: An Examination of Migrant Identity and Service-Learning**

**Sarah Grudevich**

Majors: Spanish and Values, Ethics, and Social Action  
Room 302

◆  
**1:40–1:55 p.m.**

**Contesting Identities: An Analysis of Female Olympic Athletes in Lifestyle Magazines**

**Lindsay Knouse**

Major: Communication Arts / Minor: Economics  
Room 303

**An Electrophysiological Comparison of the Retrieval of Words in Emotional and Non-emotional Context**

**Katherine Mickley**

Majors: Neuroscience and Psychology / Minor: English  
Room 302

◆  
**2:00–2:15 p.m.**

**Advanced Neuroprotection Techniques in Response to Acute Ischemia in Rats**

**Michael Thomas**

Major: Neuroscience  
Room 302

**Perceptions of Land Development and Conservation in Hampshire County, WV: Implications for the Future**

**Emily Warner**

Major: Environmental Studies / Minors: Spanish and Environmental Writing  
Room 303

◆  
**2:20–2:35 p.m.**

**The Call of the Vulnerable Witness: Genocide, Rape, and Testimony**

**Kira Hartger**

Majors: Religious Studies and Philosophy / Minor: Chemistry  
Room 302

**Effects of Short-Term Exposure to PCB mixtures (Aroclor-1254) on B-cell Concentration of *Xenopus laevis* Following Exposure to the Pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis***

**Katie Leidecker**

Major: Biology / Minor: Psychology  
Room 303

◆  
**2:40–2:55 p.m.**

**The King-Crane Commission: A Story of Wilson's “Exceptionalism” and America's First Steps in the Middle East**

**Thaddeus Rupp**

Major: History / Minors: Economics and Communication Arts  
Room 302

**The Zapatistas and Democratization in Mexico**

**Rachel Schaffnit**

Majors: International Studies and Spanish  
Room 303



# QUICK SCHEDULE

## Poster Presentations

3:00–4:00 p.m., Campus Center Lobby

**Characterization of an acidic floral bud protein with peroxidase activity**

**Erika Allen**

Major: Biochemistry

**Natalie DelPrato**

Major: Biology

**Effects of Nasal Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibition on CO<sub>2</sub> Discrimination in Rats**

**Katheryn Ferris**

Major: Neuroscience / Minors: Science, Health, and Society and Chemistry

**The effects of temperature on the ventilatory responses of Sprague-Dawley rat pups to carbon dioxide and the implications for sudden infant death syndrome**

**Abigail Grant**

Major: Neuroscience / Minor: German Studies

**The Crimson Tide of Lieutenant's Island**

**Dana Griswold**

Major: Environmental Science / Minor: Environmental Writing

**The Language of Poverty**

**Alicia Haley**

Majors: Psychology and Women's Studies

**A comparative study on the affects of Valporate, Carbamazepine, and Lamotrigine in PTZ-induced seizure rats**

**Tamara John**

Majors: Neuroscience and Psychology / Minor: Spanish

**Honoring the Creator Through the Choices of Catholic Congregations**

**Katie Klingensmith**

Major: Environmental Science / Minor: Psychology

**The Effects of a-MSH on the Weight and Food Consumption**

**October Parker**

Major: Neuroscience / Minor: Writing

**An Epoch EEG Investigation of Second Language Learners Across Proficiency Level**

**Nathan Thomas**

Major: Psychology / Minor: French

**A New Spin on the Old: How Discourse Constitutes the Identity of Aging Baby Boomers**

**Amy Weisgerber**

Major: Rhetoric / Minor: Science, Health, and Society

## Senior Art Show

Bowman, Penelec and Meghan Galleries

Senior Projects will be on display in the art galleries, including work by these students:

### Studio Art

**Antoinetta Fazio-Johnson**

*Inside Us All*

**Vanessa Hill**

**Kaitlyn Irwin**

**Stacie Smith**

*"Flirtation: The Kissing Kin to Rudeness"—Robert Hopper*

**Maggie Susse**

*Finding Doubt*

### Art & Technology

**Emilie Gilbreath**

*What's Wrong with Animal Testing?*

**Stephanie Kreutter**

*Crawford County Vision Team: Website and Logo*

**Caitlin Murtagh**

*Unveiling Beauty*

**Alexandra Pilla**

*Do Not Touch the Dancers*



# A B S T R A C T S

Erika Allen

## **Characterization of an acidic floral bud protein with peroxidase activity**

An acidic protein with peroxidase activity has been observed only in developing floral buds. The goal of this study was to characterize this protein in two species of the Brassicaceae family. Floral buds of *Arabidopsis thaliana* mutants lacking one or more floral whorl were analyzed for the presence of the acidic peroxidase and it was determined that the activity is present in the stamen. To further characterize the acidic protein, extracts were made from floral buds of *Brassica rapa*, and the protein purified using a two step procedure. Peptide analysis of the purified protein indicated that one component of this acidic protein was annexin 1, which is not a Class III peroxidase but does have peroxidase activity. Analysis of mRNA indicated lower annexin 1 and 2 levels in floral buds lacking stamens than in wild type floral buds.

**Major: Biochemistry**

**Senior Project Advisor: Ann Kleinschmidt**

**3:00-4:00 p.m., Campus Center Lobby**

Natalie DelPrato

## **Characterization of an acidic floral bud protein with peroxidase activity**

An acidic protein with peroxidase activity has been observed only in developing floral buds. The goal of this study was to characterize this protein in two species of the Brassicaceae family. Floral buds of *Arabidopsis thaliana* mutants lacking one or more floral whorl were analyzed for the presence of the acidic peroxidase and it was determined that the activity is present in the stamen. To further characterize the acidic protein, extracts were made from floral buds of *Brassica rapa*, and the protein purified using a two step procedure. Peptide analysis of the purified protein indicated that one component of this acidic protein was annexin 1, which is not a Class III peroxidase but does have peroxidase activity. Analysis of mRNA indicated lower annexin 1 and 2 levels in floral buds lacking stamens than in wild type floral buds.

**Major: Biology**

**Senior Project Advisor: Ann Kleinschmidt**

**3:00-4:00 p.m., Campus Center Lobby**

Katheryn Ferris

## **Effects of Nasal Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibition on CO<sub>2</sub> Discrimination in Rats**

A previous study by Youngentob et al (1991) reported that Long-Evans rats have the ability to discriminate inspired CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations as low as 0.5%. Following similar methods, Sprague Dawley and Zucker rats were operantly trained to discriminate between CO<sub>2</sub> and control air (0% CO<sub>2</sub>) and then were subjected to various CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations (0.5-12.5%) to determine their threshold. An average threshold of 1.32% for Zucker rats and 0.53% for Sprague Dawley rats was found. A second objective of the study was to determine if the carbonic anhydrase (CA) inhibitor, methazolamide, would affect the CO<sub>2</sub> threshold. The thresholds of seven Zucker rats were determined after the CA inhibitor was applied topically to the nasal mucosa. The CA inhibitor significantly increased the detection threshold in Zucker rats, indicating that CA is required for the detection of low concentrations of nasal CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Major: Neuroscience / Minors: Science, Health, and Society and Chemistry**

**Senior Project Advisors: E. Lee Coates, Rodney Clark**

**3:00-4:00 p.m., Campus Center Lobby**

Aaron Fossi

## **Evaluating and Explaining Uneven Indigenous Rights in the States of Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico**

In this project, I attempt to explain the uneven distribution of indigenous rights in the Mexican States of Oaxaca and Chiapas. The indigenous populations of both states are relatively high and decidedly impoverished. However, in the state of Chiapas the marginalization of indigenous people led them to rebel against the government in 1994. In contrast, the neighboring state of Oaxaca has seen progressive legislation in recent decades that have enumerated dozens of indigenous rights. By looking at historical developments in the regions, I argue that state government officials have been a key factor in establishing state/Indian relations that have ultimately determined the current outcome in either state.

**Major: Political Science / Minor: Biology**

**Senior Project Advisor: Shannan Mattiace**

**1:00-1:15 p.m., Room 301**



# A B S T R A C T S

**Emilie Gilbreath**

## **The effect of sulfur-containing amino acids on cognitive performance in young female rats**

To determine whether or not consumption of excessive amounts of sulfur-containing amino acids inhibits cognitive performance 17 young female rats were fed four diets of varying cysteine and methionine content. After 46 days on the diets, each rat was tested in a radial arm maze. Each rat was scored for improvement over the course of six trials in number of errors and maze solution time. Diet had a significant effect on solution time and a similar but not quite significant effect on number of mistakes.

**Major: Biology**

**Senior Project Advisor: Ron Mumme**

**1:20–1:35 p.m., Room 303**

**Abigail Grant**

## **The effects of temperature on the ventilatory responses of Sprague-Dawley rat pups to carbon dioxide and the implications for sudden infant death syndrome**

Increased temperature and accumulation of CO<sub>2</sub> are both risk factors associated with SIDS. The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of temperature on the ventilatory response of rat pups to CO<sub>2</sub>. Thirty-six rat pups were divided into three temperature groups: low (23-25°C), medium (32-35°C), and high (37-42°C) and tested on days 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 following birth. Each rat was placed in a plethysmograph chamber and delivered an air sequence of control air and 8% CO<sub>2</sub>. The results of this study showed thermally stressed rats were more responsive to CO<sub>2</sub> than thermally neutral rats.

**Major: Neuroscience / Minor: German Studies**

**Senior Project Advisors: E. Lee Coates, Lauren French**

**3:00–4:00 p.m., Campus Center Lobby**

**Dana Griswold**

## **The Crimson Tide of Lieutenant's Island**

Whales are known as mysterious creatures, instilling wildness in the hearts of humans. However, humans have not always respected this wildness. Whalers used to drive thousands of pilot whales ashore to a grisly death. While the philosophies of humans changed over the past two centuries, those of pilot whales have not. The loyalty of each pod causes the whales to beach themselves in mass numbers for unknown reasons. This essay confronts the struggle of humans to discover their role in preserving the wildness and protecting the lives of pilot whales, and tells the story of two unforgettable days of strandings.

**Major: Environmental Science / Minor: Environmental Writing**

**Senior Project Advisor: Eric Pallant**

**3:00–4:00 p.m., Campus Center Lobby**

**Sarah Grudevich**

## **Building Bridges between Americans and Hispanic Immigrants in the United States: An Examination of Migrant Identity and Service-Learning**

My thesis is divided into three sections. The first section covers ideas of orientalism and the subaltern and their relation to the power that the U.S. holds and has held historically over Mexico. Section two is an examination of chicano literature in order to see how the immigrant identifies his or herself. Part three provides information on service-learning and demonstrates how service-learning can break power structures and help to connect the Hispanic and American cultures in the U.S. In this section, I also cover the English as a Second Language class that I established with ten Mexican migrants at the Ernst farm in Meadville last semester.

**Majors: Spanish and Values, Ethics, and Social Action**

**Senior Project Advisors: Barbara Riess, Elizabeth Ozorak**

**1:20–1:35 p.m., Room 302**



# A B S T R A C T S

**Alicia Haley**

## **The Language of Poverty**

My senior project combined components of quantitative psychological research with qualitative feminist methodology and theory to explore the relationship between socioeconomic status, mother-child interactions, and language development and vocabulary growth in children. Based on existing literature, I found that children from low-income families begin school with less advanced language development and vocabularies compared to children from middle to upper class backgrounds. Such developmental delays are found to result in delayed reading ability and later academic failure. While working with children from Head Start and the Meadville Cooperative Preschool, I attempted to determine if interactive story reading and verbal enrichment activities could significantly improve verbal ability.

**Majors: Psychology and Women's Studies**

**Senior Project Advisors: Elizabeth Ozorak, Judith Rose**

**3:00-4:00 p.m., Campus Center Lobby**

**Kira Hartger**

## **The Call of the Vulnerable Witness: Genocide, Rape, and Testimony**

My project takes a close hard look at the problem of evil as understood through mass violence. In particular, I consider the literary testimony of women who survived rape camps in the Bosnian Civil War. By looking closely at this testimony, I hope to expose an ethical response to the rapes (and evil more generally), relying on the philosophy and theology of Emmanuel Levinas. In particular, I pay special attention to the importance of vulnerability in Levinas's ethical project and the revelation of vulnerability in the testimonies. I take up Levinas's project aware of some challenges and some problems, including femininity and maternity.

**Majors: Religious Studies and Philosophy / Minor: Chemistry**

**Senior Project Advisor: Eric Boynton**

**2:20-2:35 p.m., Room 302**

**Tamara John**

## **A comparative study on the affects of Valporate, Carbamazepine, and Lamotrigine in PTZ-induced seizure rats**

To maintain control over the vast spectrum of seizures there are many types of anti-epileptic drugs (AED) in use today. This study used SHR rats to assess the levels of damage to the hippocampus and other cortical areas due to various anti-epileptic drugs. Using Valporate Acid, Carbamazepine, Lamotrigine, Pentylentrazol, results showed significant damage to the hippocampus and amygdala regions within each drug group. Both the Startle Response test and Shuttle Box test showed statistical significance between drugs. It can be concluded that seizures can cause serious damage to the brain but so can the medication used to treat them.

**Majors: Neuroscience and Psychology / Minor: Spanish**

**Senior Project Advisor: Jeff Cross**

**3:00-4:00 p.m., Campus Center Lobby**

**Katie Klingensmith**

## **Honoring the Creator Through the Choices of Catholic Congregations**

Theologically based and practically oriented, Honoring the Creator Through the Choices of Catholic Congregations is a resource guide for pastors to include environmental awareness as a part of the church operation. This guide includes areas such as energy usage, water conservation, recycling programs, and the purchase of office and cleaning supplies.

**Major: Environmental Science / Minor: Psychology**

**Senior Project Advisor: Rich Bowden**

**3:00-4:00 p.m., Campus Center Lobby**



# A B S T R A C T S

**Lindsay Knouse**

## **Contesting Identities: An Analysis of Female Olympic Athletes in Lifestyle Magazines**

Traditional conceptions of sports are related to the definition of masculinity in American culture. A paradox exists for female athletes because to be "female" is to be feminine according to social norms, while being an athlete is regarded as becoming masculine. One cannot be both a female and an athlete, therefore, because the gendered form of one negates the other. In order to gain acceptance into the masculine world of sports, both the media and female athletes themselves feel the need to overly emphasize their femininity. I use feminist cultural theorist Susan Bordo's concept of the "double bind" while performing a textual analysis of visual representations of female athletes from the 2004 Olympic Games in American lifestyle magazines. My study explores how the female athlete is expected to be competitive and dominant on the playing field, yet feminine, pretty, and unthreatening off-field. Although women can actively choose how the paradox of dueling identities is lived through different performances of femininity, media portrayals illustrate the complexity of this process.

**Major: Communication Arts / Minor: Economics**

**Senior Project Advisor: Ishita Sinha Roy**

**1:40-1:55 p.m., Room 303**

**Katie Lazar**

## **Women in Argentina: Creating a Public Identity Through Social Movement Activism, Breaking the Barriers of Traditional Roles**

The central focus of this project is the political participation of women in Argentina from before the era of Peron through the Madres of the Plaza de Mayo. This investigation includes looking at formal versus informal ways of participating and how social movement participation has acted as a catalyst to integrating women into the public sphere. It aims to evaluate the choices women have made in regards to creating a public identity via social movement participation.

**Majors: Political Science and Spanish**

**Senior Project Advisors: Shannan Mattiace, Barbara Riess**

**1:00-1:15 p.m., Room 302**

**Katie Leidecker**

## **Effects of Short-Term Exposure to PCB mixtures (Aroclor-1254) on B-cell Concentration of *Xenopus laevis* Following Exposure to the Pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis***

This study evaluated the effects of short-term exposure to a polychlorinated biphenyl mixture (Aroclor 1254) on the immune system of the South African clawed frog, *Xenopus laevis*, following exposure to *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, a known pathogen. Late-stage tadpoles were exposed to a 1.0mg/L Aroclor-1254 for one two-hour exposure. After one week, half of each population of tadpoles from each treatment was exposed to *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* for one hour per day for one week. Although research suggests PCB mixtures depress the immune system, this study demonstrated a significant increase in B-cell concentration as compared to the control group. Also, *B. dendrobatidis* treatments showed a significant increase in B-cell concentration as compared to the untreated control group.

**Major: Biology / Minor: Psychology**

**Senior Project Advisor: Jim Palmer**

**2:20-2:35 p.m., Room 303**

**Katherine Mickley**

## **An Electrophysiological Comparison of the Retrieval of Words in Emotional and Non-emotional Context**

A major approach to the understanding of emotion and cognition has been the study of memory of emotional events. In order to understand the effects of emotional context on retrieval of memories and avoid the confound of emotion at retrieval, this study examined the brain's event-related potentials (ERPs) elicited by the recognition of words that had been encoded in mentally imagined positive, negative, or neutral contexts. Words encoded in positive contexts, but not those encoded in negative contexts, were recognized at lower rates than those encoded in neutral contexts. In addition, words from negative, but not positive sentences across all classes of items elicited late (1000-1600ms) positivity in the right frontopolar scalp region. These findings suggest that the memory retrieval for positive and negative contexts have different cortical signatures.

**Majors: Neuroscience and Psychology / Minor: English**

**Senior Project Advisors: Alec Dale, Amy Wiseman**

**1:40-1:55 p.m., Room 302**



# ABSTRACTS

**October Parker**

## **The Effects of a-MSH on the Weight and Food Consumption**

The health complications that accompany obesity have induced several studies seeking to reverse the syndrome. The hormones that affect feeding and energy homeostasis have emerged as key players in obesity. Specifically, the hormones released by pro-opiomelanocortin (POMC) neurons that are activated by leptin, have been shown to have significant effects on obese subjects. One set of POMC neurons is inhibited by leptin, and the other set is activated by leptin. Leptin activates a-MSH, which causes an increase in energy expenditure and a decrease in energy intake. Several researchers have found that mutation and desensitization of POMC neurons leads to obesity by unresponsiveness to anti-obesity signals. In this paper, it is hypothesized that injections of a-MSH into the Lateral Hypothalamus of MSG-obesity induced Zuckers will lead to weight loss. The results, however, reveal that a-MSH injections did not produce significant decreases in the weight of test subjects.

**Major: Neuroscience / Minor: Writing**

**Senior Project Advisors: Jeff Cross, Lauren French**

**3:00–4:00 p.m., Campus Center Lobby**

**Thaddeus Rupp**

## **The King-Crane Commission: A Story of Wilson's "Exceptionalism" and America's First Steps in the Middle East**

The King-Crane Commission was an American delegation sent from the Paris Peace Conference to the Middle East to elicit public opinion. President Woodrow Wilson created the commission as a method of new diplomacy and the commission represents an application of Wilson's American "exceptionalism." Wilson felt that the answer to an increasingly unstable world was to export the American ideal of government around the world. The members King-Crane Commission shared Wilson's worldview, however that interfered with the commission's inquiry in the Middle East. The commission was unable to truly gauge the desires of the Ottoman population because they were trapped in their own American assumptions and frameworks.

**Major: History / Minors: Economics and Communication Arts**

**Senior Project Advisor: Kenneth Pinnow**

**2:40–2:55 p.m., Room 302**

**Rachel Schaffnit**

## **The Zapatistas and Democratization in Mexico**

On January 1 1994, the day that NAFTA (a trade agreement with the United States and Canada) was to go into effect in Mexico, roughly 4,000 Indians belonging to the EZLN (Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional) emerged from southern Mexico wearing black ski masks and carrying arms. They demanded basic things such as democracy, justice, and peace. It has now been 12 years since the Zapatista uprising. Has the EZLN actually succeeded in achieving its demand for democracy? My project analyzed the EZLN's effect on democratization by studying Mexican political history, clearly defining democracy, and explaining the activities of the EZLN since 1994 in relation to democratization.

**Majors: International Studies and Spanish**

**Senior Project Advisor: Shannan Mattiace**

**2:40–2:55 p.m., Room 303**

**Michael Thomas**

## **Advanced Neuroprotection Techniques in Response to Acute Ischemia in Rats**

This research was conducted to further explore and establish a practical neuroprotective timeline in treating stroke patients after an ischemic episode. This research also evaluated the effectiveness of several combinative pharmacological treatment strategies.

**Major: Neuroscience**

**Senior Project Advisors: Jeff Cross, Jeff Hollerman**

**2:00–2:15 p.m., Room 302**



# A B S T R A C T S

**Nathan Thomas**

## **An Epoch EEG Investigation of Second Language Learners Across Proficiency Level**

Before now, there have only been ERP EEG studies on multiple language learners. When considering the N400 priming effect during lexical decision tasks, it may be the that the reduced amplitude represents a change in the brain's operating frequency from alpha to beta. This was a preliminary study to examine if there is any validity to the previous statement. Measurements of high and low alpha were taken from frontal and temporal lobe language areas during the performance of simple cognitive tasks in English and French. Experimental error and flaws in the design of the tasks revealed the need for a epoch study with tasks that actually require the processing of language aspects, unlike the alphabet and counting tasks used here. Using Knopsky's (2005) language model of bilingualism, it may be possible to combine the techniques used in this study and the proposed theory of language processing that might reveal more information about language storage.

**Major: Psychology / Minor: French**

**Senior Project Advisor: J. Alexander Dale**

**3:00–4:00 p.m., Campus Center Lobby**

**Emily Warner**

## **Perceptions of Land Development and Conservation in Hampshire County, WV: Implications for the Future**

Given the development, and subsequent loss, of farmland and natural areas throughout the United States, this project aimed to assess land development's impacts on Hampshire County, West Virginia, a region vulnerable to development pressure from Washington, D.C. Surveys and interviews were used to evaluate both community stakeholders' perceptions of development and their goals for the county's future. Selected key informants represent developers, real estate agents, farmers, new and long-term residents, out-of-state property owners, environmental groups, and county officials. This project reveals respondents' concerns and presents recommendations for future planning.

**Major: Environmental Studies / Minors: Spanish and Environmental Writing**

**Senior Project Advisors: Terrence Bensei, Eric Pallant**

**2:00–2:15 p.m., Room 303**

**Amy Weisgerber**

## **A New Spin on the Old: How Discourse Constitutes the Identity of Aging Baby Boomers**

My project explores the identity of aging baby boomers that is created through discourse of Pittsburgh-based senior housing facilities' marketing materials. Specifically, I examine the way in which verbal and visual depictions of seniors shape the identity of what will be the largest 65-plus population in American history.

**Major: Rhetoric / Minor: Science, Health, and Society**

**Senior Project Advisors: Vesta Silva, Ann Bomberger**

**3:00–4:00 p.m., Campus Center Lobby**

**Ryan Zurowski**

## **“Speaking with the Dead”: The New Historicism and Two Renaissance Plays**

Since the 1980s, the new historicism has profoundly changed critical approaches to literature. In contrast to the formalism of previous generations, new historicists suggested that there is no difference between what has been conventionally labeled “literary” and “non-literary.” Although many critics resisted such change, the new historicism flourished as a critical method because it offered an attractive alternative to the stringent formalism of New Criticism and, to some extent, of structuralism and post-structuralism. In this project, I intend to highlight several of the new historicism's key concepts, suggest a possible explanation for why Renaissance literature—especially drama—has been so attractive to new historicists, and finally discuss the limitations of applying new historicist precepts to Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* (1603) and Philip Massinger's *The Roman Actor* (1626).

**Major: English / Minor: History**

**Senior Project Advisor: Jim Bulman**

**1:00–1:15 p.m., Room 303**



A national liberal arts college where 2,100 students with unusual combinations of interests, skills and talents excel.

# ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

[www.allegHENY.edu](http://www.allegHENY.edu)

520 N. Main Street • Meadville, PA 16335 • 800-521-5293