

Honors Program Showcase Spring 2024

April 11 and 12

Honors Program Classroom

Library, Room 211

To join us virtually: <https://purdue.webex.com/meet/fcombs>

PURDUE UNIVERSITY®
FORT WAYNE

Honors Program

Thursday, April 11, 2024

9:30 AM Welcome Reception, light refreshments will be provided
9:45 AM Opening Remarks, Farah Combs, Honors Program Director
9:50 AM Welcome, Chancellor Ronald L. Elsenbaumer

10:00 AM Noah Wright

"MIXtape EP"

Major: Popular Music (Recording & Production)

Minor: Music Industry

Faculty Mentor: Professor Ryan Tilby (Music) and Professor John Buteyn (Music)

10:30 AM Madison Foreman

"Ending Endometriosis"

Major: Art and Design

Minor: Art History

Faculty Mentor: James Gabbard (Art and Design)

11:00 AM Emily Wentland

"Correlation of the Gene CG45002 with Obesity in *Drosophila melanogaster*"

Major: Biology

Associates: Chemical Methods

Certificate: Research

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rebecca Palu (Biology)

11:30 AM Makaylah Hamm

"Effects of Sampling Time in Stress Physiology of Tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus*"

Major: Biology

Associates: Chemical Methods

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ahmed Mustafa (Biology)

12:00-1:00 PM Break (light refreshments will be provided)

1:30 PM Marian Illa-Lynne Masson

"West German Occupation Memory 1945-1949"

Major: History

Minor: Political Science

Certificates: Peace & Conflict Studies and International Studies

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ann Livschiz (History)

2:00 PM Sydney Coyne

"The Irish Graveyard: The Men Behind the Paulding County Canals"

Majors: History and Anthropology

Minor: Business Studies

Faculty Mentor: Professor Deanna Wooley (History)

2:30 PM Madison Kindler

"The Potential Impact of a Deviated Septum on Singing"

Major: Music Education

Concentration: Vocal

Minor: Theatre

Faculty Mentor: Dr. William Sauerland (Music)

3:00 PM Branden Henry Lee

"Anticipating Future Family Structures"

Major: General Studies

Minor: Sociology

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Curt Hosier (Anthropology and Sociology)

Friday, April 12th, 2024

9:30 AM Welcome Reception, light refreshments will be provided
9:45 AM Opening remarks, Farah Combs, Honors Program Director

10:00 AM Nuraisha Mohd Hanif

“Analyzing the Rohingya Genocide in Burma through an International Law Perspective: The Crimes of the Powerful”

Major: Criminal Justice

Minor: Human Services

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Daniel Patten (Criminal Justice)

10:30 AM Bridget Bane

“Neurodivergent Community Building Program”

Major: Education Studies

Minors: Psychology, Sociology, Mild Interventions

Certificate: Behavior Analysis and Techniques

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sharon Parnin (Education)

11:00 AM Karen Chaparro

“The Melancholic Joy of Heritage”

Major: English

Concentration: Writing

Minors: French, Public Relations, and Women’s Studies

Certificate: International Studies

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Suzanne Rumsey (English)

11:30 AM Hailey Ewer

“Capturing the Sound: Challenges Live Sound Engineers Face in Live Music Venues”

Majors: Popular Music-Recording/Production and Music Industry

Minor: Business

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Barton Price (Music) Ronan Armstrong (Music)

12:00-1:00 PM Break (light refreshments will be provided)

1:30 PM Katherine Marx

“Philharmonic Philosophies: Standards of Orchestral Flute Performance Practice”

Major: Music Performance: Flute and Vocal

Faculty Mentors: Dr. John Romey (Music) Professor Luke Fitzpatrick (Music)

2:00 PM David Bresnahan

“Banking on Community: Does Community Bank Performance Spur Local Economic Growth?”

Majors: Business Economics, Money and Banking

Minors: Finance, Mathematics

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Zafar Nazarov (Economics and Finance), Dr. Heather Tierney (Economics and Finance), Dr. Nodir Adilov (Economics and Finance)

2:30 PM Mick Stewart

“Enhancing Student Interest in Engineering through Scalable Outreach Activities”

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Minor: Mathematics

Certificate: Bio-Mechanical Engineering

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Donald Mueller (Mechanical Engineering) Dr. Rebecca Essig (Engineering)

Noah Wright

“MIXtape EP”

Major: Popular Music (Recording & Production)

Minor: Music Industry

Faculty Mentor: Professor Ryan Tilby (Music) and Professor John Buteyn (Music)

Abstract

I seek to create a 5 or 6 song EP that demonstrates not only the skills I've acquired throughout my time at Purdue Fort Wayne, but also my diverse taste in music. The reason I aim to complete this project is not only to demonstrate what I've learned, but also offer myself a challenge to put the skills to the test and create my first really big project as a Music Production major. My biggest goal for this project is for each song to be different in genre, ranging anywhere from Reggaeton/Latin, to Indie/Alternative, Hip-Hop/RnB, and Synth Pop. While my goal seems simple in scope, some obstacles I will be sure to face in this project will be on the mixing/mastering side of things (making each song sound good and up to proper listening quality). I feel confident in my ability to produce 5 to 6 complete songs, but mixing and mastering them to a high quality will be the most challenging part of the process for me as I will also aim to work on them solely on my personal laptop rather than spend too much time in our Sweetwater campus studio. I want to demonstrate the basic knowledge I've learned while also pushing myself to mix and master the songs to the best of my ability. Another challenge will be to not procrastinate and tell myself I have a lot of time and push things off until March or April. I have a pretty good groundwork so far; I have one song pretty much completely produced (arranged but still needed to be mixed) and at least 3 or 4 halfway. Timeline: • End of February: Have 5 to 6 songs produced • Beginning of March: Start mixing of songs • Beginning of April: Start mastering of songs • End of April: Project completed. In terms of the research process, I will mostly be utilizing the textbook *Audio Production Tips: Getting the Sound Right at the Source* by Peter Dowsett as well as YouTube. I will be producing everything in the audio production software Studio One and mixing and mastering in ProTools. A majority of my songs will be based on samples I find in the audio sample software program Splice but I want to challenge myself to sing on at least 1 or 2 of the 6. I expect my results to be a decently-well composed EP (extended play) that showcases the several different genres I'm interested in. I hope to learn how well I can create 6 songs and what type of artists I can be creatively. Dowsett, Peter. *Audio Production Tips: Getting the Sound Right at the Source*. Focal Press, 2016.

Biography

Noah Wright is a 22-year-old from Elkhart, IN. As a Concord Community High School Alumni, Noah was involved in a range of activities over his four years, ranging from Cross Country, Swimming, and Track, to Marching, Jazz, Symphonic, and Pep Band. His love for music and athletics is what led him to choose Purdue Fort Wayne as his temporary home for the next four years as Noah applied to be a part of the Popular Music program at PFW as well as become a member of the D1 Cross Country and Track teams. Shortly before attending college (and just before the pandemic), Noah also began another passion of his, DJing. After attending a wedding of a friend and meeting his now boss, Noah began learning to DJ throughout 2020 and 2021, eventually DJing/MCing a handful of weddings on his own in 2022 to then DJing over a dozen weddings and other events like proms and company parties throughout 2023 with more to come this year. Noah seeks to incorporate music in any way he can in his life, whether that be through DJing or working to create music of his own with the knowledge he's acquired at PFW. Noah aims to pursue a career in the music industry once he graduates in May and find a space where he can entertain, cultivate new experiences, and grow with people around him. With his degree in Music Production and a minor in Music Industry, Noah strives to fuse the experience he has with DJing/MCing with the knowledge he's gained in music production by creating music of his own that he can eventually DJ for crowds. With his project, Noah hopes to showcase the love he has for several different genres and offer his audience a chance to listen to some of the very first songs Noah has completely written himself.

Madison Foreman

"Ending Endometriosis"

Major: Art and Design

Minor: Art History

Faculty Mentor: James Gabbard (Art and Design)

Abstract

Endometriosis is a chronic, incurable disease that affects 1 in 10 women. It is an extremely painful, fast-growing disease that can infiltrate the uterus, the appendix, ovaries and even go as far as to spread to the brain. The symptoms can range anywhere from bloating, fatigue, extreme cramping, back pain, painful intercourse and even go as far as to cause infertility. Each person with endometriosis can experience these symptoms differently, but it still majorly affects quality of life. Despite there being over 6.5 million women in the United States affected by endometriosis, there are still no cures, no solid, accurate medications and hardly any support from the medical world. Even being diagnosed with endometriosis is extremely difficult due to the fact that most medical professionals are quick to brush symptoms off as a "bad menstrual cycle." So, how do you "get" endometriosis? Endometriosis typically occurs when the endometrial-like tissue from the uterus grows outside of the uterus in places like the ovaries, intestines, appendix, rectum and more. However, there is little research on how women "get" endometriosis and why certain women get certain stages. As stated previously, there are no cures, but there are ways to keep it at bay and even subside pain for an unknown amount of time. Typically, these "band-aids" are done by IUDs, birth control, progesterone, ablation, excision surgeries, and even a partial or full hysterectomy. Despite all of these expensive treatments, endometriosis can still return and grow back more aggressive than before. It is vital that a cure is found quickly, as more and more women become affected by and diagnosed with endometriosis. Through visual imagery and communication, I hope to express what living with endometriosis is like and to provide tangible, simple ways to advocate for those who suffer. My intention is to leave viewers with a burden for women who experience endometriosis and to feel, even for a moment, what the symptoms could be like. The most effective outcome of this project would be that the audience could walk away better equipped and informed to discuss endometriosis and to fight for a cure. Each image shown in the presentation will correlate with research, statistics and quotes from that specific symptom or event. I hope to use my own personal experience with endometriosis as a way to relate my audience to my subject and to develop a connection between the two. Endometriosis, although chronic and incurable, is fought bravely by 1 in 10 women and we should step up and push for better, more affordable treatment and diagnosis.

Biography

Madison Foreman is a 22-year-old senior in the Art and Design Department at Purdue Fort Wayne. She will be graduating with an Art and Design major as well as an Art History Minor. She is extremely passionate about photography, traveling and spending time with the people that she loves. In this last year, she is extremely grateful for the opportunities given to her by Purdue Fort Wayne, the Honor's Program, and her department. Through them, she was able to travel to Italy, Panamá, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. She could not have been able to experience all of these places had it not been for the generosity and kindness of the Honor's program, her Dean, John O'Connell, and the Student Government. Through these opportunities, she grew as an artist, experienced vast cultures, and pushed herself to new limits in her art. Madison, during her time in college, was also able to attend a Creative Photography internship through Sweetwater Sound. This was extremely beneficial to her skills in photography and gave her the chance to meet new people, work with talented artists, and learn from some of the best photographers in Fort Wayne. This last semester, Madison was presented with the "Top 50 Students" award and was extremely thankful for this opportunity as well. After college, Madison hopes to find a creative photography job filled with a variety of tasks and challenges. In the fall semester of 2024, she started her own photography business and hopes that one day she can fully dedicate herself to it after gaining more real-world experiences. She also uses photography as a release from her chronic disease, endometriosis. She hopes that through visual communication, advocacy, and education she can empower others to learn and assist others with endometriosis. She also hopes that after her Honor's Showcase, she can show the completed images in an exhibition setting. Although balancing work, a crippling chronic disease and full-time college is extremely difficult, Madison has been able to accomplish her goals, travel and earn high grades despite the circumstances. However, she couldn't have ever done this without the constant love and support of her fiancé, her parents, others who walk with her in life, and the grace of God. Although she is excited for what's ahead after college, it is an extremely bittersweet goodbye, and she will always be thankful for the opportunities given to her throughout her time at Purdue Fort Wayne. She also would like to give a special thank you to her advisor, James Gabbard. Without his guidance and support she would have never seriously pursued photography, received a wonderful internship or gained the confidence and knowledge to enter galleries.

Emily Wentland

“Correlation of the Gene CG45002 with Obesity in *Drosophila melanogaster*”

Major: Biology

Associates: Chemical Methods

Certificate: Research

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Rebecca Palu (Biology)

Abstract

Obesity is a chronic, serious disease with a global impact. While we may have a good understanding of environmental influences on obesity, the genetic influences are less known. In our research, we used *Drosophila melanogaster* as a model organism. Loss of the adipokinetic hormone receptor (AKHR) in fruit flies induces obesity. This receptor is the analogue for the human glucagon receptor, with inhibition leading to a lack of fat breakdown. Fruit flies were chosen as a model organism because they have fast reproduction rates, short lifespans, low cost up-keep, and they share many of the same genes with humans. This means our research could lead to advances in human medicine and gene therapies. In the lab, we cross flies lacking *AKHR* with flies of the *Drosophila* Genetic Reference Panel (DGRP). The flies from the DGRP each have only one difference in their genome, allowing us to look at how that one specific difference influences the obesity of their offspring. We held environmental factors constant, as to only look at genetic influences on obesity. A preliminary Genome-Wide Analysis (GWA) was completed, and the next steps of our research will include a complete GWA on all the completed strains. Based on the preliminary GWA, ten top candidate modifier genes were identified. Of these genes, I will be conducting a literature review on the Intron; CG45002. This gene has many common human orthologs, including myotrophic lateral sclerosis, autosomal dominant intellectual developmental disorder 33, and spinal muscular atrophy. These are just a few of the conditions associated with this gene. A quick look at autosomal dominant intellectual developmental disorder 33 revealed that a common symptom is abnormal growth patterns, including decreased body weight. The goal of this review is to develop a better understanding of this gene's characteristics and interaction with the *AKHR* pathway. The results of this study will allow us to identify therapeutic targets and prognostic indicators in humans.

Biography

Emily will be graduating from Purdue University Fort Wayne in May 2024, with a bachelor's degree in biology, an associate degree in chemical methods, an honors certificate, and a biology research certificate. She will be going to vet school next year, pursuing her dream of becoming a veterinarian. Emily served as an active member and officer of the Agriculture & Pre-vet club during her time at PFW. She was on the Dean's list and honors for every semester of her college career and was recognized as a Top 50 Student two times. She has spent three semesters as an undergraduate research assistant in Dr. Palu's lab, working with *Drosophila melanogaster*. Outside of school, Emily works part time as a veterinarian assistant at an emergency and specialty hospital and part time as a dog handling assistant. She also does volunteer work with a local horse rescue, her county 4H extension, and as a therapy dog handler. Purdue Fort Wayne has given her so many opportunities, for which she will always be grateful.

Makaylah Hamm

“Effects of Sampling Time in Stress Physiology of Tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus*”

Major: Biology

Associates: Chemical Methods

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ahmed Mustafa (Biology)

Abstract

Fish welfare and performance in aquaculture systems has become an increasingly popular research topic. Several sampling protocols require the fish to be sampled within the first few minutes of being extracted from their environment to avoid their stress response altering results regarding their physiological or immunological parameters. However, this time limit is seemingly arbitrary.

Stress is anything that alters the body away from homeostasis, which is controlled by hormones such as adrenaline and cortisol. Adrenaline is pumped rapidly through the body to create a fight or flight response within seconds of a stressor. Cortisol takes some time to release from the adrenal glands after a stressful event but remains elevated for several hours following the stressor. Cortisol causes an increase in blood glucose to supply more energy and availability of substances to perform tissue repair. Red blood cell count also increases with stress as the fish manage to cope with higher oxidation levels. For these reasons, blood glucose and packed cell volume are good indicators of the level of stress an organism is experiencing.

In this experiment, we compared the results between Nile tilapia that were anesthetized immediately after extraction from their environment versus Nile tilapia that were anesthetized after fifteen minutes of handling stress. The goal of the experiment was to reason why fish should be sampled in a short amount of time after extraction. A comparison in physiological and immunological parameters was conducted to analyze the difference between six fish with no stress and six fish with fifteen minutes of stress. The fish that experienced a longer sampling time exhibited signs of stress through their higher glucose levels. However, there were no significant differences between the control and stressed group, indicating that Nile tilapia may be hardy enough to resist stress in the first fifteen minutes before sampling. Further research with a larger sample size should be conducted to suggest if prolonged sampling times cause a stress response in tilapia.

Biography

Makaylah graduated from Purdue University Fort Wayne in May 2024 with a Bachelor's in Biology, Associate's in Chemical Methods, and Honors Certificate. She is continuing her studies at Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine to pursue her dream job as a veterinarian. During her three years at Purdue University Fort Wayne, she was an officer for the Biology and Pre-Vet Club as well as an active member of Delight Women's Ministry, Tri-Beta Honor's Society, and her mentor, Dr. Mustafa's, research lab. Makaylah achieved Dean's List or Semester's Honors each semester. When Makaylah is not focusing on school-related activities, she is volunteering at Gigi's Playhouse as the cheerleading coach, working part-time as a veterinary assistant, or writing poetry. She has achieved certifications in wildlife conservation, diversity equity and inclusion, and advanced life support for cats and dogs. Through her passions, Makaylah initiated a non-profit youth cheerleading program in her home town and coached several cheerleading teams. She also started a small thrifting and upcycling business to promote shopping ethically and sustainably. Makaylah is very proud of Purdue Fort Wayne and thankful for the opportunities this community has granted her. After veterinary school, she plans to work full time at an emergency clinic and volunteer at local animal shelters and wildlife conservatories.

Marian Illa-Lynne Masson

“West German Occupation Memory 1945-1949”

Major: History

Minor: Political Science

Certificates: Peace & Conflict Studies and International Studies

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ann Livschiz (History)

Abstract

In the aftermath of World War II, the Western Allies of Great Britain, France, and the United States set up an occupation regime in western Germany. While the three occupation zones would eventually come together to form West Germany, before that point the occupation regime had control over the governmental decisions of the post-war state. This would include the formation of the collective memory of the war. Collective memory in history refers to how a culture retains and passes on memory of historical events from one generation to the next that allow for the formation of a cultural identity through these shared perceptions of historical events, it also includes discussion and analysis of how those cultural memories may be changed by internal cultural forces as well as external forces on the culture.

The occupation regime in western Germany following the war used several tactics to achieve their goals of forming the post war collective memory of the West German people. This included in the beginning legal proceedings of putting high ranking Nazi officials on trial, such as was seen at Nuremberg. Films showcasing the horrors of the Holocaust were also shown to the public as part of a reeducation campaign. The reeducation campaign would continue, being incorporated into a large denazification program that would include the rehabilitation of former Nazis into West German society and propaganda campaigns to disparage the return of similar sentiments in the German public. Other major programs included political reform of the West German state, which meant a supervised democratic system, as well as economic reform and rebuilding of the country.

The occupation regime however faced difficulties from the outset, and new ones would arise that would lead to contention on how to handle West Germany. In the beginning, the British and the French had their own occupation zones, but due to the damage they themselves suffered during the war, they had difficulty maintaining an occupation regime. Each also had their various approaches to handling the occupation and what they wished to gain from it and how they believed it was best to rebuild. Another major issue would be the beginning of the Cold War, and the rearmament of West Germany. This, largely an American effort, would also eventually be one of the reasons for the ending of the occupation regime and the formation of the full West German state. This too would impact collective memory and move West Germany into a new age.

In all, this research paper hopes to discuss the nature of the western allies and their occupation regime in western Germany, and how their policies and actions shaped West German collective memory of the war.

Biography

Marian Masson is a history major with a minor in political science and certificates in peace and conflict studies and international studies. Her research focus in history is on public memory of World War II with a specific focus on the public memory of the Holocaust. Other areas of interest include the study of the genocides of the 20th century that occurred after the Holocaust, international human rights law, Cold War international relations, and the history of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons testing. She hopes to one day have a career as a museum curator or director, allowing her to teach the general public about history outside of the usual classroom learning environment, and to be able to do so in a way that promotes critical thinking and engagement with history material.

Outside of school and career aspirations, Marian has a number of hobbies that she engages in. The largest is reading, loving both fiction and nonfiction books, she never leaves the house without a book in her bag in case she has some time to read a few more pages of her latest read. Her other largest hobby is collecting stationery. This includes things like notebooks, patterned tape and paper, stickers, pens, pencils, highlighters, and markers. She uses these for journaling, scrapbooking, and various art projects. Other hobbies of hers include sewing, collecting clothes and stuffed animals, embroidery, and playing rhythm games. She also always takes time out of her day to spend time with her two cats and dog. She also greatly enjoys spending time with her dad, engaging in history and political debates and discussion.

During her free time Marian also volunteers with GLSEN of Greater Fort Wayne, promoting acceptance, cooperation, and friendship between LGBTQ+ student organizations and between students and staff in Fort Wayne Community Schools.

Sydney Coyne

"The Irish Graveyard: The Men Behind the Paulding County Canals"

Majors: History and Anthropology

Minor: Business Studies

Faculty Mentor: Professor Deanna Wooley (History)

Abstract

In the early 19th century, land throughout the Midwest was surveyed to plan the canals that connected the nation. After surveying the best paths for the canals, it was decided that the intersection of the Wabash-Erie Canal and the Miami-Erie Canal would be within Paulding County, Ohio. This construction project attracted laborers from throughout Ohio and beyond. The work within Paulding County began with the construction of the Miami-Erie Canal in 1837, followed by the Wabash-Erie Canal in 1841. The construction of two canals simultaneously meant that Paulding County was in dire need of workers, so local farmers and residents joined forces with incoming laborers to complete the canals. The canals were completed in 1847, and Paulding County's residents were optimistic that these canals would allow the county to flourish. Junction, a canal town at the intersections of the two Paulding County canals, was projected to easily outgrow Fort Wayne. However, as maintenance costs soared and railroads swiftly became the nation's preferred means of transportation, Junction and other Paulding County towns rapidly declined. Despite the overall failure of the canal endeavor, the county saw a dramatic population jump. The canal project also assisted in establishing county leadership and easing tensions between Irish immigrants and Paulding County's founding families. The unique situation of Paulding County canal construction created interesting dynamics between the involved parties, and men like Alexander Latty rose to the occasion to keep the project afloat. After previously overseeing a section of the Miami-Wabash Canal, Latty was tasked with overseeing the construction of both Paulding County canals. Latty and his associates made decisions that would have lasting consequences for Paulding County's infrastructure, labor conditions, and local politics. The histories and motivations of people like Latty emphasize the importance of individual actors and their contributions. Their actions and intentions provide powerful insight into the conditions of canal construction and their lasting impact on Paulding County residents.

Biography

Sydney Coyne is a History and Anthropology major with a minor in Business Studies. In addition to participating in the Honors Program, Sydney was also selected to be a Chapman Scholar and a two-time Top 50 Recipient. Her academic interests include medieval history, public history methodology, the study of archaeological methods, and 20th-century art movements. Outside of class, she has served as a tutor, pep band member, orientation leader, tour guide, and Student Activities Board chair. In her free time, Sydney has enjoyed serving as a camp counselor and childcare volunteer in Paulding County youth programs. As a student at Purdue Fort Wayne, Sydney was able to explore career opportunities within the fields of history and anthropology. After interning with the Education Department at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Sydney uncovered her passion for teaching within the museum setting. Upon graduating from Purdue University Fort Wayne, Sydney will be attending Indiana University Indianapolis, pursuing a master's degree in Museum Studies.

Madison Kindler

“The Potential Impact of a Deviated Septum on Singing”

Major: Music Education

Concentration: Vocal

Minor: Theatre

Faculty Mentor: Dr. William Sauerland (Music)

Abstract

Up to 80% of people have a deviated septum. This research project analyzes the impact that a deviated septum can have on the singing voice of an individual with this feature. Inspired by her own journey as a vocalist with a more severe deviated septum, Madison reflected on her experiences as a vocal student at Purdue University Fort Wayne and analyzed how she struggled to phonate particular sounds in the way her voice teacher had desired. She could not achieve the sensation in her resonators in the way that her voice teacher initially presented it to her.

This research analyzes the human body, specifically the resonators, to determine how an obstruction in the nasal passage could affect the voice of an individual and how they are to produce desired sounds. This project contains a study with the Purdue University Fort Wayne voice faculty as its participants. The study was done through a survey containing questions over the faculty’s knowledge or assumptions on the deviated septum and the impact it may have on the singing voice. Voice teachers were also asked how they address the impact of a deviated septum in the singing voice of their students, if at all.

The purpose of this project is to find out what is known by researchers and local collegiate voice teachers about the deviated septum and its relation to the voice. The goals of this project are to bring to light the effects that a deviated septum can have on the singing voice and determine what further research may need to be done on this topic as it affects up the vast majority of the population.

Biography

Madison Kindler is a senior at Purdue University Fort Wayne (PFW) graduating in May of 2024 with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and a Minor in Theatre. She is actively working in the field of education as a student teacher and has volunteered her time in various school districts both in and surrounding the Fort Wayne area throughout her academic career. She has also enjoyed spending time as a volunteer assistant director with the Fort Wayne Children’s Choir and the Huber Junior Choir while pursuing her degree in music education. During her academic career, Madison served as the president of PFW’s chapter of the Collegiate National Association for Music Education (cNAfME), helping to revive the chapter after it had been almost lost due to covid’s impact. She is actively employed as a substitute teacher in the Fort Wayne South Bend Diocese Schools and as an Assistant Director at Wildcat Recreation Association. Upon graduation Madison plans to continue working in the field of education as a full-time performing arts instructor in the Fort Wayne area.

Branden Henry Lee

“Anticipating Future Family Structures”

Major: General Studies

Minor: Sociology

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Curt Hosier (Anthropology and Sociology)

Abstract

This research project, titled “Anticipating Future Family Structures,” will attempt to predict potential family structures in response to the ever-changing social norms and values in America. Social, economic, and technological changes will be looked at and used to predict how the family structure will look in the future based on the changes in the family structure in the past. Current social trends, norms, and values that are shaping the family structure will be analyzed. Key drivers and disruptive influences will be identified, and potential future family structures will be described through speculative predictions. Changing gender norms including roles and economic shifts brought about by these changes will be looked at in relation to how they change family relationships and structures. Newer family structures will also be looked at such as single parent families, LGBTQ families, childless families, and stepfamilies to identify potential challenges and opportunities as well as how they can alter social norms, cohesion, and a person’s overall well-being.

By attempting to predict future potential family structures in America, this project helps provide a potential understanding of where family structures are headed and how they can alter society as we know it. By understanding the changes, we can anticipate the future familial structure and the impact that it will have on society, allowing us to take proactive measures to help shape the transformations that are inevitable as well as give a general insight on how society will shape family dynamics and the overall well-being of Americans. Scholarly literature will be reviewed to understand the changes to the family structure and what societal changes happened that resulted in those familial structure changes. There will be multiple family structure scenarios that will be predicted based on critical factors such as technological advancements and projected societal changes. Based upon the predicted family structures, potential advantages and disadvantages will be analyzed for not only the individuals, but also for families, communities, and society in America.

Biography

Growing up in the inner-city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Branden knew that there had to be more to life than being subjected to violence and crime. He decided at the age of twenty-one to join the military and enlisted as a soldier in the United States Army. After serving honorably for a total of four years and a deployment to Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom for a twelve-month tour, his contract was up, and he began the search for a home in the country to have land and to be able to live a more sustainable life. After he discharged from the service, Branden knew he wanted to be able to help other veterans navigate returning to civilian life and decided to begin his journey to becoming a Veteran Service Officer. Branden enrolled into Purdue University Fort Wayne and has maintained a 4.0 GPA, taking 15 credit hours per semester while working a full-time job as a VSO for DeKalb County. Branden volunteers bi-weekly at Veteran Treatment Court in DeKalb County as part of the VTC team as well to help support veterans who are struggling in their personal lives. Branden is also a husband and father to four daughters, trying to live as sustainably as possible through raising chickens and growing as much food for his family as he can each year. He strives to not only give back to his community, but also to be compassionate to others. As a non-traditional student, attending school full-time while taking care of daily responsibilities and volunteering is not always easy, but it is something he does with satisfaction. While at PFW, Branden was invited to join The National Society of Leadership and Success, completing all of his steps, and being inducted. He has also volunteered with NSLS, cleaning up Mengerson Nature Reserve in Fort Wayne. Attending PFW has shown Branden that he also has a love for sociology, and it has encouraged him to continue his education to pursue a master’s degree, because having a better understanding of how society works allows him to continue to better understand others and how to better help them.

Nuraisha Mohd Hanif

“Analyzing the Rohingya Genocide in Burma through an International Law Perspective: The Crimes of the Powerful”

Major: Criminal Justice

Minor: Human Services

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Daniel Patten (Criminal Justice)

Abstract

Being a voice to assist people across the globe demonstrates that not everyone is terrible, and that religion still exists. These fellow targeted victims have been demonstrated via every platform throughout the years to provide peace and a place to live in with a little number of hopes and voices. Children under the age of eighteen, females, and men, as well as any other group targeted, deserve a fair trial. There are few studies or individuals in the globe who are aware of the genocide in Burma. The Muslim Burmese Rohingya are the major religious group attacked in this regard. Being a victim in your motherland makes you a tragic figure in a nation where blood is shed on the streets daily. Being a victim in a country that terrorizes the Rohingya daily has gotten worse over the years, with no aid from anybody thanks to the leader who took over the country and seeks to eradicate the term "Rohingya" in Myanmar. With that stated, social media, articles on the genocide circulated throughout the years as it began to gain more international attention, even with opinions and lies, those who conducted research revealed that Myanmar leader Aung Saan Su Gyi had lied about there being no genocide in Myanmar. Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya are still unable to live freely, peacefully, and fully in their nation, and continuous breaches of their fundamental rights underscore the Myanmar government's persecutory and genocidal goals. Will these Muslim Burmese Rohingya in Myanmar receive justice, or will this continue every day until my people are no longer present?

Biography

Each path in her experience as a first-generation student is an adventure of tenacity, willpower, and an unwavering desire for education. Growing up in a household where labor in factories was the key to success, she dreamed big of anything more than the comforting buzz of machinery. Being a Muslim Rohingya born in Malaysia, her life suffered from her inability to obtain citizenship—an unseen wall that entangled her way of life. There was no clear route to Purdue Fort Wayne; her parents had never heard of college and weren't able to offer one. However, she took control of her own luck in education. Her aspirations for a better life were driven by the hard work of her parents' factory job and the struggles of an immigrant family. Education served as a ray of hope and a map for her as she stepped into an unfamiliar place in the US. She made her way through the difficulties and unknowns with the intention of building a bright and fulfilling future. Her parents had given up everything to provide her with a brighter future in the United States. She took on the dual responsibilities of doing well in college and helping her family communicate in English. Their selflessness forced her to work extra hard so that her education would become a source of honor rather than a burden. Her unwavering search was not just self-motivated; it was a team effort and evidence of the tenacity of a family navigating the challenges of immigration. Purdue University provided her with a successful pathway to her career that her parents can take pride in. Maintaining a GPA of 3.5 reflects her dedication and effort, even amidst obstacles. Challenged and seeking improvement, the GPA reflects optimism and growth. Despite family support, she carved her own path through Purdue, refusing the limits of chance. She plans to enroll in law school and work as a lawyer for those who experience difficulties similar to those she experienced growing up. Her ability and persistence will guarantee that she succeeds academically and leaves a lasting impression in the field of law. Her story, from an immigrant household to a successful attorney in the future, is a motivational example of the value of education and resilience. She exhibits that anyone can achieve their aspirations with determination and hard work, regardless of how overwhelming the challenges may appear.

Bridget Bane

“Neurodivergent Community Building Program”

Major: Education Studies

Minors: Psychology, Sociology, Mild Interventions

Certificate: Behavior Analysis and Techniques

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Sharon Parnin (Education)

Abstract

This honor’s project pursued the possibility of creating space for those who identify as neurodivergent to connect and find community through a social program. The Neurodivergent Community Building Program was created intentionally, without goals of shaping behavior or having the expectation of normative behavior. Rather, an emphasis is placed on the importance of allowing teens to be together, with no pressure to behave in any way besides what makes them comfortable, which can be uncommon in other public spaces. The range of needs within the description for neurodivergent is wide. It includes individuals with autism spectrum disorder, sensory sensitivities, intellectual disabilities, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, and more. Each individual is entering with unique needs; that in order to feel comfortable in the program, need to be met. The goal of the Neurodivergent Community Building Program is that it will allow for a wide variety of needs to be met, all while maintaining the freedom of allowing the teens to be themselves. The program considers the multifaceted challenges that arise for individuals with disabilities, such as an increase in the risk of homelessness and a higher rate of college dropout, and acts as a preventative measure against those challenges through community building practices. It is important to understand the behavior of individuals in the program through the lens of sociological and psychological approaches. These help the foundation of the program stand strong in the belief that behavior is communication, and provide a space for these individuals to be heard, even in non-normative ways. Providing opportunities for individuals to be involved in the greater community outside of the program is a crucial element that will serve to network and assist teens in finding avenues of passion that can lead to purpose later in their life, creating barriers to the statistics currently facing those identifying as neurodivergent. Through the three pillars of the program: specific space, cultivating community, and growing to go, the Neurodivergent Community Building Program aims to empower teens to make a difference and make it known that they are important members of today’s world.

Biography

Bridget Bane is a senior at Purdue Fort Wayne majoring in Education Studies and minoring in psychology, sociology, and mild interventions. She is also earning a behavior analysis and techniques certificate upon graduation in spring of 2024. Throughout high school, Bridget was involved in clubs and groups that connected students involved in both general education and special education. Because of that, she has developed a passion for spreading the message of inclusivity and breaking down stereotypes that are often held that reinforce the continuation of ostracizing those with a physical, psychiatric, or intellectual disability. Throughout her college education, Bridget has gained experiences in multiple educational settings that serve a variety of needs. Seeing and working with children, students and adults at an autism clinic, and an alternative school, and recreational therapy center, Bridget has seen the need for more inclusive community spaces, inspiring her honor’s project. After graduation, Bridget plans to obtain a master’s degree in school counseling as it is her dream to be an elementary school guidance counselor. This honor’s project is special to Bridget because she knows it is something that will follow her the rest of her life. No matter where she goes, being able to foster community with individuals who are similar and different from her will continue to grow her awareness and appreciation of people’s unique stories and one-of-a-kind life. She is thankful for the opportunity to share about her program, developed based on research, with the goal of fostering community between teens who identify as neurodivergent. She believes this is just the beginning of her ability to help cultivate an inclusive community throughout Fort Wayne, and she is excited to develop her program further after graduation. Bridget would like to say a special thank you to her family and friends who have greatly impacted her life, supporting her throughout her education and inspiring her to continue pursuing her dreams.

Karen Chaparro

“The Melancholic Joy of Heritage”

Major: English

Concentration: Writing

Minors: French, Public Relations, and Women’s Studies

Certificate: International Studies

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Suzanne Rumsey (English)

Abstract

The Melancholic Joy of Heritage is a two-part literary project that explores the cultural impact Mexican and American society have on publishing and literature through an essay and a manuscript. The essay, titled “Publishing in the United States and Mexico,” explores how the publishing industry in the United States and Mexico reflects the values present within those societies. This essay analyzes the cultural differences between the two countries and how they affect distribution of authors’ works within a highly interconnected and globalized world. The United States and Mexico have their own national publishing standards, but globalization has had a large effect on how those standards were established and how they are currently changing. The significance of this change reveals the complex role American hegemony has in publishing, which consequently affects how authors are published within and across borders. These nuances are important to understand for anyone looking to publish internationally. “The Melancholic Joy of Heritage” is a collection of short stories and poems that explore the author’s identity as a Mexican American person living in the United States. In order, the entries in this collection are The Sugar Skull’s Smile, On the Road to Valladolid, En Camino a Valladolid, Hello Señor Tree, and How Do You Say, “I Love You?”. These texts focus on the traditions and rituals found in daily life and magnifies them to explore the role they have in the author’s life. This manuscript was created with the knowledge that there has been an increase in Latino representation in novels as publishing has expanded its markets. However, the current representation in the market has gaps in the stories it tells and the people it depicts, so this manuscript offers an additional voice. The combination of Spanish and English throughout the text shows the author’s bilingual upbringing is integral to how they perceive the world through a combination of their American and Mexican culture.

Biography

Karen Chaparro is an English Major with a minor in French, Public Relations, and Women’s Studies. She is an inspiring author who writes short stories and poetry in her free time. She was born in Mexico, but raised in the United States. She was raised in a bilingual household, so her cultural heritage is very important to her. Karen speaks fluent Spanish, French, and English. This is one reason why she often experiments with language in her writing. Karen is a voracious reader whose favorite genre is fantasy. She also enjoys reading poetry in her free time. Her favorite poet is Rosario Castellanos. Karen is a creative person who loves creating things whether it be through writing or cross-stitching. Her favorite thing to cross-stitch is cats. She is a very detail-oriented person who becomes deeply engrossed in any work she does. However, she is also an avid daydreamer, which is part of where she comes up with story ideas. Karen loves learning about different cultures and keeping up with global news. Throughout her time at Purdue, she has actively taken classes pertaining to language and culture and participated in many multicultural events on campus. She was also fortunate enough to study abroad at the Université de Caen in France. Karen has grown as a person thanks to the talented and kind people she has met at her university who have supported and challenged her. Karen is excited to apply what she has learned during her time at Purdue into her future plans and career.

Hailey Ewer

“Capturing the Sound: Challenges Live Sound Engineers Face in Live Music Venues”

Majors: Popular Music-Recording/Production and Music Industry

Minor: Business

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Barton Price (Music) Ronan Armstrong (Music)

Abstract

Live sound engineers face a multitude of challenges on a daily basis, as they are responsible for ensuring the quality of sound during live performances, events, conferences, and other occasions where sound reinforcement is needed. These challenges can range from technical difficulties to environmental factors at outdoor venues to the acoustics of the venue itself. In this project, I will be exploring these challenges to determine what steps are necessary to combat these challenges. My hypothesis is that acoustics are the most challenging for live sound engineers to face in a venue. I will be explaining how acoustics and sound works in a venue, what equipment is used to measure sound in a venue, providing data and charts and graphs to visually communicate the information gathered, and concluding what methods work the best for most venues. The strengths of this project are that I will have multiple specimens for study, and be able to explore the way sound works in the venues we as students use every day, which with my findings will allow future uses to be tailored to the best ability of the acoustics of each venue. My project is limited in that all of these spaces are indoors, and outdoor venues require different approaches for acoustic calculations because you are dealing more with the environment than indoor spaces do. I will be taking measurements of rooms commonly used on campus for live music, such as Auer Hall and the Recital Hall, as well as the Rehearsal Room and Tracking Room at the Sweetwater Music Center in order to create a larger participant pool. This will require the use of acoustic measurement software and a microphone that can be used to collect the acoustic data. Some obstacles that I anticipate include getting access to all of these spaces and being able to collect the necessary data to explain the acoustic issues in each space and what methods would be employed to combat them. I expect that with my results I will find that each space has some acoustic errors and that they can be easily remedied by using equipment that will allow for those errors to be corrected, as I expect for certain frequencies to ring out (to reverberate in the space and take longer to die out than other frequencies) and need to be corrected so that the overall sound is more flat (no one frequency sticks out more than another.) From this research I want to learn what kinds of issues acoustics can create for live sound engineers and what can be done to correct them to create the best live sound experience possible for an audience.

Keywords: acoustics, frequencies, flat, ring out

Biography

Hailey Ewer was born and raised in Peru, Indiana. She graduated from Peru High School at the top of her class, and has maintained a 3.9 GPA throughout her collegiate career. Hailey's interest in music began at a very young age. She started taking basic music lessons at 18 months old, which turned into piano lessons a few years later. From that time on, Hailey has been in some sort of music class and has been performing as a vocalist. At Purdue Fort Wayne, Hailey has participated in multiple shows and concerts, as well as recording workshops. Hailey was featured in an art exhibition in partnership with the Visual Arts programs that explored the art of the LP. This project and installation was one of the highlights of Hailey's time at Purdue Fort Wayne. She has worked in all walks of the music world, and plans to continue to do so as she grows her career at Sweetwater Sound, where she has worked for almost 3 years. Hailey hopes to continue to find the joy in creating music and sharing music with others as she steps into the professional world.

Katherine Marx

“Philharmonic Philosophies: Standards of Orchestral Flute Performance Practice”

Major: Music Performance: Flute and Vocal

Faculty Mentors: Dr. John Romey (Music) Professor Luke Fitzpatrick (Music)

Abstract

Beginning in the 18th century, distinct national styles of orchestral flute playing emerged in Europe. The German and French flute schools—the two most influential—diverged. The German style became known for a heavy sonic aesthetic and a strong, loud sound, not unlike a brass instrument. The French school, in contrast, valued timbral sensitivity and pushed the flute’s expressive capabilities akin to operatic vocal styles. National schools of pedagogy and performance developed from a variety of factors including national traditions, compositional taste, degree of isolation or connectedness to other countries, and the presence or absence of influential professional players. In the 20th century, developments such as instrument material and construction, recording technology, new concert spaces, and increased mobilization led to the convergence of previously differentiated styles into a single international standard. This international sound, I argue, grew in the neutral ground of the United States and spread around the world in the second half of the twentieth century. In this presentation, I argue that within the scope of Western orchestral performance practice, a current international standard of flute performance developed in the United States from the French style with some German influence. In this presentation, I dissect and perform excerpts from the standard orchestral flute repertoire by French and German composers. These curated examples condense a survey of differences in standards of orchestral flute playing based on their country of origin. I will also demonstrate the sonic and technical capabilities of a wooden flute made in the style of 18th-century models. All Western orchestras employed wooden flutes. In the 19th century, adoption of the 1847 metal Boehm model mechanism lagged in Germany but accelerated in France, a crucial distinction that impacted the standards of sound and projection for orchestral performers. In the performance of my selected excerpts, I will highlight differences in the philosophies of flute standards in French and German music. The aim of my research is to advocate for greater inclusion of historical performance practice education in tertiary institutions, including schools of music and conservatories. I conclude by summarizing why understanding this history is valuable to performers today.

Biography

Katherine Marx (soprano) is graduating this spring with her Bachelor of Arts in Flute and Vocal Performance from Purdue University Fort Wayne, where she has studied with Luke Fitzpatrick (flute) and Ashlee Bickley McCrory (voice). Katherine is also graduating with an Honors Certificate and the College Exemplar Award in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Born in Seattle, Washington, Katherine grew up in Boise, Idaho. She then attended a school of ministry in northern California and began her university studies at a local university. She transferred to PFW for her junior year to study in-person with Professor Luke Fitzpatrick, whom she had been taking lessons with remotely.

Katherine has a passion for ensemble as well as solo performance. She has appeared as a flute soloist with orchestra on two occasions and has held principal positions as a flutist in the Purdue University Fort Wayne Wind Ensemble, PFW Orchestra, Idaho All-State Band, MasterWorks Festival Orchestra, and the Boise Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, among others. She has regularly performed with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. In May, she will perform in the Artosphere Festival Orchestra in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She will attend the Eastman School of Music in the fall in pursuit of an Artist’s Diploma followed by a Master of Music in flute performance, where she will study with Bonita Boyd and Anne Harrow.

As a vocalist, Katherine enjoys a wide variety of art song, opera, and contemporary genres. She has held the roles of Miss Silverpeal in *The Impresario*, Aunt Sue in *Slow Dusk*, Clara in *Signor Deluso*, and Laurentia in *Captain Lovelock*. Upon graduating with her Master’s degree, Katherine plans to audition for an orchestral position as a flutist. She also has a passion for chamber music as well as teaching. Her favorite activities include knitting, reading, going on outdoor adventures, games of all sorts, cooking, baking, playing piano, traveling, and playing with her two cats.

David Bresnahan

“Banking on Community: Does Community Bank Performance Spur Local Economic Growth?”

Majors: Business Economics, Money and Banking

Minors: Finance, Mathematics

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Zafar Nazarov (Economics and Finance), Dr. Heather Tierney (Economics and Finance), Dr. Nodir Adilov (Economics and Finance)

Abstract

Community banks are supposed to play a vital role in the economy by providing financial services to localities, businesses, and people that are often overlooked by regional and national banks, giving these overlooked groups the opportunity for economic growth. This paper aims to further investigate this link by evaluating whether the financial performance of community banks plays a role in the economic expansion of the localities that they service. The format of this research is a longitudinal study of all community banks located within the United States over the course of the five years spanning from 2017 through 2021. The data analysis will be done at the county level, with the percentage change in real county gross regional product (GRP) regressed on the weighted average net income ratio of all community banks located within that county alongside other macroeconomic variables. The analysis will feature a one year lag between the bank performance and economic growth indicators since GRP is considered a lagging economic indicator. The goal of this research is to gauge whether community banks are incentivized to have mutually beneficial relationships with the areas that they service.

Biography

David Bresnahan is a senior at Purdue University Fort Wayne graduating in the spring of 2024. Throughout his time at PFW, David has participated in undergraduate research, presented at conferences, served as vice president for both PFW's Finance Society and Economics Club, and competed twice for Purdue University Fort Wayne's College Fed Challenge Team, helping the team place as semi-finalists in 2022. David will graduate with majors in Business Economics and Money and Banking alongside minors in Finance and Mathematics.

David currently works as a credit analyst at Community State Bank, a community bank located in Auburn, Indiana. In this role, David helps to assess the creditworthiness of entities seeking commercial loans and performs loan underwriting. In the past, David was a research intern at an economic development firm known as the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, where he helped to perform data analysis and provide information to strategic partners across Northeast Indiana. In the future, David plans on attending graduate school and pursuing a master's degree in data science, a field he is highly passionate about.

David serves as a small group leader for Grabill Missionary Church's Young Adult Ministry and volunteers at Community Harvest Food Bank when time permits. When not occupied with work and school, David enjoys spending time going on weekend drives, learning new skills, and spending time with his fiancée, Grace. They will be getting married in August of 2024.

Mick Stewart

“Enhancing Student Interest in Engineering through Scalable Outreach Activities”

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Minor: Mathematics

Certificate: Bio-Mechanical Engineering

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Donald Mueller (Mechanical Engineering) Dr. Rebecca Essig (Engineering)

Abstract

The goal of this project is to increase STEM student interest in engineering through the development and implementation of a curriculum of engineering-based activities. Each activity has a modified version of it that can be implemented depending on the age group present (elementary through middle school students or high school students) with the modifications being created based on existing state standards and expectations of students within their respective age group. Activities that are adaptable for different age groups will reflect the general knowledge of the students and their ability to understand various engineering concepts while still allowing them to engage with the activities without being discouraged. Each event where the project was implemented was already STEM based, so the goal of these activities was to increase student interest in engineering fields and careers specifically. The activities developed include a PV solar panel and wind turbine activity, a robotics engineering activity, and mousetrap car activity. These activities were all chosen to showcase a wide variety of engineering fields. The activities were held at the Future Leaders of T.E.C. and Sci-Tech events on the Purdue Fort Wayne campus, along with the City Life extra-curricular group in Fort Wayne. Procedure documents for each activity were created, allowing for university staff or any student hosting an engineering outreach event to have access to activity resources and procedures for future use. Observational data and activity feedback from participating staff and program leaders was recorded to adjust the activities and heighten their effectiveness for future implementation.

Biography

Mick Stewart is a Senior Chapman Scholar from Warsaw, Indiana who is majoring in mechanical engineering. He is planning to graduate in spring 2024 with a bachelor's in mechanical engineering along with a minor in mathematics and certificate in bio-mechanical engineering. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) group on campus.

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