

**GREAT PLAINS HONORS COUNCIL  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

# **Honors Transcending Borders**



**April 10-12, 2015  
South Padre Island, Texas**

**Host institution: University of Texas Pan American**

**Conference Hotel: Isla Grand Beach Resort**

Early Registration: \$115/125 (GPHC member/nonmember)

Late registration: \$125/135 (GPHC member/nonmember)

Hotel conference rate: Cabanas \$85/night; Condos \$170

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Schedule at a Glance .....                  | 3     |
| Guide to the Isla Grande Beach Resort ..... | 4     |
| Walking Tours .....                         | 5     |
| Boe Awards .....                            | 6-7   |
| Poster Sessions and Abstracts.....          | 8-18  |
| Oral Presentation.....                      | 19-35 |
| Banquet and Awards.....                     | 36    |
| Index of Participants.....                  | 36-46 |
| Plenary Speakers .....                      | 48-49 |
| Conference Planners and Volunteers.....     | 49    |
| Acknowledgements .....                      | 50    |



## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

All sessions take place at the Isla Grand Beach Resort (IGBR), unless otherwise noted.

### Friday, April 10

- 1:00-5:30 p.m.** Conference check-in (IGBR: Hotel Lobby)  
Walking tours (meet in hotel lobby)
- 5:45 p.m.** Mexican Buffet and Plenary: Palmview High School: Mariachi “Los Lobos”, Ms. Mayra Garcia  
(IGBR – Outdoor Patio)
- 8:00 p.m.** Boe Presentations
- Boe Award Winners—60 or fewer earned credit hours:**  
**(Majestic Meeting Room)**  
*Daryl Bagley* Harding University  
*Genesis Barrera* Tarrant County College Southeast  
*Megan Gallego* Lone Star Tomball College
- Boe Award Winners—60 or more earned credit hours:**  
**(Royal Meeting Room)**  
*Michael Buonaiuto* Oral Roberts University  
*Stephani Clevenger* McLennan Community College  
*Brittany Wright* McLennan Community College
- 9:00 p.m.** Poster Session (Ballroom Foyer)
- 9:00 p.m.** Executive Committee Meeting

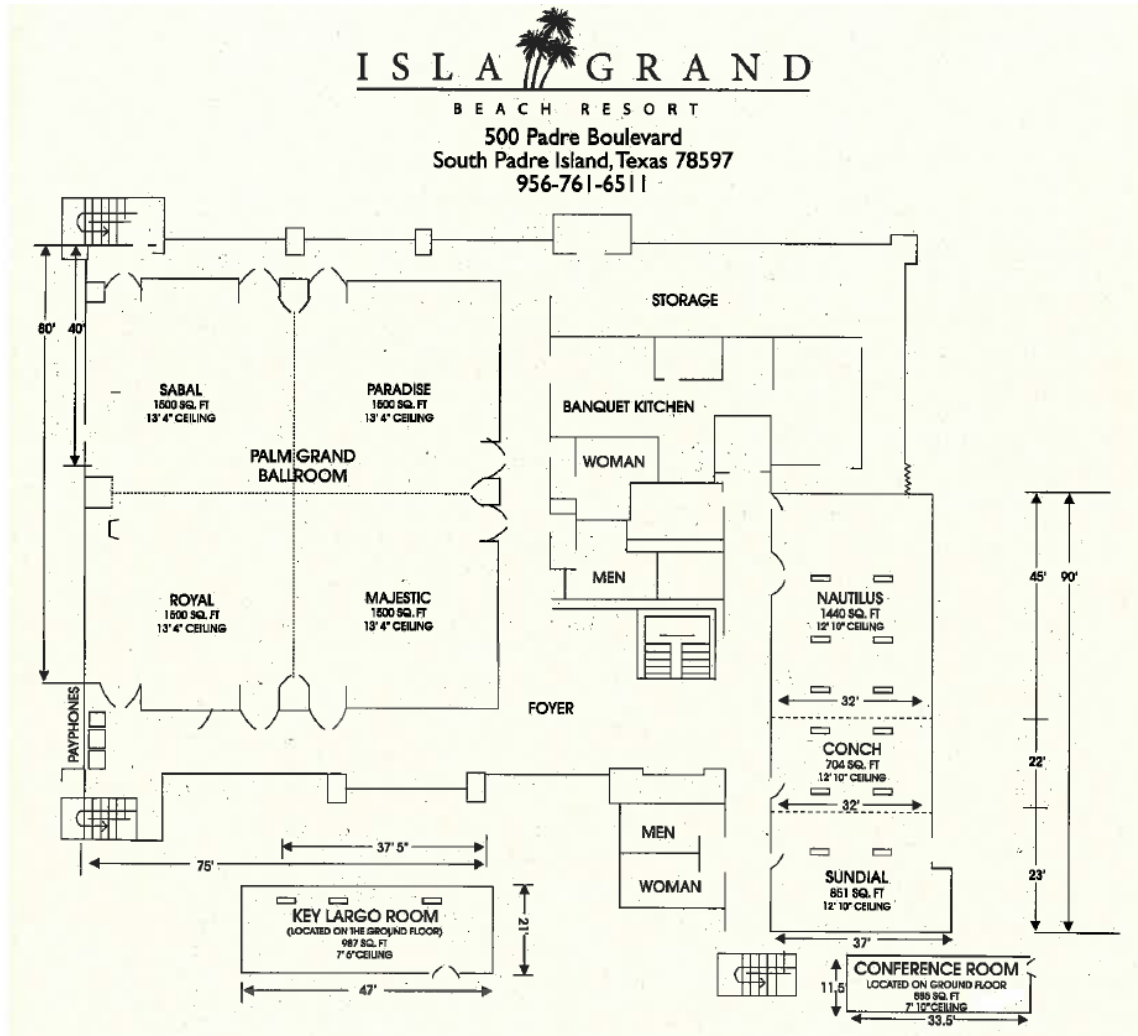
### Saturday, April 11

- 8:00-8:50 a.m.** “A” Sessions, Individual/Panel Presentations
- 9:00-9:50 a.m.** “B” Sessions, Individual/Panel Presentations
- 10:00-10:50 a.m.** “C” Sessions, Individual/Panel Presentations
- 11:00-11:50 a.m.** “D” Sessions, Individual/Panel Presentations
- 12:00-12:50 p.m.** “E” Sessions, Individual/Panel Presentations
- 11:00-1:50 p.m.** “F” Sessions, Individual/Panel Presentations
- 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Banquet, Plenary Speaker and Awards Ceremony  
**9:00 -11:00 p.m.** Student Activity

### Sunday, April 12

- 7:30 a.m.** GPHC Business Meeting (IGBR: Majestic? Private Dining Room)

# GUIDE TO THE ISLA GRAND BEACH RESORT



Coffee Hut and swimming pool: first floor

Restaurants: Windjammer's Beachfront Café; Hammerhead Deck;

Pool Side: Whiskey Shack Poolside Bar (Seasonal)

Hungry Surfer Poolside Grill

Fitness Center, Exterior East of Pool area.

First-floor access to elevators: to the left of the resort entrance, north of check-in

Business Services: First Floor

## **WALKING TOURS**

**Friday, April 10**

To take part in one (or more) of the walking tours, assemble in the raised seating area of the hotel lobby prior to the departure time for your chosen tour. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing for walking.

**1:00 p.m. Coastal Studies Lab**

**1:00 p.m. The South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center**

**Location:** 6801 Padre Boulevard, South Padre Island, TX 78597

**Hours:** open daily from 9 am to 5 pm

**1:00 p.m. Sea Turtle Inc.**

**Location:** 6617 Padre Blvd. South Padre Island, TX 78597

**Hours:** Open from 10 am - 4 pm Tuesdays through Sundays (Closed Mondays). In the summer months, our hours are extended from 10 am - 5 pm.

**We ask for a donation of \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children over the age of 4.**

**1:00 p.m. The Original Dolphin Watch.**

**Location:** at the Sea Ranch Marina (within walking distance of the Isla Grande),  
(956)761-4243

**Hours:** Dolphin Watch Eco-Tour: Departure 1:30 – Return 3:30 Adults \$16:00. You may wish to call for your reservations ahead of time.

## BOE AWARD-WINNING PRESENTATIONS

Friday, April 10, 8:00-8:50 p.m.

### Boe Awards Over 60 Credit Hours

Royal Meeting Room

Moderator: Dr. Virginia Brackett, GPHC President

Wright, Brittany

McLennan Community College

“Sex Sells: A Study of Sex Appeal and Social Economics.”

Abstract

Clevenger, Stephani

McLennan Community College

“Frequency of Threespot Damselfish, *Stegastes planifrons*, and Staghorn coral, *Acropora cervicornis*, in relation to percent coverage of coral White Band Disease in Roatan, Honduras.”

Abstract

Buonaiuto, Michael

Oral Roberts University

“Precipitation Forecasting with Gamma Distribution Models for Gridded Precipitation Events in Eastern Oklahoma and Northwest Arkansas”

An elegant and easy to implement probabilistic quantitative precipitation forecasting model that can be used to estimate the probability of exceedance (POE) is presented. The model was built using precipitation data collected across eastern Oklahoma and northwest Arkansas from late 2005 through early 2013. The data set includes precipitation analyses at 4578 contiguous, 4 km x 4 km grids for 1800 12-hour precipitation events. The data set is unique in that the meteorological conditions for each 12-hour event were relatively homogeneous when contrasted with single point data obtained over months or years where the meteorological conditions for each rain event could have varied widely.

Grids were counted and stratified by precipitation amount in increments of 0.05 inches (1.27 mm) up to 10 inches, yielding histograms for each event. POEs were computed from the observed precipitation distributions and compared to POEs computed from two gamma probability density functions ( $\alpha = 1$  and  $\alpha = 3$ ). The errors between the observed POEs and gamma computed POEs ranged between 2% and 10%, depending on the threshold POE selected for the comparison. This accuracy suggests the gamma models could be used to make reasonably accurate estimates of POE, given the percent areal coverage and the mean precipitation over the area. Finally, it is suggested that the areal distribution for each event is representative of the distribution at any point in the area over a large number of similar events. It then follows that the gamma models can be used to make forecasts for the probability of exceedance at a point, given the probability of rain and the expected mean rainfall at that same point.

## Boe Awards Fewer than 60 Credit Hours

Majestic

Moderator: Dr. Guy Litton, GPHC President-Elect

Bagley, Daryl

Harding University

“An Explanation and Evaluation of Various Theories on the Gender Difference in Mathematics”

The goal of this paper is to identify, explain, and evaluate various explanations for the gender gap in mathematics.

This paper evaluates explanations in the cognitive, humanist, socio-cultural, and biological levels of analysis. Cognitive theories consider increased male competition, risk-taking, mathematical reasoning, and spatial ability as causes for the gap. Humanism claims that women's priorities are different from that of men. Socio-cultural explanations include the idea of low female confidence, math anxiety, romantic desirability, and the stereotype threat. Biological psychology claims that brain structure differences create the gap.

The sources for this paper include psychological journals, books, contemporary articles, and psychological studies. The sources were evaluated critically and compared against one another. In conclusion, the gap has many causes. Because doing math is a cognitive process, there must be some cognitive difference. While there may be some biological influences, socio-cultural factors contribute to the majority of the gender gap.

Barrera, Genesis

Tarrant County College Southeast

“An Aristotelian Analysis of *Androids*”

At a time when the fate of man and machine are increasingly intertwined, the practical wisdom of classical philosophy is paramount to the preservation of society. In a civilization experiencing rapid technological advancement, the study of the nature of the soul and its relation to the philosophy of mind has become imperative to developing a more comprehensive understanding of what it means to be human. A standard in the genre of science-fiction, Philip K. Dick's 1968 novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* provides a grim and foreboding vision of the consequences humankind will encounter as it inevitably evolves more powerful technologies. I take a contemporary interpretation of Aristotelianhylomorphism as a functionalist and naturalist philosophy, which serves as the foundation from which themes from Dick's novel are carefully deconstructed. In doing so, I distinguish the faculties of the soul and explore the ethical quandaries posed by the emergence of superintelligent technology. As research in artificial intelligence presses on, scientists and philosophers continue to probe the ethical implications of such sophisticated technology. Aristotelian analysis of the soul creates a distinction between mind and mechanism as computer technology becomes increasingly complex in humanity's endeavor to create superintelligence. Mankind stands at the frontier of a technological revolution with incredible possibilities. Whether we utilize that technology to transcend the borders of our limited understanding of humanity is entirely in our hands.

Gallego, Megan,

Lone Star Tomball College

“Fiction Reflects Reality: A Study of White Dominance in *Pym*, *Song of Solomon*, and *Fences*.”

White dominance is an issue that has been embedded in society for generations. It has confounded those who seek to study it and those who seek to dismantle it. The effects of white dominance can easily be observed by inspecting the mistreatment and exploitation of those who are not deemed white. In the work by Tema Okun, *The Emperor Has No Clothes: Teaching About Race and Racism to People Who Don't Want to Know*, dominance refers “to hegemony, the power of one group to make the rules not only for itself, but also for the people and groups that it influences and/or dominates” (xii). With this definition in mind, it is easier to understand the breadth of such control. Though its power has been somewhat curbed, white superiority still poses an obstacle for a number of people.

## POSTER SESSIONS

Friday, April 10, 9:00-9:50 p.m.

**Daniel Aragón**, University of Texas-Pan American

“Circadian Modulation of Intermediate-Term Memory of Associative Conditioning in *Lymnaea stagnalis*”

Recent published research indicates that a biological clock may have an effect on memory formation in at least some animals. Experimentation by other researchers on the gastropod, *Aplysia*, shows that operant conditioning is most effective in the early hours of subjective morning. In the current work, we assess circadian effects of intermediate-term associative memory (ITM) in *Lymnaea*, a widely used species in memory research. We have found an unexpected increase of ITM in the late day and propose that this may be associated with nocturnal behavior and accompanied by circadian regulation of phosphatase activity.

**Haleigh Arent**, Angelo State University

Cost-Effectiveness of Pre-Adoption Treatment of Canines with Heartworm Disease in Rescue Organizations

Heartworms are an increasingly prevalent disease in the United States. This study collected data for a six month period from four rescue organizations in the state of Texas about their current policy on treating heartworms in canines. Most require all animals be deemed completely healthy by a licensed veterinarian before being put up for adoption. Data analysis studied whether this course is cost-effective based solely on income from adoptions. The results of the research concluded that organization size influences the treatment policy, with the number one determinant being funding. To maintain this particular operating procedure additional income is essential.

**Lea Baumert**, West Texas A&M University

“Dmitri Shostakovich and Musical Irony”

Musical irony reflects critical thoughts that a composer harbors through melodic or harmonic nuance. Dmitri Shostakovich, a Soviet composer of the 20th century, artfully used this tool to express his criticisms even under the firm controlling grasp of Stalinist Russia. A prodigy musician from a young age, Shostakovich wrote music from the time he was a child until long after retirement. Through his compositions, Shostakovich learned of the importance of truthful musical expression. He detracted from the standard of creating all arts to glorify Russia, and secretly depicted the dark turmoil that was reality for the Russian population.

**Joshua Collins**, West Texas A&M University



**“Understanding Net Neutrality: A Three-Party Debate at the Heart of the Open Internet”**

Net neutrality is the belief that any supplier of telecom data should treat all media and information on the Internet equally, without any discrimination towards the content or the consumer, which is currently not the case in America as telecom companies are creating hefty restrictions on the Internet for profit. This presentation seeks to understand each side of the net neutrality debate and find a solution by briefly inspecting the history of the internet, thoroughly defining net neutrality and its opposition, interpreting the alternatives to an open internet, viewing foreign policies, understanding possible solutions, and observing previous open Internet debates.

**Sarrysa Eaves, Southeastern Oklahoma State University**

**“Structural Activity of AG311 and Its Efficacy on Resistant Lung Cancer Cells”**

We tested a novel small molecule, AG311, which results in rapid cell-death of breast-cancers. The study’s goals were to determine structural-components necessary for anticancer activity of AG311 and whether AG311, its analogs and conventional agents, were equally effective against lung-cancer. EC<sub>50</sub> values and activity of AG311 and its analogs were measured to determine optimal structural-components necessary for AG311 activity. EC<sub>50</sub> values were measured for AG311, its analogs and positive-control compounds to determine efficacy against lung-cancer cells. AG311 was found more effective than traditional agents against EGFR-resistant lung-cancer. AG311 may provide a new treatment option for resistant lung and breast cancers.

**Lauren Fennimore, Texas Woman’s University**

**“The Connection between Music, Memory, and Emotion”**

When an individual listens to a song while experiencing a life-impacting situation, a connection is created between the memory of the situation, the emotion felt, and the song heard. This connection is formulated through the use of a series of complex neural systems that lead to the association of a particular memory to a musical stimulus. An exploration of the processes of the brain, effect of consciousness and subconsciousness on the recall of connections, relation to associationism in the formation of these connections, and the beliefs held in the study of music and the brain is inspected in this poster.

**Yoana Flores, Texas A&M International University**

**“Ever wonder what can improve your memory?”**

A study done by the University of Columbia proves that regular, moderate exercise not only maintains blood pressure and weight, but also helps everyone feel more energetic, lowers stress, and keeps memory to the max of its capacity. Researchers found that exercise stimulates brain regions involved in memory function to release a chemical called brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF). BDNF rewires memory circuits so they work better. Memory loss increases as one ages and one way to retain that from happening and strengthen everyone’s memory is through exercise. The purpose of this poster presentation is to make the public aware of the benefits of regular exercise and encourage to live a brain-healthy life style that may be able to prevent memory disorders like Alzheimer’s disease.

**Norma E. Garza & Gabriela Mejia Villarreal, The University of Texas Pan American**

**“Who Hates Politics? Attitudes Towards Politics Mediates the Link Between Internal Political Efficacy and Political Participation”**

Within our region, political participation has remained below the national average, especially among young adults and Latino voters. Only 25.4% of young Texans voted in the 2012 Presidential Election (U.S. Census Bureau, 2013). Based on previous research (e.g., Condon and Holleque, 2013), we expected internal political efficacy to be associated with political participation in online and offline settings. We expected the efficacy—participation relationship to be statistically mediated by aversion toward politics. An online, cross-sectional survey was administered to a sample of students ( $N = 246$ ). Correlational results supported that low internal efficacy heightens aversion towards politics, reducing political participation.

**Ida Haefner**, Missouri Western State University

“A Look at Species Diversity Under Cover Boards in the Various Forest Successions of Otoe Creek Natural Area”

Data was collected in the Otoe Creek Natural Area of organisms found under cover boards in different successions of the forest on our campus. The data shows: the succession of the forest is statistically significant to the species richness, species abundance, and Shannon Diversity. One of the more common species, the pill bug, had an abundance that was statistically significant to the season. A future project would be to add the data from the other biology classes that have collected data from the cover boards. More research should also be collected in the summer and winter months.

**Hannah Hagler**, Texas Woman’s University

“Food for Thought: An Investigation on Food Waste”

This study investigates an on-campus cafeteria in order to answer the question, “How much food do people throw away?” The cafeteria is the only venue that accepts the school’s weekly meal plan and has an “all-you-can-eat” buffet system. Food waste is a major issue in America today, since 19.5% of the waste buried in landfills comes from food scraps and about 25% of the American food supply is wasted. The information collected during this investigation sheds light on the issue of food waste in a university setting and helps recommend and inspire efforts to reduce that waste in the future.

**Sarah Harrington**, Emporia State University

“Irish Folk Music and Its Effects on American Culture”

While Irish music is known around the world, its characteristics and influence is found especially in American popular and folk music. Characteristics of this music (fast rhythms, modal harmonies and ornamentation) reflect Ireland’s rustic charm and origins. It is central to Ireland’s culture, especially in wakes and weddings, and preserves old tradition. In American culture, these ideas and sounds occur in Bing Crosby’s music and in the Bluegrass, Country, and Folk-Rock genres. Irish music first came to America through immigrants escaping the 1800s potato famine, and had a revival in the 1960s that continues today.

**Melody Howard**, McLennan Community College

“Nourish, Flourish and Savor”

The main goal in this study is to determine college students’ choices and intentions behind their food choices. Many students are uneducated in areas of making beneficial food choices (Jordan, 2012). In this study, the researcher partnered with the campus cafeteria in preparing nutrient dense menu options in addition to regular menu items. The results of this study examine whether college students were willing to make better nutrition decisions when they were given healthier options.

Jordan, Victoria. "Students Adopt Unhealthy Lifestyles During College Years." Monmouth University Outlook. N.p., 17 Oct. 2012. Web. 09 Jan. 2015.

**Cheyenne Kelley**, McLennan Community College

“Veteran Services in Higher Education: Increasing Veteran Engagement”

The growing number of veterans returning from service and attending college has raised the question of how to adequately provide services on college campuses to assist veterans in transitioning to higher education. The purpose of this study is to determine what colleges and universities are doing to increase veteran engagement as the veterans pursue higher education opportunities. In this study, focus groups were conducted to allow for student veteran involvement. Determining the best way to assist veterans will benefit a variety of populations at colleges, including faculty, staff, non-veteran students, and veteran students.

**Luke Langston**, Emporia State University

“Game Theory Applications in Economics”

This poster will take a look at what perspective game theory can provide on these oligopoly theory and bargaining theory, and how it can lend itself to successful prediction, what properties can be shared, and what game theory can help to solve in certain economical systems. The classic prisoner will be illustrated and what potential problems and solutions it provides for game theory. An overview of how a prediction can be set, what influences the prediction, and how trustworthy the prediction can be will be illustrated alongside some application in a few of the more basic situations.

**Margaret Lee**, Missouri Western State University

“Reasons of Sport Participation and Physical Activity Enjoyment between High School Athletes and Speciation Status”

The goal of this poster is to inform the audience that youth athletes who participate in a single sport (“specializers”) are often thrust into highly structured and competitive environments which may foster burn out and negative feelings regarding athletics, and general physical activity. Previous research has indicated that youth athletes who participate in multiple sports report higher levels of physical activity enjoyment than specialized athletes. I examined whether high school athletes who specialize in one sport differ in their physical activity enjoyment compared to athletes who play multiple sports.

**Alyssa McGill**, Emporia State University

“Power in Relationships”

This project mines the literature to explore for possible relationships between the unequal distributions of power in intimate dyads with the rates of domestic violence in those dyads. My hypothesis is that the unequal distribution of power will result in increased levels of domestic violence. The findings do not support this hypothesis. Rather, exposure to domestic violence in childhood, variables related to social class, and heightened levels of relationship dissatisfaction emerged as the major predictors of domestic violence in dyadic relationships. The implications are discussed.

**Jazmine Mendez**, Tarrant County College

“Celebrity Worship”

Many of us have gone to admire a celebrity. Unknowingly, some of us have gone to the extent of “worshipping” a celebrity- which is actually a psychological problem. Known as Celebrity Worship Syndrome, this condition describes extreme cases of celebrity obsession. Cases where people will do anything to fulfill their obsession. Resembling addiction, this syndrome has led to serious problems- such as a One Direction fan, reportedly, killing her dog after not getting followed by the band on Twitter. The purpose of this presentation is to focus on the psychological aspect of a “fan girl,” and distinguish admiration from obsession.

**Savannah Molina**, Tarrant County Community College Northwest  
“The Problem with Human Trafficking”

Human Trafficking is a form of modern slavery, where the captors make a profit by exploiting their victims. Human trafficking is still prevalent in today’s modern times, especially in the United States. Traffickers will use violence, threats, and other horrible measures to ensure that the victim can and will not leave their business. In The United States sex trafficking can be linked largely back to online escort business and brothels. The two main reasons for the spread of human trafficking are high profits and low risk. Just like every other business around the world, this market grows because of the supply and demand for the selling of people. Statistically speaking, in 2014, there were 3,840 reports of human trafficking cases in The United States, and 16,558 calls for the suspicion of human trafficking. Texas was the second highest state that had reports of sex trafficking, falling only behind California. Out of the 3,840 cases in 2014; 3,162 were female, and 522 were male. I would like to explore various statistics and studies that many organizations have made public to help raise awareness for this growing industry. Organizations such as The Polaris Project, and more locally, Coalition Against Human Trafficking have made it their mission to raise awareness and to ultimately stop the disgusting business of human trafficking.

**Macy Owen**, McLennan Community College  
“Profitable Environmental Stewardship: A Sustainability Plan for Uswirl Waco”

The primary objective of this study is to discover solutions for diverting waste in an environmentally responsible manner at a local level. This problem will include a comprehensive sustainability audit to maximize profit through sustainable practices at Uswirl in Waco, Texas. It includes an evaluation of spending practices, research on innovative techniques that sustain the environment, and a proposal of the most viable options that would return a profit. The results of this study could be used in similar industries as a model for profitable sustainability practices.

**Emilee Peterson**, Redlands Community College  
“Impact of Bio-fertilizer Application on Annual Warm-Season Grass Growth and Chemical Composition”

Soil contains reserves of nutrients needed for plant growth. The soil’s microbial population serves as the catalysis for release of bound nutrients for utilization by the plant. The area around the plants roots has a different microbial and nutrient environment than the general soil profile. A healthy rhizosphere increases root growth, nutrient uptake, and plant health. Commercial inorganic fertilizer is more soluble, consist in nutrient density, and available quicker than organic fertilizer, but is susceptible to leaching and negatively altering the soil environment. The objective was to compare annual sorghum forage production using inorganic fertilizer or bio-fertilizer.

**Sarah Pressman**, McLennan Community College  
“Psalmody: A Study of the Musical and Liturgical History of the Psalms”

Music is a major part of cultures; studying it helps to uncover how the past influences the future. There is no known musical notation for the Psalms recorded from the ancient Hebrews. However, there is some available knowledge that can provide an idea of how they might have sounded. Fortunately, there is a good amount of information known about ancient Hebrew poetry; researching the Psalms in that light should provide valuable insight into the original sound. This can serve as a valuable method to research individual psalms and help further the search for knowledge on ancient music.

**Leslie Reyna**, The University of Texas at Tyler  
“Within Your Reach: The Importance of Studying Abroad”

Globalization is a force that has changed not only how individuals see each other but how society functions. Although many of students seek information from the internet to provide us with tools to deal with globalization, firsthand experience is more valuable. In order for students to be able to compete and succeed in this globalizing job market, they need to experience what it is like to live and study in another country. Although the overall number of U.S. students studying abroad has increased from 129,770 to 289,408 in the last fifteen years, less than 10 percent of U.S. students study abroad during their academic career. In the summer and fall of 2014, I created a documentary film called *Within Your Reach* in collaboration with two friends. My presentation will feature scenes from our documentary and demonstrate the importance of studying abroad through the stories of those who have experienced it.

**Sawyer Ricard**, Angelo State University  
“Usability of Video-Based Website Designs”

Usability of websites has been explored in various studies throughout the past several years. Most of the studies were done over websites with a content consisting of various texts which led to the pattern in which content is placed along the top and sides of a page. As there has been little research over the layout of a website whose content relies mostly on videos, it was difficult to determine what ‘rules’ the designers should follow for these sites. In this study, it was hypothesized that there was a pattern for video-based websites similar to that of other websites.

**Rebekah Lynn Rodriguez**, Tarrant County College – Northeast  
“Real Life Reflected Through the Arts”

The purpose of this project is to illustrate that though art contains endless freedom, artists tend to portray things that reflect life that is displayed all around us. Through the beliefs of Theodor Adorno, Aristotle, Plato, and Leo Tolstoy, I strive to prove this concept and change my viewer’s ways of looking at the art in and around them in everyday life. Whether it is by a shadow covering a person’s face, the difference of the original song versus the new cover, or simply by including trees or realistic people, art is constantly influenced by the world we live in.

**Renet Roy**, Texas Woman’s University  
“The Effects of Mouse Cytomegalovirus on Genes Regulating Cholesterol Synthesis”

Human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) has been linked to atherosclerosis, but the mechanism is unknown. Although it is known that the infection increases lipid synthesis in human fibroblasts, the role of atherosclerosis has not been evaluated. The hypothesis is that mouse CMV will up-regulate the genes

inducing lipid synthesis and present researchers with a model for further study of CMV's role in atherosclerosis. If the hypothesis is proven, MCMV and mouse models could be used to find the role of CMV induced lipogenesis in atherosclerosis as well as the effect of antiviral medication in atherosclerotic tissue.

**Savo Rujak**, Tarrant County College Northwest Campus

“Could it be better?”

America is a country where the free market reigns and almost every field is seen as a business, but is this really the best system? Are you and your family's health, education, and overall stability things that should be left in the hands of private entities? I will create a poster displaying the benefits of a social democracy where heavy taxation is reciprocated with numerous benefits to the people of a nation. I will exemplify such benefits by citing certain existing examples such as the healthcare system of France and things like paid parental leave, paid sick leave, and paid unemployment that most social democracies provide. I will show how social democracy enables people to more easily advance in social class instead of remaining stagnant at the class of their family. I seek to display how people in social democratic countries get to enjoy more leisure time than the people of America while still maintaining a higher disposable income. I will create the argument using various statistical and informative sources that without the stress created by the exorbitant prices of things like healthcare and education in America, in addition to having less of one's life dominated by their career, that all people, rich and poor are ultimately happier under a social democratic system of government.

**Anne Scheckle**, Emporia State University

“Printing Before Gutenberg”

This poster will show predominant areas of growth in early printing in Asia. The history of printing is often taught in schools beginning with the invention of Gutenberg's press in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. This is not in error, as it was a revolutionary advancement; however, printing has been traced back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Woodblock printing was founded in China. Buddhist monks developed and spread it through Asia most predominantly China, Korea, and Japan. Chinese printers developed movable type long before Gutenberg's birth. The history of printing can be a fascinating subject deserving of study for its own sake.

“Analysis of the Chemical Mechanism and Structure of Oritavancin”

With the rising prevalence of Methicillin resistant and Vancomycin resistant microbes, researchers are seeking new ways of combatting these “super bugs.” The increase of resistant bacteria poses a significant threat to the general welfare, especially as most cases of resistant bacteria are contracted from medical facilities. A new antibiotic called Oritavancin was recently approved by the FDA and shows promising results in fighting both Methicillin and Vancomycin resistant strains. This study serves to emphasize the chemical mechanisms of how Oritavancin interacts with bacteria in order to cause cell death in addition to comparing the structures of Oritavancin with other antibiotics.

**Billy Sibley**, West Texas A&M University

“Racial Bias in the Media's Sphere of Influence”

Although American citizens have shown an obvious inclination towards eliminating blatant racial inequalities within our culture, we have yet to overcome many of the underlying causes which can manifest themselves through more subtle means. In this way, racial inequities within the media's sphere of influence continue to circumvent our progress towards a truly egalitarian society. This

veiled prejudice often seen within the media, influences the cultural outlook of both children and adults in a way that promotes stereotypical viewpoints. It is therefore important to examine how our culture continues to be influenced by racial ideals, despite our generally egalitarian viewpoints.

**Simran Singh**, Texas Tech University

“Characterization of Muscular Strength of *C. elegans* Mutants used as Model Organism for Neurodegenerative Diseases using Nemaflex”

*Caenorhabditis elegans* is a model nematode for studying human neurodegenerative diseases. The proteome of the nematode contains numerous homologies to mammalian proteins, most notably the *dnj-27/ERdj5*, which regulates muscle protein degradation. Mutation in the *dnj-27/ERdj5* gene alters the animal’s mobility as well as force generation. In this study, a novel force measurement device named Nemaflex was designed to measure muscle strength of *C. elegans*. The objective of this experiment is to observe the muscle force strength in *C. elegans* using Nemaflex device to support and measure the affect mutants have in reduced muscle force due to neuron degeneration.

**Hollie Skibstead**, Redlands Community College

“Impact of Land Use Change on Reservoir Sedimentation”

Lack of vegetation combined with periods of intense rainfall causes increased erosion and flooding. This study sought to determine the impact of land use differences on reservoir sedimentation by determining soil physical properties such as bulk density and soil texture. Sediment cores were collected from two reservoirs within the Little Washita Reservoir Experimentation Watershed whose contributing areas have different land uses in terms of vegetation, cropland, and soil type. The cores were cut, weighed, and dried to determine bulk density before using the hydrometer method to determine soil texture. The results of the differences in soil physical properties are presented.

**Victoria Speir**, Tarrant County College Northeast Campus

“Evolving Beauty”

The purpose of this poster is to visually represent and convey the ideals of a humanities project that I completed during the fall 2014 semester. This poster discusses the evolution of beauty in reference to three selected works, Hitchhiker at City Limits of Waco, Texas by Russell Lee, A Wrinkle in Time The Graphic Novel adapted and illustrated by Hope Larson, and 7 Triostücke für 3 Trautonien by Paul Hindemith, using the elements of conveyed emotions and values, medium, and likeness in connection to the aesthetic views of three theorists, Plotinus, Francis Hutcheson, and Leo Tolstoy.

**Cristina Tapiero**, Tarrant County Community College Northwest

“The Sexual Revolution: Immorality or Empowerment?”

I have chosen to write about The Sexual Revolution of the 1960s. My main focus will mainly cover the introduction of the pill as a new and more popular form of birth control and how this caused a shift in the role of women in society. Not only did this form of birth control give women a new sense of sexual liberation, it also created a sense of empowerment. Being able to control their own fertility allowed women to also make more of an impact in the labor market since they were able to plan pregnancies easier. The humanity of women and the standards that were set forth from the beginning of time took a great turn and shifted during the 1960’s. Much of the great debate during this time was of this new shift either being true women empowerment or if it was questioning immorality issues. Religion and religious activists also had an impact on this new revolution.

Conservative and Liberalist ideals were put to the test during these trying times that would determine the definition of true sexual freedom. From breaking stereotypical standards, to changing the so called “traditional family” views, the Sexual Revolution of the 1960’s not only had an impact on the women of the 60’s but it left an everlasting mark that has continued to shape the view of women, sexuality, and their roles in today’s society. By studying the history of the sexual revolution it is easier to understand the evolution of the concept and how it is handled in today’s society in relation to the economic and social aspects. By studying major events, compiling data and research, and studying the works of famous feminists such as Margaret Sanger much information can be obtained.

**Linzi Thompson**, East Central University

“Occurrence of typical antibiotics in Huai River and Hongze Lake, eastern China”

The presence of antibiotics in the aquatic environment has increased with the rapid development of the world. Today, China’s antibiotic consumption contributes 12-25% to the world’s annual usage. Water samples were collected from the economically important Hongze Lake, Huai River, and a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in eastern China. These samples were analyzed for five common antibiotics: norfloxacin (NOR), oxytetracycline (OTC), enrofloxacin (ENF), ofloxacin (OFL), and ciprofloxacin (CIP). OTC and OFL were not detected at high enough levels to be an environmental threat, while NOR occurred in the greatest concentrations; additionally, the WWTP was only 4% efficient at NOR removal.

**Sirima Tongkhuya**, Tarrant County College NE Campus

“Yeast: Effects of Sugar Concentration on Cell Growth and pH”

Question: How will different concentrations of Glucose and Sucrose affect Yeast cell multiplicity? It was hypothesized that yeast cells were to grow better under a 25% fructose to water concentration. Yeast cells were grown in diluted concentrations of Fructose and Sucrose. The pH readings were monitored with litmus paper at random time periods throughout the course of 32 hours. It was believed that Yeast cell population was exponentially increased in 25% Fructose solution with a decrease in pH over the course of growth. After analysis of the results gathered from the spectrophotometer, it was evident that the best living condition for the yeast cells was the Sucrose 6.25% solution.

**Jessica Velazquez**, Northeast Texas Community College

“Did the South Resist Economic Modernization?”

There has been no systematic study of southern agriculture in America to match the classic, *Change in Agriculture*, by Clarence Danhoff. Danhoff argued that northern agriculture changed from insular-subsistence in 1820 to market-informed by 1870. Southern agricultural history has been so politicized, by the story of the Cottonocracy, and Jim Crow, that one is left thinking that southerners were oblivious to modernizing forces. My study of Texas Agriculture in five very diverse counties from 1930 to 1960, however, shows a change as important as described by Danhoff. This was the transformation brought by what I call, “mechanized-depopulation.”

**Raul Velazquez**, Tarrant County College Northwest

“Is the Video Game Industry Headed for Another Market Crash?”

This abstract details the causes behind the video game market crash of 1983 such as the introduction of a third-party developer, lack of quality control, and the lack of diversity between competitors’ platforms. This project will explain how the influence of film on the video game industry has made



western developers focus on producing better realistic graphics than focusing on elements of game mechanics and how as a result, has resulted in lower quality titles that simulate the experience of a film. It is the goal of this project to find the correlations between financial success and video game quality.

**Danielle Wanke**, Tarrant County College  
“A Glimpse into to the Transformation of the Hipster”

Today, the hipster is associated with an underground lifestyle or the ability to follow a movement from its infancy to its adulthood and keep up with the latest fashion trends. This differs greatly with the Beat Movement’s in the 1950’s where men like Allen Ginsberg and William Burroughs fought to gain knowledge and defy societal norms. This presentation will explore the similarities and differences between the hipster of today and that of the 1950’s as well as bring attention to the way that society interacts with the subculture. This will draw on the works of the writers of the Beat Generation, the social media site, Tumblr, and current articles that depict society’s attitude toward hipsters.

**Braden Weinmann**, Angelo State University  
“Music Absorption and Addictive Behaviors”

Questionnaires were completed by participants in order to assess their addictive tendencies and their ability to have strong emotional reactions to music. Results of the study included significant positive correlations between music absorption and recreational drug use, as well as music absorption and alcohol use. Implications of the study include a possible therapeutic initiative. In music therapy, clients would attempt to substitute music-listening exercises for their addiction behavior. Similar studies may be used in the future in order to identify clients for music therapy who display an ability to have strong emotional reactions to music.

**Aerial Wesberry** University of Texas at Tyler  
“Finding a New Home: The Impact of Online Service Tools on Real Estate Agents,”

**Finding a New Home:**  
**Brian Western**, University of Texas at Tyler  
“Manipulation of Virus-Like Particles for the Purpose of Optimizing Immunostimulation”

Traditional vaccination methods require cultivation and attenuation of live viruses to prevent pathogenicity upon inoculation. Virus-like particles (VLPs) are derived from the capsid coat proteins that self-assemble to form biomimetic virus structures that are non-pathogenic and elicit immune responses similar to the native virus. Here we evaluate the VLP derived from P22 bacteriophage as a scaffold for the potential construction of immunotherapeutics that elicit targeted immune responses. The strategy is to attach immunogenic proteins to the VLP for multivalent display. For proof of concept, we evaluate attachment of Green Fluorescent Protein to the exterior of P22 by sortase-mediated ligation.

**Megan Wood**, Missouri Western State University  
“English and Communication Around the World in Education”

I started this project as a way to learn about other schools in different countries and to better myself as a future teacher. It has exploded into something more than I had ever expected. This project involves twelve countries, including: Australia, France, Italy, Germany, Russia, India, Indonesia, Ghana, Poland, Brazil, Spain, Turkey, and a small home school group in Kentucky. Through this process, I compared the differences between curricula presentation, specifically in the Americas versus European and Eastern countries. I hosted several video conferences between Polish and local U.S. primary and secondary school students. I also maintained mail correspondence with classrooms around the world discussing their curricula. I have handwritten letters, videos, and correspondence between me and all of the teachers as souvenirs of the friends and knowledge I have acquired through this process. I plan to discuss this and as a future teacher I can expand my students' knowledge and introduce them to the world-wide view of Education.

**Miguel E. Zuniga**, Texas A&M International University

“Developing Lipid Nanotechnologies for Structural Studies of the Tenase Complex”

Factor VIII (FVIII), part of Tenase complex, plays a crucial role for proper blood coagulation. Nanodiscs (ND) are stable lipid bilayer nanoparticles that mimic the platelet surface required for the complex assembly. In this study, we investigate the structural organization of FVIII complex *in vitro* as assembled on NDs. The ND-FVIII assemblies monodispersity and size were optimized by electron microscopy (EM), single particle analysis (SPA) and 3D reconstruction. Obtained data of FVIII-ND 3D reconstructions assemblies may unravel the membrane-bound organization of Tenase complex at physiological conditions, which can be targeted for improvement of design novel therapeutic interventions against blood disorders.

# INDIVIDUAL AND PANEL ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Saturday, April 11

## “A” Sessions, 8:00-8:50 a.m.

| Session | Room     | Presentation  |
|---------|----------|---|
| A1      | Sabal    | <p><b>Moderator:</b> Hannah Hewett, Emporia State University</p> <p>“The Mentality of Morality,”<br/>Leah Blackburn, East Central University</p> <p>“Missing Moral Compass: The Dangers of Unethical Stories,”<br/>Sidney Lewis, East Central University</p> <p>“Understanding Euthanasia through the Idea of the Common Good,”<br/>Nkemdirim Nwogu, Emporia State University</p>                 |
| A2      | Paradise | <p><b>Moderator:</b> TBA</p> <p>“A Study of the Algonquian Speaking Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands”<br/>Luke Grammer, Tarrant County Community College</p> <p>“The Chamizal Settlement and the Dispersion of People Group,”<br/>Dirk Johnston, San Jacinto College</p> <p>“A New Greek Tomb,” Paul Peterson, Midland College</p>   |
| A3      | Royal    | <p><b>Moderator:</b> Dr. David Fisher, The University of Texas at Brownsville</p> <p>“The Manhattan Project and the Post-War Scientific Revolution,”<br/>Triston Giesie, Brazosport College</p> <p>“Bombshells: Female Empowerment in World War II,”<br/>Gillian Guijt, Lone Star College</p> <p>“Further Research in the Ukrainian Shatterbelt,”<br/>Murad Jalilov, Emporia State University</p> |

|           |                 |   |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| <b>A4</b> | <b>Majestic</b> | <p><b>Moderator: TBA</b></p> <p>“Fury: Behind the Shadows of War,”<br/>Michael Smith, Lee College</p> <p>“Film and Inspiration,”<br/>Alejandro Talamantes, San Jacinto College</p> <p>“Richard Linklater: From Slacker to Master Filmmaker,”<br/>Truong Vu, San Jacinto College</p>   |
| <b>A5</b> | <b>Nautalis</b> | <p><b>Moderator: Amanda Blackwell, TAMIU</b></p> <p>“Proposing a Change of Heart for Heart Disease,”<br/>Patricia Gordon, Alvin Community</p> <p>“Renal Failure: The Kidney, Patient Perspectives, and<br/>Nursing Implications,”<br/>Misty Jackson, Alvin Community College</p> <p>“Controversies in Organ Transplant,” Zurisadai Ochoa,<br/>Tarrant County Community College-Northwest Campus</p> |
| <b>A6</b> | <b>Conch</b>    | <p><b>Moderator: TBA</b></p> <p>“Within Your Reach: The Importance of<br/>Studying Abroad.”<br/>Leslie Reyna, The University of Texas Tyler</p> <p>“The Economic Forces of College Textbooks,”<br/>Zachary Hough, Lone Star College</p> <p>“Public Narrative: A Bridge between Ethical Theory and<br/>Social Movements,”<br/>Mariella Zavala, The University of Texas Pan American</p>              |
| <b>A7</b> | <b>Sundial</b>  | <p><b>Moderator: TBA</b></p> <p>“Hypohidrotic Ectodermal Dysplasia as it Pertains to<br/>Hypodontia”<br/>Joshua Davis, Lone Star College</p>  |

“The Effect of Various Phosphate Sources During Gene Expression and Mineralization,”

Daniela C. Ortiz, Texas A&M International University

“Robust humoral response induced by Sm-p80 conjugated with TLR4 adjuvant as vaccine candidate for Schistosomiasis,”

Justin Sudduth, Texas Tech University

**A8 Key Largo**

**Moderator: TBA**

“Unknown in Pop Culture,”

Jessica Alexander, Tarrant County Community College

“Constructing the Selena Legend,”

Angelica Fuentes, Northeast Texas Community College

“Music is for the Byrds: A Short Documentary on the Birth of Folk-Rock,”

Zariah Hedge, San Jacinto College

**A9 Conference**

**Moderator: TBA**

“Synoptic Comparisons and Interpretation of Three of Jesus’ Miracles,”

Elizabeth Bennett, John Brown University

“Reconciling Jesus’s Human Mind to the Omniscience of God,”

James Gatewood, Harding University

“Combatting Heresy with Orthodoxy: the Formation of the Doctrine of the Trinity,”

Kari Miller, John Brown University

**A10 Quarter Deck**

**Moderator: Dr. Sabrina Chesne, North West Arkansas Community College**

“Shakespeare’s Macbeth: The Promotion or the Mockery of Misogyny,”

Madelaine Oehlberg, East Central University

“The Wicked Witch in Macbeth,”

Kaitlyn Stevens, East Central University

“A Practically Perfect View of Feminist Critical Theory in Mary Poppins,”

Kara Timberlake, Lamar University

**“B” Sessions, 9:00-9:50 a.m.**

| <b>Session</b> | <b>Room</b>     | <b>Presentation</b>   |
|----------------|-----------------|---|
| <b>B1</b>      | <b>Sabal</b>    | <b>Moderator: Carrie Pritchett, Brazosport College</b><br><br>“19th Century German Immigration,”<br>Vera Addison, Alvin Community College<br><br>“An Immigrant Life History,”<br>Jasmine Briones, San Jacinto College<br><br>“Legendary Housewives,”<br>Cassia Rose, Northeast Texas Community College  |
| <b>B2</b>      | <b>Paradise</b> | <b>Moderator: Candace Cote, Emporia State University</b><br><br>“The Use of Yoga-Based Therapy for Restoring Mind-<br>Body Awareness in Eating Disorder,”<br>Candace M. Boehm, McMurry University<br><br>“Sensory Processing Disorder,”<br>Madison Clark, San Jacinto College<br><br>“Re-writing recovery: Creating an effective workbook<br>for women recovering from eating disorders,”<br>Jessie Patterson, McLennan Community College |
| <b>B3</b>      | <b>Royal</b>    | <b>Moderator: TBA</b><br><br>“A Clockwork Orange: How Alex Loses His Humanity,”<br>Micah Bullard, Lee College<br><br>“The Nature of the Soul in Philip K. Dick’s, ‘Do Androids<br>Dream of Electric Sheep?’”<br>Roustam Gouliev, Tarrant County Community College<br><br>“Battling with Broken Dreams in Adichie’s, ‘The<br>Arrangers of Marriage’”<br>Gift Sampson, Lee College  |
| <b>B4</b>      | <b>Majestic</b> | <b>Moderator: Dr. Raymond Green, TAMUC</b><br><br>“Investigation of Protocol and Resources for Medical<br>Staff and Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Patients in Hospital<br>Emergency Rooms,”<br>College Kaylee Fritz, Texas Woman’s University  |

"HOW: A Look at Homeless Outreach for Women, Barriers to Healthcare and Nursing Interventions,"  
Darla Miller, Lone Star College

"Ulcerative Colitis Classifier Using Nearest Neighbor Method,"  
Osmar A Carballo, Texas A&M International University

**B5**                    **Nautalis**

**Moderator: TBA**

"Evolutions in the Perceptions of Beauty,"  
Meagan De Weirdt, Tarrant County Community College

"Beauty: A Subjective Experience"  
Austin Mitchell, Tarrant County Community College

"The Origin of Beauty"  
Rebecca Rosamond, Tarrant County Community College

**B6**                    **Conch**

**Moderator: TBA**

"Supported Cu-Pd Catalysts for the Selective Hydrogenation of Acetylene,"  
Ricky Huitema, Texas Tech University

"Development of Carbohydrate-based Heterogeneous Solid Acid Catalyst for Biodiesel Production,"  
Matthew Jordan, Texas Tech University

"Effects of Nicotine on Expression of Membrane Cofactor Protein CD46 in Human ARPE-19 Cells,"  
Xeniya Rudolph, University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
Donaghey Scholars Program

**B7**                    **Sundial**

**Moderator: TBA**

"Woman as Soldiers in the Civil War"  
Allison Goldsmith, Tarrant County Community College

"The Suffolk Resolves: A Catalyst for Revolutionary Thinking,"  
Duncan Knox, Angelo State University

"Feminism: A Historical Study,"  
Ignis Serrano, Tarrant County College Northwest

**B8**                    **Key Largo**

**Moderator: TBA**

“Myths and legends associated with historical figures:  
What we don’t know about history”  
Madisen Caster, McLennan Community College

“Kirkland Verses Ames: A case of Projected-Identity,”  
Miranda Mendoza, Northeast Texas Community College

“The Chronicles of Harriet Potter Ames,”  
William Villalobos, Northeast Texas Community College

**B9 Conference**

**Moderator: TBA**

“Barbie v. Captain America: An Analysis of Gender  
Expectations as Reflected in Toy Advertising.”  
Joshua Casillas, Lone Star College-CyFair

“Popular Entertainment in Rome and Its Modern  
Counterparts,”  
Tyler Hastings, Angelo State University.

“Avengers Assemble! The Moral Theory of Earth’s  
Mightiest  
Heroes,” Dylan West, East Central University

**B10 Quarter Deck**

**Moderator: TBA**

“Home Away from Home: A Multi-Cultural Look at  
Communication in the Hospitality Industry,”  
Holly Larsen, Harding University

“English and Communication around the World  
in Education,”  
Megan Wood, Missouri Western State University

“How the Telegraph Changed Communication”  
Katya Urrutia, Tarrant County Community College

**C” Sessions, 10:00-10:50 a.m.**

**Session  
C1 Room  
Sabal**

**Presentation  
Moderator: TBA**

“The Inspiration of the Bible,”  
Chandler Pruitt, Harding University

“My Faith and Deaf Culture: A Hearing Girl’s Stories,”  
Makayla Schultz, John Brown University



- “Real People That Point to a Ratified Gospel,”  
Carrie Stewart, Harding University
- C2**                    **Paradise**                    **Moderator: Dr. Gary Wyatt, Emporia State University**
- “Early Childhood Companionship,”  
Leslie Gonzalez, Texas Woman’s University
- “Dr. Seuss and Politics: Symbolism in Thematic  
Children’s Stories,”  
Emerson Laken, University of Arkansas-Fort Smith
- “Parenting Needs Love, Not DNA,”  
Andrea Mendoza-Lespron, Midwestern State University
- C3**                    **Royal**                    **Moderator: TBA**
- “The Effect of Violence Risk Education on Juror  
Perception of Violence,”  
Camden Hoeffner, Texas Tech University
- “Effects of Video Games’ Virtual Reality Setting on a  
Person’s Morality/Tendency towards Violence”  
Caleb Polansky, McLennan Community College
- “What Affects an Eyewitness?”  
April Suarez, Tarrant County Community College
- C4**                    **Majestic**                    **Moderator: TBA**
- “Caring for the Elderly: A Study of Different Cultural  
Views in Nursing Home Care,”  
Magali De La Rosa, McLennan Community College
- “A Study of Breastfeeding from a Maternal, Infant, and  
Societal Point of View,”  
Brianna Howard, McLennan Community College
- “Children and the Environment: How Nature Preschools  
Can Protect the Future,”  
Holly Miles, Angelo State University
- C5**                    **Nautalis**                    **Moderator: TBA**
- “Integrating Honors and the Terry Scholars Programs,” Rachel  
Iaccobucci, Monica Mathis, Texas Woman’s University

“Cultural Encounters in Study Abroad: Understanding the Relevance of Students’ Experiences and Perceptions in Developing Intercultural Competence,”  
Emily Dobson, University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
Donaghey Scholars Program

C6

Conch

**Moderator: TBA**

“Living Matrix: Identification of Microbes by DNA Barcoding,”  
Michelle Barkhauer, Lone Star College-CyFair

“A New Mob Boss of the Fungi Underground: The Dangerous Spread of *Cryptococcus gattii*,” Regina Whisenant, Brazosport College

“Studying Robotic Automation in Australia from an Engineering Economic Standpoint,”  
James Cody, McLennan Community College

C7

Sundial

**Moderator: TBA**

“Geothermal Energy in New Zealand: A Case Study in Engineering Economics,”  
Jonathan Beechner, McLennan Community College

“Redefining Communication Barriers as a New Means of Addressing Climate Change,”  
Alexandra Ewy, Emporia State University

"Discovering Asteroids: The History of Searching for Asteroids and Findings at Insuperity Observatory,"  
Jennifer Murphy, Lone Star College

C8

Key Largo

**Moderator: TBA**

“Make Choices, Not Excuses: Existentialism in Milk (2008),”  
Kimberly Flores, Lee College

"Existentialism: Mustaches & Crooked Eyes"  
Kristina Infante, Lone Star College

“What we do not know: A Chilling Exploration of People's Knowledge Regarding Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis,”  
Fatima Sabira, Lone Star College

|            |                     |   |
|------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>C9</b>  | <b>Conference</b>   | <p><b>Moderator: TBA</b></p> <p>“From Saltboxes to Southern Mansions: The Development of American Colonial Architecture,”<br/>Katrina Lund, Lone Star College -CyFair</p> <p>“Service learning at a local community center: Using the arts to unleash creativity,”<br/>Samantha Lynn, McLennan Community College</p> <p>“The Art of Education Forecast by Plato,”<br/>Andrea Ospina, Tarrant County Community College</p> |
| <b>C10</b> | <b>Quarter Deck</b> | <p><b>Moderator: TBA</b></p> <p>“The History of Surf Culture in Texas,”<br/>James Cook, San Jacinto College</p> <p>“The ‘Cowboy’ of Pasadena, Texas: The Origins Behind the Pasadena Livestock Show &amp; Rodeo and Its Relevance Today,”<br/>Jeffery S. Hallinan, San Jacinto College</p> <p>“George Washington Christy and the Christy Brothers Circus,” Debra Long, Lee College</p>                                    |

**“D” Sessions, 11:00-11:50 a.m.**

| <b>Session</b> | <b>Room</b>     | <b>Presentation</b>  |
|----------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>D1</b>      | <b>Sabal</b>    | <p><b>Moderator: TBA</b></p> <p>“Material Culture of Space Center Houston”<br/>Matthew Radney, San Jacinto College</p> <p>“Meth Taboo”<br/>Gerardo Montes Rascon, Tarrant County College</p> <p>“Kennewick Man: A Discussion of Ethics in Modern American Archaeology”<br/>Hayley Stancil, San Jacinto College</p> |
| <b>D2</b>      | <b>Paradise</b> | <p><b>Moderator: TBA</b></p>   |

“Racial Residential Segregation: Its Effects on Minorities in America,”

Canaan McGee, Lone Star College-North Harris

“A Separation: Class Divisions and Oppression,”

Siavash Zamirpour, Lee College

**D3**

**Royal**

**Moderator: TBA**

“Horror: Inspired by, Based on, Separated from (A True Story),” Jenni deBie, Angelo State University

“Ascertaining Authorial Gender through Characters’ Interactions,”

Torrance Cobb, Lamar University

“A Warning Letter from a Ghost,”

Matt Newcomb, Redlands Community College

**D4**

**Majestic**

**Moderator: Dr. Jessica Scott, UALR**

“Blue-Eyed Girl: Reality of Rape Culture in ‘Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?’”

Saffyre Falkenberg, Texas Woman’s University

“Legislating Morality: the Progression of the Sodomitic Legacy in America,”

Lisa Myrice, Angelo State

“The Connection between Suicide and Bullying,”

Wyatt Vascoe, San Jacinto College

**D5**

**Nautalis**

**Moderator: Dr. Michael L. James, Harding University**

“The Development of Infrastructure in India: A Necessity to Improve the Rural Health of Individuals in a World Third Country,”

Aimee Denham, Angelo State University

“Nursing in Central America: An Adventure in Guatemala,”

Emily Perez, Angelo State University

“The Black Market Organ Trade: Reality and Solutions,”

Angelo Symeonidis, San Jacinto Community College

**D6**

**Conch**

**Moderator: TBA**

“Staphylococcus Aureus Classification,”  
Kimberly Austin, Lone Star College

“HIV and the Search for the CCR-5 Receptor:  
Chromosomal Mutation and HIV Immunity,”  
Jesse Martinez, Brazosport College

“Regulation of Yes-Associated Proteins by Angiotensin II in  
Mammary Epithelial Cells,”  
Julianna Sherman, Oral Roberts University

**D7**                      **Sundial**                      **Moderator: William Hawkins, Tulsa Community College**

“The Aesthetical Mask,” Bianca Feliciano,  
Tarrant County Community College

“The Mask of Aesthetics”  
Jonatan Mendoza, Tarrant County Community College

“Humanity,” Josh Dumond,  
Tarrant County Community College

**D8**                      **Key Largo**                      **Moderator: TBA**

“Aeschylus: The Furies and Blood,” Abigail Danley,  
John Brown University

Moral                      “Justified Infanticide? Consequentialist and Categorical  
Perspectives on Medea’s Murders,”  
Dillon Rea, East Central University

“The Antinomian Controversy,”  
Victoria Herrera, Lone Star College-Harris

**D9**                      **Conference**                      **Moderator: TBA**

“Experiences of College Students Identifying as Having a  
Disability,” Katee Voirin, Texas Woman’s University

“Special Needs Students and Classroom Integration,”  
Jessie Farnsworth, Emporia State University

“Honors Nutrition and the NSF: Group Grant Writing as  
an Honors Class Project,”  
Andrea Marie Haddox, Tulsa Community College

**D10**                      **Quarter Deck**                      **Moderator: TBA**

“Rights versus Protection: Representation of Women in Imam Shafi’i’s Risala,”  
Elissa Branum, John Brown University

“Reshaping the Holy: The Medieval Veneration of El Cid and ‘Friends of God’,”  
Elyse Partee, John Brown University

“NAGPRA: The Bridge Between the Beliefs of Native American Peoples and American Archaeologists,”  
Emily Wolfe, San Jacinto College Central

### “E” Sessions, 12:00-12:50 a.m.

| <b>Session</b> | <b>Room</b>     | <b>Presentation</b>  |
|----------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>E1</b>      | <b>Sabal</b>    | <b>Presentation</b><br><b>Moderator: TBA</b><br><br>“‘Fixing Problems’ in the Small School’s Writing Center,”<br>Emily Baudot, Midwestern State University<br><br>“Music and Psyche,”<br>Travis Hand, Lone Star College<br><br>“How Research Papers Affect Students,”<br>Madeline Parker and Megan Piehler,<br>Midwestern State University |
| <b>E2</b>      | <b>Paradise</b> | <b>Moderator: TBA</b><br><br>“An Argument for Net Neutrality”<br>William Jones, Tarrant County Community College<br><br>“The Post-Colonial Mind: Filipinos in the United States,”<br>Sofia Puey, Lone Star College<br><br>“Statescraft,”<br>Erfan Rahman, San Jacinto Community College  |
| <b>E3</b>      | <b>Royal</b>    | <b>Moderator: TBA</b><br><br>“How Suicide Affects Lone Star College Students,”<br>Mary Kelley, Lone Star College   |

“Student Perception of Success and Failure: A Qualitative Assessment of Emotional Intelligence,”  
Emilee Polansky, McLennan Community College

“The Einstellung Effect,”  
Gaspar Hinojosa, Tarrant County College Cornerstone

**E4**                      **Majestic**

**Moderator: TBA**

“The ‘Varangian’ Option: Slaves and Intra-White Feuding in Texas before the Civil War,”  
Isaac Earl Burris, Northeast Texas Community College

“The Dichotomy of White Privilege: Exploring the Myths and Manifestations of Racism,”  
April Hill-Jackson, Lone Star College

“Feminine Frontiers: Challenges of Life in Texas 1823 - 1863,”  
Kelli Knepp, Northeast Texas Community College

**E5**                      **Nautalis**

**Moderator: TBA**

“Should the Cap on Punitive Damages in Civil Tort Law be Eliminated in the United States?”  
Dallas Flick, UT Tyler

“Do the marginal benefits of the legalization of marijuana outweigh the marginal costs, specifically as it pertains to school funding and student performance?”  
Steven Hullum, The University of Texas at Tyler

"Public Opinion on the Use and Legality of Cannabis,"  
Ariana Rosario, Lone Star College

**E6**                      **Conch**

**Moderator: TBA**

“Scientific Communication: Designing an Ammeline Riboswitch across Oceans,”  
Kelly Cochran, Missouri Western State University

“Emerging Organic Compounds that are Essential for Human Functioning,”  
Jasmin G. Escobar, Texas A&M International University

“Effects of Sugar Concentration on Cell Growth and pH,”  
Sirima Tongkhuya, Tarrant County Community College

|            |                     |  |
|------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>E7</b>  | <b>Sundial</b>      | <p><b>Moderator: TBA</b></p> <p>“What is the Purpose of Art?”<br/>Haley Berry, Tarrant County Community College</p> <p>“Beauty in Art through the Lens of the Empathic Response”<br/>Jamie Ladnier, Tarrant County Community College</p> <p>“A Study of the Theme of Liberty in Artistic Works,”<br/>Miguel Rocha, Tarrant County Community College</p>            |
| <b>E8</b>  | <b>Key Largo</b>    | <p><b>Moderator: TBA</b></p> <p>“If You’re Utilitarian and You Know It, Clap Your Hans”<br/>Madison Camp, East Central University</p> <p>“God, Capitalism and the Individual,”<br/>Brandon Schrader, Emporia State University</p> <p>“The Desirability of Economic Progress: Development, Happiness, and Eudemonia,”<br/>Josiah Wadsack, John Brown University</p> |
| <b>E9</b>  | <b>Conference</b>   | <p><b>Moderator: TBA</b></p> <p>“Level 5 Leadership,”<br/>Gabrielle Garrison, Emporia State University</p> <p>“Collegiate Education: A Right or Privilege?”<br/>Isa Moseley, East Central University</p> <p>“The professor as a resource: Do students seek instructor assistance outside of class?”<br/>Jesse Maggard, McLennan Community College</p>              |
| <b>E10</b> | <b>Quarter Deck</b> | <p><b>Moderator: Dr. Shirley Eoff, Angelo State University</b></p> <p>“Thomas Wentworth Higginson: Reclaiming the Writer,”<br/>Leah Burt, John Brown University</p> <p>“The Arabian Nights: The Literary Implications of Arab Justice and Identity,”<br/>Hannah Ratzlaff, John Brown University</p>  |



“Outwitting Bluebeard: Women’s Redemption of an Unlikely Tale,”  
Vanessa Sweet, Oral Roberts University

**“F” Sessions, 1:00 - 1:50 - a.m.**

| <b>Session</b> | <b>Room</b>     | <b>Presentation</b>  |
|----------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>F1</b>      | <b>Sabal</b>    | <b>Moderator: TBA</b><br><br>“The Need for a Psychological Hell,”<br>Jessica Flowers, Lone Star College<br><br>“Revenge: Fun for the Whole Family,”<br>Ashton Mayle, East Central University<br><br>“Doctor, Doctor! I am Sick: An Insider View of the Life of a Hypochondriac,”<br>Sierra Rupert and Sophia Velasco,<br>Lone Star College   |
| <b>F2</b>      | <b>Paradise</b> | <b>Moderator: TBA</b><br><br>“Personality Types and Social Desirability,”<br>Katherin Morales, Emporia State University<br><br>“Socioeconomic Media Analysis of YouTube Gaming Channels: What Makes Us Click?”<br>Aaron Rauschhuber, McLennan Community College<br><br>“A Society in Disequilibrium,”<br>Shamika Rolle, Emporia State University   |
| <b>F3</b>      | <b>Royal</b>    | <b>Moderator: TBA</b><br><br>“A Comparative Analysis among Midwives, Gynecologists, and Family Physicians: A Study on Educational Differences and Women's Health,”<br>Alondra Castillo, McLennan Community College<br><br>“Mental Illness, Homelessness and Incarceration,”<br>Misty Jackson, Alvin Community College<br><br>“Rejecting Oneself: The Denial of Self Determination,”<br>Zachary Barber, Lone Star College |
| <b>F4</b>      | <b>Majestic</b> | <b>Moderator: TBA</b>  |

"Holistic, All-inclusive Plan for North Korea,"  
Christopher Alderman, Emporia State University

"What Globalization and the Interconnectedness of the  
Modern World Mean for Millennials,"  
Natalie Davis, Sul Ross State University

"National Interest and the Constructivist Approach to  
International Relations,"  
Ricardo Useche, Lone Star College

**F5**                    **Nautalis**

**Moderator: Derek Wilson, Emporia State University**

"The Mental Asylum: A Laboratory for the Development  
of Psychiatry,"  
Elyse Coleman, Northeast Texas Community College

"Is There a Genetic Link to Criminal Behavior?"  
Sara Robertson, Alvin Community College

"Redefining Hyper Focus,"  
Emrys Peets, Midland College

**F6**                    **Conch**

**Moderator: TBA**

"Coaching Consumers 101: The Application of  
Mathematical Principles to Electric Company Rates,"  
Daniela De La Pava, Lone Star College-CyFair

"Increasing Self-Determination and Global  
Understanding: Microcredit for Women's Enterprises in  
Chacrasecas, Nicaragua,"  
Graciela Herrera, Tulsa Community College

"Intellectual Diaspora: The Emergence of the  
Intelligence Concept and its Relation to Ethnicity,"  
Boranai Tychhon, Lone Star College

**F7**                    **Sundial**

**Moderator: TBA**

"Political Pa and Mindful Ma Ferguson: The Charismatic  
Commensal Couple of Texas Governorship,"  
Morgan Capps, Northeast Texas Community College

“From Poker to Photography: The Impact of the Railroad on Winslow, Arkansas,”  
Kyriana Lynch, John Brown University

“Working For Victory: Rosie the Riveter,”  
Estefania Palacios, Lone Star College-CyFair

**F8**

**Key Largo**

**Moderator: TBA**

“Red Zone: An Analysis of Inflammatory Linguistics,”  
Alexander Dodd, Lone Star College – Tomball

“The Sacrificial Lamb of Feminism: Hillary Rodham Clinton’s Re-Creation of the Rhetoric of Women’s Rights,”  
Hannah Jones, South Eastern Oklahoma State University

"A Scholarly Look at Fear-Driven Conspiracy Theories: The Case of 9/11,"  
Emilie Lostracco, Lone Star College

**F9**

**Conference**

**Moderator: TBA**

“Examining effects of leg dominance on cartwheel landings” Katie Abruzzese, Texas Woman’s University

“Kinetics of Phagocytosis,”  
Ashlea Chapman, Emporia State University

“Genetically Modified Organisms,”  
Taner Thurman, Emporia State University

**F10**

**Quarter Deck**

**Moderator: TBA**

“Embryonic stem cell,”  
Kolyn Lowe, Tarrant County Community College

“Thermoregulation,”  
Kiran Sankar, Lone Star College

“Nerf Firestrike: Laser Angle Optimization,”  
Daniel Wong Lone Star College

## **Banquet 6:00 - 9:00 - p.m.**

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Introduction:</b>                | <b>Dr. Ken Buckman, Director Guerra Honors Program, UTPA</b>  |
| <b>Welcome:</b>                     | <b>Dr. Havidan Rodriguez, President Ad Interim, UTPA &amp; Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, UTRGV</b>  |
| <b>Dinner:</b>                      |   |
| <b>Plenary:</b>                     | <b>“Creating the Rio Grande Valley Civil War Trail,”<br/>Dr. Russell Skowronek,</b>   |
| <b>Awards:</b>                      | <b>Dr. Virginia Brackett, President, Great Plains Honors Council and Dr. Guy Litton, President-Elect, Great Plains Honors Council. Boe Awards and Poster Competition Awards</b> |
| <b>Appreciation and Recognition</b> | <b>Dr. Ken Buckman, Director Guerra Honors Program, UTPA</b>  |

## **Student Activity 9:00 – 11:00 p.m.**

### **Index of Participants**

#### **A.**

- Aaron**, Leigh C. “Socioeconomic Status and Language/Literacy Development,” West Texas A&M University
- Abuzzese**, Katie “Examining effects of leg dominance on cartwheel landings” Texas Woman’s University **F9**
- Addison**, Vera “19th Century German Immigration,” Alvin Community College
- Alderman**, Christopher “Holistic, All-inclusive Plan for North Korea,” Emporia State University
- Alexander**, Jessica “Unknown in Pop Culture,” Tarrant County Community College **A8**
- Aragón**, Daniel “Circadian Modulation of Intermediate-Term Memory of Associative Conditioning in *Lymnaea stagnalis*,” University of Texas-Pan American - **Poster Session**

**Arent**, Haleigh "Cost-Effectiveness of Pre-Adoption Treatment of Canines with Heartworm Disease in Rescue Organizations," Angelo State University - **Poster Session**  
**Austin**, Kimberly "Staphylococcus Aureus Classification," Lone Star College **D6**

**B.**

**Barber**, Zachary "Rejecting Oneself: The Denial of Self Determination," Lone Star College **F3**  
**Barkhauer**, Michelle "Living Matrix: Identification of Microbes by DNA Barcoding," Lone Star College-CyFair **C6**  
**Baudot**, Emily "'Fixing Problems' in the Small School's Writing Center," Midwestern State University **E1**  
**Baumert**, Lea "Dmitri Shostakovich and Musical Irony" West Texas A&M University - **Poster Session**  
**Beechner**, Jonathan "Geothermal Energy in New Zealand: A Case Study in Engineering Economics," McLennan Community College **C7**  
**Berry** Haley, "What is the Purpose of Art?" Tarrant County Community College **E7**  
**Bennett**, Elizabeth "Synoptic Comparisons and Interpretation of Three of Jesus' Miracles," John Brown University **A9**  
**Bie**, Jenni de "Horror: Inspired by, Based on, Separated from (A True Story)," Angelo State University **D3**  
**Blackburn**, Leah "The Mentality of Morality," East Central University **A1**  
**Blackwell**, Amanda, Moderator, Texas A&M International University  
**Boehm**, Candace M. "The Use of Yoga-Based Therapy for Restoring Mind-Body in Eating Disorder," McMurry University **B2**  
**Brackett**, Virginia President, Great Plains Honors Council, Park University  
**Branum**, Elissa "Rights versus Protection: Representation of Women in Imam Shafi's Risala," John Brown University **D10**  
**Briones**, Jasmine "An Immigrant Life History," San Jacinto College **B1**  
**Buckman**, Ken Conference Co-Organizer University of Texas Pan American **B1**  
**Bullard**, Micah "A Clockwork Orange: How Alex Loses His Humanity," Lee College **B3**  
**Burris**, Isaac Earl "The 'Varangian' Option: Slaves and Intra-White Feuding in Texas before the Civil War," Northeast Texas Community College **E4ing**  
**Burt**, Leah "Thomas Wentworth Higginson: Reclaiming the Writer," John Brown University **E10**

**C.**

**Camp**, Madison "If You're Utilitarian and You Know It, Clap Your Hands" East Central University **E8**  
**Capps**, Morgan "Political Pa and Mindful Ma Ferguson: The Charismatic Commensal Couple of Texas Governorship," Northeast Texas Community College **F7**  
**Carballo**, Osmar A. "Ulcerative Colitis Classifier Using Nearest Neighbor Method," Texas A&M International University **B4**  
**Casillas**, Joshua "Barbie v. Captain America: An Analysis of Gender Expectations as Reflected in Toy Advertising." Lone Star College-CyFair **B9**

**Caster**, Madisen “Myths and legends associated with historical figures: What we don’t know about history” McLennan Community College **B8**

**Castillo**, Alondra “A Comparative Analysis among Midwives, Gynecologists, and Family Physicians: A Study on Educational Differences and Women’s Health,” McLennan Community College **F3**

**Chapman**, Ashlea “Kinetics of Phagocytosis,” Emporia State University **F9**

**Chesne**, Sabrina Director of the Honors Program, North West Arkansas Community College **A10**

**Clark**, Madison “Sensory Processing Disorder,” San Jacinto College **B2**

**Cobb**, Torrance “Ascertaining Authorial Gender through Characters’ Interactions,” Lamar University **D3**

**Cochran**, Kelly “Scientific Communication: Designing an Ammeline Riboswitch Across Oceans,” Missouri Western State University **E6**

**Cochran**, Kelly “Scientific Communication: Designing an Ammeline Riboswitch Across Oceans” Missouri Western State University - **Poster Award Session**

**Cody**, James “Studying Robotic Automation in Australia from an Engineering Economic Standpoint,” McLennan Community College **C6**

**Coleman**, Elyse “The Mental Asylum: A Laboratory for the Development of Psychiatry,” - Poster **Award Session**

**Coleman**, Elyse “The Mental Asylum: A Laboratory for the Development of Psychiatry,” - **F5**

**Collins**, Joshua “Understanding Net Neutrality: A Three-Party Debate at the Heart of the Open Internet,” West Texas A&M University - Poster **Session**

**Cook**, James “The History of Surf Culture in Texas,” San Jacinto College **C10**

**Cote**, Candace, Moderator, Emporia State University **B2**

**Cumpian**, Kayleah “Zinc Binding” Northeast Texas Community College, Student Representative Great Plains Honors Council – **Poster Award Session**

**D.**

**Danley**, Abigail “Aeschylus: The Furies and Blood,” John Brown University **D8**

**Davis**, Joshua “Hypohidrotic Ectodermal Dysplasia as it Pertains to Hypodontia” Lone Star College **A7**

**Davis**, Natalie “What Globalization and the Interconnectedness of the Modern World Mean for Millennials,” Sul Ross State University **F4**

**Denham**, Aimee “The Development of Infrastructure in India: A Necessity to Improve the Rural Health of Individuals in a Third World Country,” Angelo State University **D5**

**Denham**, Aimee N. “Using DNA Barcoding to Identify Seeds in Fecal Samples of Fruit Eating Bats” Angelo State University – **Poster Award Session**

**Dobson**, Emily “Cultural Encounters in Study Abroad: Understanding the Relevance of Students’ Experiences and Perceptions in Developing Intercultural Competence,” University of Arkansas at Little Rock Donaghey Scholars Program **C5**

**Dodd**, Alexander “Red Zone: An Analysis of Inflammatory Linguistics,” Lone Star College – Tomball **F8**

**Dumond**, Josh “Humanity,” Tarrant County Community College **D7**

**E.**

- Eaves**, Sarrysa “Structural Activity of AG311 and Its Efficacy on Resistant Lung Cancer Cells,” Southeastern Oklahoma State University **B4**
- Eaves**, Sarrysa “Structural Activity of AG311 and Its Efficacy on Resistant Lung Cancer Cells,” Southeastern Oklahoma State University - **Poster Session**
- Eoff**, Shirley Director of the Honors Program, Angelo State University Moderator **E10**
- Escobar**, Jasmin G. “Emerging Organic Compounds that are Essential for Human Functioning,” Texas A&M International University **E6**
- Ewy**, Alexandra “Redefining Communication Barriers as a New Means of Addressing Climate Change,” Emporia State University **C7**

**F.**

- Falkenberg**, Saffyre “Blue-Eyed Girl: Reality of Rape Culture in ‘Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?’” Texas Woman’s University **D4**
- Farnsworth**, Jessie “Special Needs Students and Classroom Integration,” Emporia State University **D9**
- Feliciano**, Bianca “The Aesthetical Mask,” Tarrant County Community College **D7**
- Fennimore**, Lauren “The Connection between Music, Memory, and Emotion” Texas Woman’s University – **Poster Session**
- Fisher**, David C. Fisher Associate Dean College of Liberal Arts The University of Texas at Brownsville, Moderator **A3**
- Flick**, Dallas “Should the Cap on Punitive Damages in Civil Tort Law be Eliminated in the United States?” The University of Texas Tyler **E5**
- Flores**, Kimberly “Make Choices, Not Excuses: Existentialism in Milk (2008),” Lee College **C8**
- Flores**, Yaona “Every wonder what can improve your memory” Texas A&M International University – **Poster Session**
- Flowers**, Jessica “The Need for a Psychological Hell,” Lone Star College **F1**
- Fritz**, Kaylee “Investigation of Protocol and Resources for Medical Staff and Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Patients in Hospital Emergency Rooms,” Texas Woman’s University **B4**
- Fuentes**, Angelica “Constructing the Selena Legend,” Northeast Texas Community College **A8**

**G.**

- Garrison**, Gabrielle “Level 5 Leadership,” Emporia State University **E9**
- Garza Norma E.; Mejia Villarreal, Gabriela** “Who Hates Politics? Attitudes Towards Politics Mediates the Link Between Internal Political Efficacy and Political Participation” The University of Texas Pan American **Poster Session.**
- Gatewood**, James “Reconciling Jesus’s Human Mind to the Omniscience of God,” Harding University **A9**
- Giesie**, Triston “The Manhattan Project and the Post-War Scientific Revolution,” Brazosport College **A3**
- Goldsmith**, Allison “Woman as Soldiers in the Civil War” Tarrant County Community College **B7**
- Gonzalez**, Leslie “Early Childhood Companionship,” Texas Woman’s University **C2**

**Gordon**, Patricia “Proposing a Change of Heart for Heart Disease,” Alvin Community **A5**  
**Gouliev**, Roustam “The Nature of the Soul in Philip K. Dick’s, ‘Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?’” Tarrant County Community College **B3**  
**Grammer**, Luke “A Study of the Algonquian Speaking Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands” Tarrant County Community College **A2**  
**Green**, Raymond Dean of the Honors College, Texas A&M University Commerce **B4**  
**Greene**, Lynn Web Manager, Great Plains Honors Council, Tulsa Community College  
**Guijt**, Gillian “Bombshells: Female Empowerment in World War II,” Lone Star College **A3**

**H.**

**Haddox**, “Honors Nutrition and the NSF: Group Grant Writing as an Honors Class Project,” Andrea Marie Tulsa Community College **D9**  
**Haefner**, Ida “A Look at Species Diversity Under Cover Boards in the Various Forest Successions of Otoe Creek Natural Area” Missouri Western State University – **Poster Session**  
**Hagler**, Hannah “Food for Thought: An Investigation on Food Waste” Texas Woman’s University – **Poster Session**  
**Hand**, Travis “Music and Psyche,” Lone Star College **E1**  
**Hallinan**, Jeffery S “The ‘Cowboy’ of Pasadena, Texas: The Origins Behind the Pasadena Livestock Show & Rodeo and Its Relevance Today,” San Jacinto College **C10**  
**Harrington**, Sarah “Irish Folk Music and Its Effects on American Culture” Emporia State University – **Poster Session**  
**Hastings**, Tyler “Popular Entertainment in Rome and Its Modern Counterparts,” Angelo State University **B9**  
**Hawkins**, William Moderator, Tulsa Community College **D7**  
**Hedge**, Zariah “Music is for the Byrds: A Short Documentary on the Birth of Folk-Rock,” San Jacinto College **A8**  
**Herrera**, Graciela “Increasing Self-Determination and Global Understanding: Microcredit for Women’s Enterprises in Chacrasecas, Nicaragua,” Tulsa Community College **F6**  
**Herrera**, Victoria “The Antinomian Controversy,” Lone Star College-Harris **D8**  
**Hewett**, Hannah Moderator, Emporia State University **A1**  
**Hinojosa**, Gaspar “The Einstellung Effect,” Tarrant County College Cornerstone Program **E3**  
**Hoeffner**, Camden “The Effect of Violence Risk Education on Juror Perception of Violence,” Texas Tech University **C3**  
**Hough**, Zachary “The Economic Forces of College Textbooks,” Lone Star College **A6**  
**Howard**, Brianna “A Study of Breastfeeding from a Maternal, Infant, and Societal Point of View,” McLennan Community College **C4**  
**Howard Melody**, “Nourish, Flourish and Savor” McLennan Community College – **Poster Session**  
**Huitema**, Ricky “Supported Cu-Pd Catalysts for the Selective Hydrogenation of Acetylene,” Texas Tech University **B6**  
**Hullum**, Steven “Do the marginal benefits of the legalization of marijuana outweigh the marginal costs, specifically as it pertains to school funding and student performance?” The University of Texas at Tyler **E5**



I.

- Iaccobucci**, Rache;l **Mathis**, Monica “Integrating Honors and the Terry Scholars Programs,” Texas Woman’s University **C5**  
**Infante**, Kristina “Existentialism: Mustaches & Crooked Eyes” Lone Star College **C8**

J.

- Jackson**, Misty “Renal Failure: The Kidney, Patient Perspectives, and Nursing Implications,” Alvin Community College **A5**  
**Jackson**, Misty “Mental Illness, Homelessness and Incarceration,” Alvin Community College **F3**  
**Jackson**, April Hill- “The Dichotomy of White Privilege: Exploring the Myths and Manifestations of Racism,” Lone Star College **E4**  
**Jalilov**, Murad “Further Research in the Ukrainian Shatterbelt,” Emporia State University **A3**  
**James, Michael L.** Dean The Honors College, Harding University, Moderator **D5**  
**Johnston**, Dirk “The Chamizal Settlement and the Dispersion of a People Group,” San Jacinto College **A2**  
**Jones**, Hannah “The Sacrificial Lamb of Feminism: Hillary Rodham Clinton’s Re-Creation of the Rhetoric of Women’s Rights,” South Eastern Oklahoma State University **F8**  
**Jones**, William “An Argument for Net Neutrality” Tarrant County Community College **E2**  
**Jordan**, Matthew “Development of Carbohydrate-based Heterogeneous Solid Acid Catalyst for Biodiesel Production,” Texas Tech University **B6**

K.

- Keller**, Chris Conference Co-Organizer University of Texas Pan American  
**Kelley**, Cheyenne “Veteran Services in Higher Education: Increasing Veteran Engagement” McLennan Community College – **Poster Session**  
**Kelley**, Mary “How Suicide Affects Lone Star College Students,” Lone Star College **E3**  
**Knepp**, Kelli “Feminine Frontiers: Challenges of Life in Texas 1823 -1863,” Northeast Texas Community College **E4**College **E3**  
**Knox**, Duncan “The Suffolk Resolves: A Catalyst for Revolutionary Thinking,” Angelo State University **B7**

L.

- Ladnier**, Jamie “Beauty in Art Through the Lens of the Empathic Response” Tarrant County Community College **E7**  
**Langston**, Luke “Game Theory Applications in Economics” Emporia State University – **Poster Session**  
**Laken**, Emerson “Dr. Seuss and Politics: Symbolism in Thematic Children’s Stories,” University of Arkansas-Fort Smith **C2**  
**Larsen**, Holly “Home Away from Home: A Multi-Cultural Look at Communication in the Hospitality Industry,” Harding University **B10**

**Lee, Margaret** "Reasons of Sport Participation and Physical Activity Enjoyment between High School Athletes and Speciation Status" Missouri Western State University – **Poster Session**

**Lewis, Sidney** "Missing Moral Compass: The Dangers of Unethical Stories," East Central University **A1**

**Litton, Guy** President-elect Great Plains Honors Council, Texas Women's University.

**Long, Debra** "George Washington Christy and the Christy Brothers Circus," Lee College **C10**

**Lostracco, Emilie** "A Scholarly Look at Fear-Driven Conspiracy Theories: The Case of 9/11," Lone Star College **F8**

**Lowe, Kolyn** "Embryonic stem cell," Tarrant County Community College **F10**

**Lund, Katrina** "From Saltboxes to Southern Mansions: The Development of American Colonial Architecture," Lone Star College –CyFair **C9**

**Lynch, Kyriana** "From Poker to Photography: The Impact of the Railroad Winslow, Arkansas," John Brown University **F7**

**Lynn, Samantha** "Service learning at a local community center: Using the arts to unleash creativity," McLennan Community College **C9**

## **M.**

**Maggard, Jesse** "The professor as a resource: Do students seek instructor assistance outside of class?" McLennan Community College **E9**

**Martinez, Jesse** "HIV and the Search for the CCR-5 Receptor: Chromosomal Mutation and HIV Immunity," Brazosport College **D6**

**Mathis, Monica Rachel** Iacobucci, "Integrating Honors and the Terry Scholars Programs," Texas Woman's University **C5**

**Mayle, Ashton** "Revenge: Fun for the Whole Family," East Central University **F1**

**McGee, Canaan** "Racial Residential Segregation: Its Effects on Minorities in America," Lone Star College-North Harris **D2**

**McGill, Alyssa** "Power in Relationships" Emporia State University – **Poster Session**

**Mendez, Jazmine** "Celebrity Worship" Tarrant County College – **Poster Session**

**Mendoza, Jonatan** "The Mask of Aesthetics" Tarrant County Community College **D7**

**Mendoza, Miranda** "Kirkland Verses Ames: A case of Projected-Identity," Northeast Texas Community College **B8**

**Mendoza-Lespron, Andrea** "Parenting Needs Love, Not DNA," Midwestern State University **C2**

**Miles, Holly** "Children and the Environment: How Nature Preschools Can Protect the Future," Angelo State University **C4**

**Miller, Darla** "HOW: A Look at Homeless Outreach for Women, Barriers to Healthcare and Nursing Interventions," Lone Star College **F3** Mitchell, Austin "Beauty: A Subjective Experience" Tarrant County Community College **B5**

**Miller, Kari** "Combatting Heresy with Orthodoxy: the Formation of the Doctrine of the Trinity," John Brown University **A9**

**Molina, Savannah** "The Problem with Human Trafficking" Tarrant County Community College Northwest – **Poster Session**

**Morales, Katherin** "Personality Types and Social Desirability," Emporia State University **F2**

**Moseley**, Isa "Collegiate Education: A Right or Privilege?" East Central University **E9**  
**Murphy**, Jennifer "Discovering Asteroids: The History of Searching for Asteroids and Findings at Insperity Observatory," Lone Star College **C7**  
**Myrice**, Lisa "Legislating Morality: the Progression of the Sodomitic Legacy in America," Angelo State **D4**

**N.**

**Newcomb**, Matt "A Warning Letter from a Ghost," Redlands Community College **D3**  
**Nwogu**, Nkemdirim "Understanding Euthanasia through the Idea of the Common Good," Emporia State University **A1**

**O.**

**Ochoa**, Zurisadai "Controversies in Organ Transplant," County Community College-Northwest Campus **A5**  
**Oehlberg**, Madelaine "Shakespeare's Macbeth: The Promotion or the Mockery of Misogyny," East Central University **A10**  
**Ortiz**, Daniela C. "The Effect of Various Phosphate Sources During Expression and Mineralization Texas A&M International University **A7**  
**Ospina**, Andrea "The Art of Education Forecast by Plato," Tarrant County Community College **C9**  
**Owen, Macy** "Profitable Environmental Stewardship: A Sustainability Plan for Uswirl Waco" McLennan Community College – **Poster Session**

**P.**

**Palacios**, Estefania "Working For Victory: Rosie the Riveter," Lone Star College-CyFair **F7**  
**Parker**, Madeline; Piehler, Megan "How Research Papers Affect Students," Midwestern State University **E1**  
**Partee**, Elyse "Reshaping the Holy: The Medieval Veneration of El Cid and 'Friends of God'," John Brown University **D10**  
**Patterson**, Jessie "Re-writing recovery: Creating an effective workbook for women recovering from eating disorders," McLennan Community College **B2**  
**Pava**, Daniela De La "Coaching Consumers 101: The Application of Mathematical Principles to Electric Company Rates," Lone Star College-CyFair **F6**  
**Peets**, Emrys "Redefining Hyper Focus," Midland College **F5**  
**Perez**, Emily "Nursing in Central America: An Adventure in Guatemala," Angelo State University **D5**  
**Peterson**, Emilee "Impact of Bio-fertilizer Application on Annual Warm-Season Grass Growth and Chemical Composition" Redlands Community College – **Poster Session**  
**Peterson**, Paul "A New Greek Tomb," Midland College **A2**  
**Piehler**, Megan; Parker, Madeline "How Research Papers Affect Students," Midwestern State University **E1**  
**Polansky**, Caleb "Effects of Video Games' Virtual Reality Setting on a Person's Morality/Tendency towards Violence" McLennan Community College **C3**  
**Polansky**, Emilee "Student Perception of Success and Failure: A Qualitative Assessment of Emotional Intelligence," McLennan Community College **E3**

**Poole**, Nathan "The Origins of Bushido," East Central University  
**Pressman**, Sarah "Psalmody: A Study of the Musical and Liturgical History of the Psalms"  
McLennan Community College – **Poster Session**  
**Pritchett**, Carrie Secretary/Treasurer, Moderator, Great Plains Honors Council,  
Brazosport Community College **B1**  
**Pruitt**, Chandler "The Inspiration of the Bible," Harding University **C1**  
**Puey**, Sofia "The Post-Colonial Mind: Filipinos in the United States," Lone Star College  
**E2**

**Q.**

**R.**

**Radney**, Matthew "Material Culture of Space Center Houston" San Jacinto College **D1**  
**Rahman**, Erfan; Sadek, Emrene "Statescraft," San Jacinto Community College **E2**  
**Rascon**, Gerardo Montes "Meth Taboo" Tarrant County Community College **D1**  
**Ratzlaff**, Hannah "The Arabian Nights: The Literary Implications of Arab Justice and  
Identity," John Brown University **E10**  
**Rauschhuber**, Aaron "Socioeconomic Media Analysis of YouTube Gaming Channels:  
What Makes Us Click?" McLennan Community College **F2**  
**Rea**, Dillon "Justified Infanticide? Consequentialist and Categorical Moral Perspectives  
on Medea's Murders," East Central University **D8**  
**Reyna**, Leslie "Within Your Reach: The Importance of Studying Abroad" The University  
of Texas at Tyler **A6**  
**Reynolds**, Tyler "Analysis of the War in Iraq Northeast" North Texas Community College  
– **Poster Award Session**  
**Ricard**, Sawyer "Usability of Video-Based Website Designs" Angelo State University–  
**Poster Session**  
**Robertson**, Sara "Is There a Genetic Link to Criminal Behavior?" Alvin Community  
College **F5**  
**Rocha**, Miguel "A Study of the Theme of Liberty in Artistic Works," Tarrant County  
Community College **E7**  
**Rodriguez**, Havidán Rodríguez, PhD President, Ad Interim, The University of Texas Pan  
American; Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs The University of Texas Rio  
Grande Valley.  
**Rodriguez**, Rebekah Lynn "Real Life Reflected Through the Arts" Tarrant County College  
– Northeast Poster Session  
**Rolle**, Shamika "A Society in Disequilibrium," Emporia State University **F2**  
  
**Rosa**, Magali De La "Caring for the Elderly: A Study of Different Cultural Views in Nursing  
Home Care," McLennan Community College **C4**  
  
**Rosamond**, Rebecca "The Origin of Beauty" Tarrant County Community College **B5**  
**Rosario**, Ariana "Public Opinion on the Use and Legality of Cannabis," Lone Star College  
**E5**  
**Rose**, Cassia "Legendary Housewives," Northeast Texas Community College **B1**  
**Roy**, Renet; Dr. Laura Hanson "The Effects of Mouse Cytomegalovirus on Genes  
Regulating Cholesterol Synthesis "Texas Woman's University – **Poster Session**

**Rudolph**, Xeniya “Effects of Nicotine on Expression of Membrane Cofactor Protein CD46 in Human ARPE-19 Cells,” University of Arkansas at Little Rock Donaghey Scholars Program University of Arkansas at Little Rock Donaghey Scholars Program **B6**

**Rujak**, Savo “Could it be better?” Tarrant County College Northwest Campus – **Poster Session**

**Rupert**, Sierra; **Velasco**, Sophia “Doctor, Doctor! I am Sick: An Insider View of the Life of Hypochondriac,” and Lone Star College **F1**

S.

**Sabira**, Fatima “What we do not know: A Chilling Exploration of People's Knowledge Regarding Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis,” Lone Star College **F10**

**Sadek**, Emrene; **Rahman Erfan** “Statescraft,” San Jacinto Community College **E2**

**Sampson**, Gift “Battling with Broken Dreams in Adichie’s, ‘The Arrangers of Marriage’” Lee College **B3**

**Sankar**, Kiran “Thermoregulation,” Lone Star College **F10**

**Scheckle**, Anne “Printing Before Gutenberg” Emporia State University – **Poster Session**

**Schrader**, Brandon “God, Capitalism and the Individual,” Emporia State University **E8**

**Schultz**, Makayla “My Faith and Deaf Culture: A Hearing Girl’s Stories,” John Brown University **C1**

**Scott**, Jessica, Assistant Director Donaghey Scholars Program, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Moderator **D4**

**Shumake**, Heather “Analysis of the Chemical Mechanism and Structure of Oritavancin” The University of Texas at Tyler – **Poster Session**

**Serrano**, Ignis “Feminism: A Historical Study,” Tarrant County College Northwest Campus **B7**

**Sherman**, Julianna “Regulation of Yes-Associated Proteins by Angiomotin in Mammary Epithelial Cells,” Oral Roberts University **D6**

**Sibley**, Billy “Racial Bias in the Media’s Sphere of Influence” West Texas A&M University – **Poster Session**

**Singh**, Simran “Characterization of Muscular Strength of *C. elegans* Mutants used as Model Organism for Neurodegenerative Diseases using Nemaflex” Texas Tech University – **Poster Session**

**Skibstead**, Hollie “Impact of Land Use Change on Reservoir Sedimentation” Redlands Community College – **Poster Session**

**Smith**, Michael “Fury: Behind the Shadows of War,” Lee College **A4**

**Speir**, Victoria “Evolving Beauty,” Tarrant County College Northeast Campus – **Poster Session**

**Stancil**, Hayley “Kennewick Man: A Discussion of Ethics in Modern American Archaeology” San Jacinto College **D1**

**Stevens**, Kaitlyn “The Wicked Witch in Macbeth,” East Central University **A10**

**Stewart**, Carrie “Real People That Point to a Ratified Gospel,” Harding University **C1**

**Suarez**, April “What Effects an Eyewitness?” Tarrant County Community College **C3**

**Sudduth**, Justin “Robust humoral response induced by Sm-p80 conjugated with TLR4 adjuvant as vaccine candidate for Schistosomiasis Texas Tech University **A7**

**Sweet**, Vanessa “Outwitting Bluebeard: Women’s Redemption of an Unlikely Tale,” Oral Roberts University **E10**

**Symeonidis, Angelo** "The Black Market Organ Trade: Reality and Solutions," San Jacinto Community College **D5**

**T.**

**Talamantes, Alejandro** "Film and Inspiration," San Jacinto College **A4**

**Thurman, Taner** "Genetically Modified Organisms," Emporia State University **F9**

**Tapiero, Cristina** "The Sexual Revolution: Immorality or Empowerment?" Tarrant County Community College Northwest – **Poster Session**

**Thompson, Linzi** "Occurrence of typical antibiotics in Huai River and Hongze Lake, eastern China" East Central University

**Thompson, Linzi** "UV Photoactivation of Titanium Dioxide Nanoparticles: Enhanced Photo-oxidation of Natural Organic Matter in Aqueous Systems" East Central University – **Poster Session**

**Timberlake, Kara** "A Practically Perfect View of Feminist Critical Theory in Mary Poppins," Lamar University **A10**

**Tongkhuya, Sirima** "Effects of Sugar Concentration on Cell Growth and pH," Tarrant County Community College **E6**

**Tongkhuya, Sirima** "Effects of Sugar Concentration on Cell Growth and pH," Tarrant County Community College **Poster Session**

**Tychhon, Boranai** "Intellectual Diaspora: The Emergence of the Intelligence Concept and its Relation to Ethnicity," Lone Star College –**Poster Session**

**U.**

**Urrutia, Katya** "How the Telegraph Changed Communication" Tarrant County Community College **B10**

**Useche, Ricardo** "National Interest and the Constructivist Approach to International Relations," Lone Star College **F4**

**V.**

**Vascoe, Wyatt** "The Connection Between Suicide and Bullying," San Jacinto College **D4**

**Velasco, Sophia; Rupert, Sierra** "Doctor, Doctor! I am Sick: An Insider View of the Life of Hypochondriac," and Lone Star College **F1**

**Velazquez, Jessica** "Did the South Resist Economic Modernization?" Northeast Texas Community College – **Poster Session**

**Velazquez, Raul** "Is the Video Game Industry Headed for Another Market Crash?" Tarrant County College Northwest – **Poster Session**

**Villalobos, William** "The Chronicles of Harriet Potter Ames," Northeast Texas Community College **B8**

**Villarreal, Gabriela Mejia; Garza Norma E.** "Who Hates Politics? Attitudes Towards Politics Mediates the Link Between Internal Political Efficacy and Political Participation" The University of Texas Pan American **Poster Session.**

**Voirin, Katee** "Experiences of College Students Identifying as Having a Disability," Texas Woman's University **D9**

**Vu, Trung** "Richard Linklater: From Slacker to Master Filmmaker," San Jacinto College **A4**

## W.

- Wadsack, Josiah** "The Desirability of Economic Progress: Development, Happiness, and Eudemonia," John Brown University **E8**
- Wanke, Danielle** "A Glimpse into to the Transformation of the Hipster" Tarrant County College – **Poster Session**
- Weirdt, Meagan De** "Evolutions in the Perceptions of Beauty," Tarrant County Community College **B5**
- Weinmann, Braden** "Music Absorption and Addictive Behaviors" Angelo State University – **Poster Session**
- Wesberry, Aerial** "Finding a New Home: The Impact of Online Service Tools on Real Estate Agents," The University of Texas at Tyler **Poster Session**
- West, Dylan** "Avengers Assemble! The Moral Theory of Earth's Mightiest Heroes," East Central University **B9**
- Western, Brian** "Manipulation of Virus-Like Particles for the Purpose of Optimizing Immunostimulation" The University of Texas at Tyler – **Poster Session**
- Whisenant, Regina** "A New Mob Boss of the Fungi Underground: The Dangerous Spread of *Cryptococcus gattii*," Brazosport
- Wilson, Derek** Moderator, Emporia State University
- Wolfe, Emily** "NAGPRA: The Bridge Between the Beliefs of Native American Peoples and American Archaeologists," San Jacinto College Central, **D10**
- Wong, Daniel** "Nerf Firestrike: Laser Angle Optimization," Lone Star College F10
- Wood, Megan** "English and Communication Around the World in Education," Missouri Western State University **B10**
- Wood, Megan** "English and Communication Around the World in Education," Missouri Western State University – **Poster Session**
- Wyatt, Gary** Associate Provost and Director of the Honors College, Emporia State University **C2**

## X.

## Y.

- Yazdanyar, Rana** "Facing Allegations and Hoping for Change: A Rhetorical Analysis of Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama" Lone Star College-Kingwood **D2**
- Yox, Andrew** Immediate Past President Great Plains Honors Council, Northeast Texas Community College
- North Young, Luke De** "MARCKS phosphorylation during *Coxiella burnetii* infection of phagocytic and nonphagocytic cells" John Brown University - **Poster Award Session**

## Z.

- Zamirpour, Siavash** "A Separation: Class Divisions and Oppression," Lee College **D2**
- Zavala, Mariella** "Public Narrative: A Bridge between Ethical Theory and Movements," The University of Texas Pan American **A6**

**Zuniga, Miguel E.** “Developing Lipid Nanotechnologies for Structural Studies of the Tenase Complex” Texas A&M International University – **Poster Session**



## PLENARY SPEAKERS

**RUSSELL SKOWRONEK** Russell Skowronek joined the anthropology and history faculty at UTPA in 2009. A Research Associate, Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution his research interests lie in archaeology and ethnohistory of the Spanish Empire among other topics. He has conducted research on prehistoric and historic, terrestrial and underwater sites in the United States, Mexico, and the Philippines. At UTPA he directs the Community Historical Archaeology Project with Schools (CHAPS) Program. The CHAPS Program is an innovative place-based research consortium of anthropologists, biologists, geologists, and historians working with undergraduate and graduate students on locally-focused research projects the results of which are brought to K-12 educators and students, and to the public.

During the course of his career Skowronek has successfully obtained thirty fellowships or grants including two from the National Endowment for the Humanities and several from private foundations. He has co-authored or edited seven books and dozens of articles and reports on a number of topics in archaeology. These include *Ceramic Production in Early Hispanic California* (with M. James Blackman and Ronald L. Bishop), *X Marks the Spot, the Archaeology of Piracy* (with Charles Ewen-2006), *HMS Fowey Lost...And Found* (with George Fischer-2009) *Beneath the Ivory Tower, the Archaeology of Academia* (with Kenneth Lewis-2010) all with the University Press of Florida, and *Situating Mission Santa Clara de Asís: 1776-1851, Documentary and Material Evidence of Life on the Alta California Frontier* with the Academy of American Franciscan History (2006).

In addition to these he has made more than sixty presentations at regional, national, and international conferences he has been an invited speaker at the School for Advanced Research, the Witte Museum, the Science Museum of Minnesota, and for a NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops for School Teachers Institute.

In 2014 Skowronek received The University of Texas System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award and in 2015 the Norman Neuerburg Award, From the California Mission Studies Association. The award recognizes outstanding contributions towards the study and preservation of California's missions, presidios, pueblos, and ranchos.

**MAYRA A. GARCIA** Ms. Garcia began her mariachi studies at the age of 12 in the La Joya Independent School District in the Rio Grande Valley. Throughout her high school years, she was part of the school's orchestra program as well as a violinist, singer and student leader for The La Joya High School Mariachi "Los Coyotes" which whom she had the honor of performing for former President George Bush Sr., Governor Ann Richards, and alongside artists such as Dolly Parton and Willie Nelson. She became part of the professional group Mariachi "Los Gavilanes" de Jesus Vela at the age of 17, performing for Chelsea Clinton and accompanying grand artists such as Yolanda Del Rio as well as opening for the late Rocio Durcal. In 1993 she became part of the award winning UTPA Mariachi "Aztlán" which she remained a part of during her undergraduate and graduate studies, as well as a violinist for the Valley Symphony Orchestra. During her years with Mariachi "Aztlán" Mayra won several numerous state and national mariachi and vocal competitions and studied and assisted in mariachi workshops with some of the best mariachis in the world such as Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan and Mariachi Cobre. Mayra has traveled and performed in cities across Mexico, United States and Canada and in important venues such as the U.S. Capitol and The Hollywood Bowl in Hollywood, California. She has accompanied mariachi artists such as Nydia Rojas and performed for Governor Rick Perry and former Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton. In 2012 she formed the new Mariachi "Mariposas", an all-female mariachi group consisting of the best female mariachi musicians from the Rio Grande Valley. In 2014 Mariachi Mariposas, won first place at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Mayra is currently the director for the award- winning Mariachi "Los Lobos" from Palmview High School in the La Joya Independent School District. Under her leadership from 2009-2014, Palmview High School Mariachi "Los Lobos" have won the Texas State Mariachi Championship in 2011 and 2015. Her students are highly acclaimed performers and have performed various times for our Texas State Capital, International festivals and have also performed for Barack Obama at his 57th Presidential Inauguration.

Mayra holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Music from The University of Texas Pan American (UTPA).

**PALMVIEW HIGH SCHOOL: MARIACHI "LOS LOBOS"** La Joya I.S.D. has been a strong supporter for folk art studies with such programs as mariachi and Mexican folkloric dance since 1982. For more than 30 years, it has been part of the district's curriculum to aid in dropout prevention and assimilation of recent immigrants. In 2008, La Joya I.S.D. divided into three separate high schools. The Palmview High School Mariachi and Folklorico programs were established in the year 2008

The award-winning Mariachi "Los Lobos" has won various awards since its creation. Some of those include superior division 1 and first place awards in local competitions. UTPA FESTIBA Mariachi Competition along with placing members every year at the All Valley Region 15 Mariachi. Mariachi "Los Lobos" vocalists have made finals every year in the Mariachi Vargas National Vocal Competition with some winning a place in these. PHS Mariachi have placed top three in the Texas State Mariachi Championship along with winning first place in 2011 and Co-Champions in 2015!

In 2013, Mariachi "Los Lobos" was invited to participate in the 57th Presidential Inaugural Parade in celebration of Barack Obama's second term in office. The students were chosen in more than 2800 musical groups and organizations and were selected to represent the state of Texas, the Rio Grande Valley and the Hispanic community of the United States.

The Palmview High School Mariachi "Los Lobos" is under the direction of Ms. Mayra Garcia

**CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Dr. Ken Buckman, Dr. Chris Keller, Ms. Cynthia Guerrero, Mr. Luis Basurto, Mr. Venkatesh Bandaru, Ms. Brenda Marines.

**STUDENT VOLUNTEERS:** Luis Basurto, Jacqueline Bacerra, Cantu Kristina, Belen Diaz, Li Ding, Magaly Dueñas, Janet Ekezie, Andrea Flores, Monica Garduño, Lorena Guerra, Roel Hernandez, Jenny Kang, Jieun Lee, Jessica Lora, Andrea Perez, Ana Reyes, Alejandra Tiburcio, Alexander Valdez, Julia Vanoye, Iliana Villalobos

**SESSION MODERATORS:** Amanda Blackwell, Candace Cote, Dr. Sabrina Chesne, Kelsey Covington, Dr. Shirley Eoff, Dr. David Fisher, William Hawkins, Hannah Hewett, Dr. Raymond Green, Dr. Michael James, Carrie Pritchett, Dr. Jessica Scott, Derek Wilson, Dr. Gary Wyatt

**GPHC EXECUTIVE BOARD:** Dr. Virginia Brackett, president; Dr. Guy Litton, president-elect; Dr. Andrew Yox, past president; Ms. Carrie Pritchett, executive secretary/treasurer; Dr. Ken Buckman and Dr. Chris Keller, conference hosts; Ms. Kayleah Cumpian, student representative

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Grateful thanks to our conference sponsors for their generous support of*

***"GPHC 2015: Honors Transcending Borders"***

**GUERRA HONORS PROGRAM**  
**ISLA GRAND BEACH RESORT**  
**NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL**  
**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**  
**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PAN AMERICAN**  
**DR. HAVIDAN RODRIGUEZ, PRESIDENT AD INTERIM, UTPA &**  
**PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, UTRGV**

*Special thanks to*

**UTPA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
*for their technology expertise and kind support.*

**UTPA BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

*and*



*The 2016 conference of the Great Plains Honors Council  
will be co-hosted by John Brown University and Oral Roberts University.*