



2009 Capstone Abstracts



*This volume is dedicated to the members of the faculty
who have inspired, counseled and mentored these Honors graduates
and to all those celebrating their accomplishments from afar and in spirit.*

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Friday, May 8, 2009

Dear 2009 Honors Graduates,

Congratulations!

Your Honors Capstones, which are summarized in these pages, represent a culmination of your academic achievements at American University. They are remarkable for their academic rigor, their staggering breadth of topics and the significance of the issues with which they grapple.

For some of you, your Capstone has integrated your learning from a number of different courses studied during your undergraduate years. It is likely the largest academic project that you have ever attempted. For others, the Capstone experience has built upon your studies more tangentially, but allowed you to take an academic risk and to attempt a project for which you felt a burning passion. For all of you, the completion of your Honors Capstone is a milestone of great significance for which you should be very proud.

I know how proud your Faculty Capstone Advisor is to share in your educational accomplishment. As Director of the University Honors Program, I know how much our program has tested you. You have met the challenge and all of us at the University Honors Program are very proud of you. We offer our congratulations and welcome you to our life-long community of Honors scholars.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Mass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Professor Michael Mass
Director, University Honors Program

University Honors Program Annual Honors Capstone Research Conference and Related Awards

The University Honors Program annually hosts a day-long celebration of students' Capstone work, known as the Honors Capstone Research Conference. All Honors seniors are invited to apply to participate. For students selected, it is an opportunity to present their work in progress and to gain the valuable experience of participating in an academic conference.

This year, more than 70 Honors seniors applied to participate in the Honors Capstone Research Conference and 40 students, representing all AU schools and a range of majors and topics, were selected to share their Capstone work in oral and poster presentations. A panel of AU faculty and staff served as judges for the April 15, 2009, event, which was open to the public and well attended.

Students' topics ranged widely, from spacetime dynamics and the intricacies of skin cancer to political party de-politization in times of economic crisis and commodity price volatility and monetary policy uncertainty. There were presentations related to xenophobia and African integration, death penalty literacy, fair trade discourse and Lanchester's laws in modern warfare. Other presentations explored motor living wills, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Tuareg musical culture, and transatlantic understandings of 18th century social philosopher Bernard Mandeville.

Reflecting that Honors Capstone work can take a form other than the traditional research papers, the conference also highlighted students' original creative works, including two novels, a play and groundbreaking music composition and performance.

Deciding the best among conference presentations was a challenge. The jury selected six students to win the 2009 Honors Capstone Research Conference Award on the basis of oral or poster presentations. Another six students were recognized with an Honorable Mention.

Seventeen students who participated in the 2009 Honors Capstone Research Conference presented Capstone work supported by an Honors Capstone Research Grant. Among this year's grant recipients are four 2009 Honors Capstone Research Conference Award winners and one Honorable Mention recipient.

On the next few pages, you will find a list of the 2009 Honors Capstone Research Conference Award winners and Honorable Mention recipients, as well as the full program of this year's Honors Capstone Research Conference oral and poster presentations. Following are abstracts of the Capstone work of each graduating senior, listed alphabetically by last name, and noting the faculty Capstone Advisor(s).

2009 Honors Capstone Research Conference Award Winners

***Erek H. Alper, University Honors in Physics**

“Modeling Spacetime Dynamics”

Capstone Advisors: Professors Philip R. Johnson

***Inna B. Arnaudova, University Honors in Psychology**

“The Relationship between Patterns of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and PTSD Symptom Clusters Severity among Low-Income, African-American Women”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Michele Carter

Matthew T. Espina, University Honors in International Studies

“New War and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Carolyn Gallaher

***Joanna C. Holmes, University Honors**

“Psychology in Two Acts: Research, Writing and Performance”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Caleen Jennings

***Carrie Johnson, University Honors**

“State-Level Renewable Energy Policy: The South Dakota Case Study”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Thomas B. Williams

Tejaswini S. Reddi, University Honors in Biology

“The Intricacies of Skin Cancer: How the Tpl2 Gene Enhances Tumorigenesis and Affects Tumor Phenotype”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Kathleen L. DeCicco-Skinner

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

2009 Honors Capstone Research Conference Honorable Mention Recipients

**Jacob Choi, University Honors in Mathematics and
University Honors in Secondary Education**

“Combat Evolved: Lanchester’s Laws in Modern Warfare”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Ali Enayat

**Amanda Fulton, University Honors
Molly Kenney, University Honors in Law and Society**

“Death Penalty Literacy: Teaching D.C. High School Students about Capital Punishment”

Capstone Advisors: Professors Richard Stack and Robert Johnson

***Joshua Hattem, University Honors in Law and Society**

“Why NOT Plagiarize? A Study of Behavioral Controls in College Students”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Lynn Addington

Abby Horowitz, University Honors in Communication: Communication Studies

“The Significance of the Ideological Meal within the Food Film Genre”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Nick Clooney

Claire Lunieski, University Honors in Economics

“Commodity Price Volatility and Monetary Policy Uncertainty: A GARCH Estimation”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Martha Starr

Thais Miller, University Honors in Literature

“*Plasticity*”

Capstone Advisors: Professors Kermit Moyer and Jonathan Loesberg

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

2009 Honors Capstone Research Conference Judges

The University Honors Program would like to thank the following individuals for their invaluable contributions as judges for the 2009 Honors Capstone Research Conference:

Dr. Lynne Arneson

Premed Advisor, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Assen Assenov

Manager, Social Science Research Laboratory, Center for Teaching Excellence

Professor Naomi Baron

Department of Language and Foreign Studies, College of Arts and Sciences

Associate Dean Maria Green Cowles

School of International Service

Dr. Dan Crowe

Assistant Registrar for Degree Audit and Transfer Articulations, Office of the Registrar

Professor John Doolittle

Broadcast Journalism Division, School of Communication
Associate Director, Center for Teaching Excellence

Dr. Sara Dumont

Director, AU Abroad

Professor Nathan Harshman

Chair, Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Robert Hradsky

Assistant Vice President of Campus Life and Dean of Students

Professor Patrick Thaddeus Jackson

School of International Service
Director, American University General Education Program

Karen Frosolid Jones

Director, Office of Institutional Research and Assessment

Matthew Klinger

University Honors Program Alumnus (1995)
Managing Director, Advisory Board Company

Professor Robin Lumsdaine

Kogod School of Business

2009 Honors Capstone Research Conference Judges ... *continued*

Stacey Marien

Associate Librarian, American University Bender Library

William Mayer

American University Librarian

Dr. Kelly Nolin

Manager for Training and Assessment, Center for Teaching Excellence

Associate Dean Rose Ann Robertson

School of Communication

Bernard Schulz

Special Assistant to the Vice President of Campus Life

Professor Richard Sha

Department of Literature, College of Arts and Sciences

Senior Associate Dean Rodger Streitmatter

School of Communication

Professor Sue Taylor

Public Anthropologist in Residence, College of Arts and Science

Professor Christopher Tudge

Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Paula Warrick

Director, Office of Merit Awards, American University Career Center

Associate Dean Meg Weekes

School of Public Affairs

Patricia West

Assistant Librarian and Director of Reference Services
American University Bender Library

Other 2009 Honors Capstone Conference Participants Wednesday, April 15, 2009

***Kiersten Batzli** (CAS: Phil. & Physics) “Flawed: Nietzsche on Singer’s Utilitarian Bioethics of Infants with Disabilities”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Ellen Feder

Miriam Callahan (SIS: Intl. Studies) “Foreign Policy Discourse and the Construction of Turkish Identity”

Capstone Advisors: Professors Linda Lubrano, Bülent Aliriza

Christopher Chang (SIS: Intl. Studies & CAS: Econ.) “Japan’s Demographic Crisis: Aging, Gender and Immigration”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Pek Koon Heng

***Charles Corbett** (CAS: Phil.) “Postmodern Religion in America and Nothingness”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Farhang Erfani

Zachary Faden (CAS: History & Phil.) “A Transatlantic Interpretation of Bernard Mandeville”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Kate Haulman

***Meghan Falter** (SIS: Intl. Studies) “The Crisis of Identity in Contemporary Europe: Renegotiating Self and the Other”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Christine Chin

Kaylor Garcia (SOC: Health Edu.) “Writing Health Education Materials”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Erin O’Neill

***Leah Gates** (SIS: Intl. Studies) “Finding the Right Fit: Applications of Technology to Improve Civil-Military Cooperation in Complex Emergency Response”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Cindy Collins

***Curtis Harris** (SIS: Intl. Studies) “The Discipline of Nunavut: Governance in Canada’s Eastern Arctic”

Capstone Advisors: Professors Linda Lubrano, Anthony Quainton

Stanley Ho (SPA: CLEG & Pol. Sci.) “Chinese Anti-Americanism from 1996 to Present”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Max Friedman

Xiaoqing Huang (CAS: Applied Math.) “Mathematical Exploration of JPEG Image Compression Scheme”

Capstone Advisor: Professor Stephen Casey

* *Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

James Kelley (SPA: Pol. Sci. & CAS: Phil.) “Party De-Polarization in Times of Economic Crisis”
Capstone Advisors: Professors N. Stephen Kane, Kimberly Cowell-Meyers

Rebecca Kern (SOC: Print Journ.) “Upshur Street in the Petworth Neighborhood of D.C.:
Where New Cultures Meet Old Communities”
Capstone Advisors: Professors Angie Chuang, Richard Stack

Stephanie McDaniel (SPA: Pol. Sci.) “The New Kingdom: An Exploration of the
Philosophical and Socio-Political Forces Acting in the Fictional Kingdom of Penjuste”
Capstone Advisor: Professor Patrick Thaddeus Jackson

Althea Mickiewicz (SIS: Intl. Studies & CAS: Env. Studies) and **Jenn Fantasia** (CAS: Bio.)
“Xerocomus Chrysenteron is a Potential Bioremediator to Break Down DDT in Soil”
Capstone Advisor: Professor Albert Cheh

Farley Miller (CAS: Audio Tech.) “CANNOT BE STOPPED’s ‘Mountain’ –
A Recorded Collection of Musical Works for Solo Drum Set (Controlling a Synthesizer)”
Capstone Advisor: Professor Paul Oehlers

***Mike Minnick** (SPA: Pol. Sci. & CLEG) “State-Sponsored Merit Scholarships:
Do They Reverse the Trends of Brain Drain?”
Capstone Advisors: Professors Alison Jacknowitz, Kimberly Cowell-Meyers

***Kara Newhouse** (CAS: Anthro.) “Anti-Politics Movement: Individualization
of Change in Fair Trade Discourse”
Capstone Advisor: Professor Nell Gabiam

William Nicholson (CAS: Econ.) “The Impact of Performance Based Pay Incentives
on the Attrition of American Public School Teachers”
Capstone Advisor: Professor Mary Hansen

***Grenye O’Malley** (CAS: Bio.) “Neurotransmitters of Hyperglycaemic Zebrafish”
Capstone Advisor: Professor Victoria Connaughton

***Tony Romm** (SOC: Journ.) “Convergent Media and the 2008 Presidential Election”
Capstone Advisor: Professor Dotty Lynch

Hamissou Samari (SIS: Intl. Studies) “Xenophobia and the Long Road to African Integration”
Capstone Advisors: Professors Linda Lubrano, David Hirschmann

* *Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

***Eric Schmidt** (CAS: Music: Jazz Studies) “Ichumar: The Guitar and the Revolution of Tuareg Culture”
Capstone Advisor: Professor Marc Medwin

Jacquelyn Suarez (SPA: CLEG) “Motor Living Wills”
Capstone Advisors: Professors Jeffrey Schaler, Drew Littman

***Joyprada Swain** (SPA: Pol. Sci.) “No Reason for Cohesion? Political Participation and Community Organizing among Indian Americans”
Capstone Advisor: Professor Denise Baer

***Tsuyoshi Takagi** (SIS: Intl. Studies) “‘Made in Japan’ Succeeding in the United States: What Enables Japanese Corporations to be Successful Beyond the Cultural Barrier?”
Capstone Advisor: Professor Richard Linowes

Meg White (CAS: Germ. Studies & Span. Studies) “The Past Among Us: Memory and the Pursuit of Justice and Truth in the Southern Cone”
Capstone Advisor: Professor Brenda Werth

Lindsay Zoladz (CAS: Lit. & SOC: Vis. Media) “Signifying Nothing: Representations of Ophelia”
Capstone Advisor: Professor Madhavi Menon

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Honors Capstone Abstracts

Caitlin Aber
University Honors in History
Capstone Advisor: Katharine Norris

'The Tragic Mixing of Blood:' British Perceptions of Anglo-Egyptian Relationships, 1862-1923

This thesis explores British attitudes toward sexual relationships between Britons and Egyptians from the 1860s to the early 1920s. During this period, Egypt became a “de facto” British colony, an occupied country, and an official protectorate before winning nominal independence in 1922. Novels, travel writings and newspaper articles comprise the core of the original primary research. This treatment of fiction and non-fiction sources represents a unique approach to a largely overlooked topic. Although miscegenation was never banned in Egypt, as it was in other parts of the British Empire, cultural, racial and religious deterrents nonetheless fueled contempt toward mixed-race relationships. This project draws on the precedent of gendered postcolonial scholarship in recent decades that has emphasized the centrality of gender and sexuality in the formation of imperial policies, laws and knowledge.

Marcus Allen
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Deirdre Golash

New Natural Law Theory vs. Liberalism: A Response to John Finnis on Sexual Orientation and the Law

In 1994, John Finnis, a new natural law theorist, wrote an essay, *Law, Morality, and Sexual Orientation*. In the essay, Finnis argues that same-sex marriages should be discouraged and prohibited by the state because the concept of marriage between same-sex partners is irreconcilable with what he calls the “good of marriage.” In this Capstone, a response is made to Finnis addressing his erroneous theories regarding homosexuality and the proper role between the state and the law. This paper argues that Finnis’ constraints pertaining to the significance of biological unity alone do not serve as proper enforcement to eradicate the moral appropriateness of same-sex marriage. Biological unity is a concept Finnis employs that regards sexual intercourse between a man and a woman to be the only form of sexual intercourse that satisfies the requirement to achieve the good of marriage. This response also addresses the statistical fallacies that Finnis uses to defend his theoretical concepts, which encompass inherent biases toward same-sex couples. A discussion of such issues relating to the unequal treatment of same-sex couples in the face of the law is not only current but is of great importance to the achievement of equal rights for all.

Clare Allenson
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Randall Hanning

The Evolution of Economic Integration in ECOWAS

Since gaining political independence in the 1960s, African leaders have consistently reaffirmed their desire to forge mutually beneficial economic and political linkages in order to enhance the social and economic development of Africa’s people. In 1975, 15 West African nations, mostly former British and French colonies, formed the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), with the objective of increasing regional trade, improving free movement of labor and developing policy harmonization. This paper analyzes the evolution of economic integration in West Africa under ECOWAS through the neorealist and constructivist paradigms and endeavors to determine which model can best explain the reasons for integration’s uneven progress as well as potential policy implications. The paper concludes that the interests exhibited and choices made by ECOWAS member states follow the constructivist model, and that in order to attain the stated goals of the regional agreement, the remaining social constructs of the colonial past must be unlearned or adapted to new West African based-structures.

*Erek Alper
University Honors in Physics
Capstone Advisor: Philip Johnson

Modeling Spacetime Dynamics

The purpose of this research was to create computer models of various cosmological situations. This project sought to model various theories of how the universe is expanding and how it might continue to change in the future. This research was derived Einstein's equations of spacetime dynamics. Using that knowledge and the computer program Mathematica, models of the universe were created based on various theories of cosmological composition. After producing many models describing both older and current ideas and observations, hypotheses on theoretical particles were inputted to see how the models changed. With results partially in, this research envisions a particle that successfully accounts for inflation – half of the main problem currently facing cosmologists when it comes to the expansion of the universe. It is the hope that further research will lead to a better explanation for dark energy, one that accurately and simplistically details the history and future of the universe.

*Nicole Anderson
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Loubna Skalli Hanna

Legal Literacy and the Moudawana

In 2004, the Moroccan government passed a reformed version of the 1993 Moudawana, or family law. On paper, this law significantly increases the rights of women. However, it has yet to be fully implemented due to several factors, one of which is legal literacy. Interviews with the British Embassy and the International Human Rights Law Group formed the basis for an assessment of the educational model that each organization utilized in its efforts to address the issue of legal literacy among women in Morocco. Additionally, this research determined the success of each association in the short-term based on the specific social, political, legal and cultural context of Morocco.

Thomas Anderson
University Honors in Political Science
Capstone Advisors: Christine DeGregorio, Kimberly Cowell-Meyers

Framing Legislation Using Short Titles in the U.S. House of Representatives: Issue Ownership, Opportunity Cost and Loser Appeal Strategy

Variation in the way legislation is introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives suggests that the short title of a bill is a more important feature for some legislation than for others. Bills may have carefully crafted titles with value language, mnemonic devices and other touchstones, or plain and simple titles, if they are given short titles at all. This study explains the use of legislative short titles considering the complexity of a bill, the level of controversy surrounding it, the history of the proposal in previous sessions, the size and specialization of the sponsor's legislative portfolio, and the party polarization of the primary committee of jurisdiction as independent variables. The complexity of a bill, the size and specialization of the sponsor's portfolio and consideration in previous Congresses are found to be significant.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

*Inna Arnaudova
University Honors in Psychology
Capstone Advisor: Michele Carter

Associations between Specific Patterns of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Symptoms in a Sample of Low-Income, African-American Women

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a widespread phenomenon that affects thousands of women annually and is likely to lead to negative mental health outcomes, such as severe post-traumatic stress disorder. This is especially true for a group at high risk for IPV – low-income, urban African American women. The research examined the specific relationship between three IPV patterns: 1) moderate psychological, physical and sexual abuse; 2) severe psychological and physical but low levels of sexual abuse, and 3) severe abuse of all three types and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms. Women having experienced IPV Pattern 3 were found to have more severe PTSD than others. However, IPV Pattern 2 associated with fewer avoidance and numbing symptoms than IPV Pattern 3, which points to the stronger relationship between sexual abuse and these particular symptoms. This study sheds some light into the specific needs of these subgroups of IPV victims.

*Kiersten Batzli
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Ellen Feder

Flawed: Nietzsche on Singer's Utilitarian Bioethics of Infants with Disabilities

Peter Singer, a well-known bioethicist with controversial views about the lives of infants with disabilities, bases his arguments upon the ideas of preference utilitarianism, a form of utilitarianism that strives to maximize the preferences of all individuals involved. Singer's argument is based on assumptions about the quality of life available to those with disabilities and about the moral position of an infant, leading to a conclusion that is distasteful to many. Philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche's criticism of utilitarianism and discussion of the current moral system provides a tool with which to question the legitimacy of Singer's claims. In *On the Genealogy of Morality*, Nietzsche suggests that utilitarianism is a moral system that is based in the resentment of the current system of values, having no basis in moral truth. This Capstone uses Nietzsche's criticism of utilitarianism to undermine the morality of Singer's advocacy for the euthanasia of infants with disabilities, showing that Singer's ethics are not grounded in a legitimate ethical system.

Katie Beran
University Honors in Sociology
Capstone Advisor: Russell Stone

A Modern Day War of Good vs. Evil: An Analysis of Selected State of the Union Addresses Given By Former President George W. Bush

During the Bush administration, it can be argued that there was widespread infringement of American civil rights in the name of national security. The universal right to a fair trial under the law was disregarded while torture at Guantanamo Bay was sanctioned under the guise of the Patriot Act. As the self-proclaimed leading democracy in the world, these actions do not reflect American values. To analyze a contributing factor to the creation of a particular kind of blind patriotic culture that emboldened this violation of civil liberties, a content analysis of selected State of the Union addresses given by former President George W. Bush was performed. This research found two pervasive and significant patterns: a "good vs. evil" construct in which the United States is the morally superior actor to our innately evil enemies, and the fear-based pattern of constructing the United States as imminently vulnerable to unprecedented attack. The data analysis and discussion of these patterns give insight into the basis for national support for two combat wars – the "War on Terror" and the Iraq War. This study concludes by shining a harsh light on the dangerous power of political rhetoric.

Joseph Berman
University Honors in Performing Arts: Music
Capstone Advisor: Karl Kippola

Scatterbrain

Scatterbrain is an eclectic set of new compositions and arrangements created between June 2008 and April 2009. The works represent a synthesis of diverse genres, most notably contemporary Jazz and 20th century Classical composition. *Scatterbrain* was conceived as a musical opportunity to reconcile idioms of the distant past with the present, resulting in such fare as a radically reharmonized version of Victor Young's 1932 standard *Don't Blame Me*, as well as a novel experiment combining avant-rock and Renaissance polyphony (Radiohead's *Scatterbrain* – the namesake of the project). *Scatterbrain* was performed in its entirety on April 11, 2009, in the Katzen Arts Center.

Christina Bezon
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Michael Zeilinger

Western and Traditional Medicine in China: Competitive or Complementary?

According to statistics, as much as one quarter of all medicine practiced in China today is traditional rather than Western. The existence of both forms of medicine – traditional and Western – in China begs the question of whether the two in fact can coexist. Theoretically, there is a wide gulf between the two philosophies from which the schools of medical practice are derived. Historically, Chinese leaders have alternately suppressed or championed traditional medicine relative to Western approaches. Can Western and traditional medicine work together to benefit the health of the Chinese people, or will they be perpetually at odds? The aim of this paper is to argue that yes, the two schools of medicine can be complementary and that Chinese health care is often better because of the integration. Although at times throughout history traditional Chinese medicine and Western medicine have competed in China, they most benefit the population when they work in tandem. However, since the schools are derived from very different philosophical viewpoints, there is a significant barrier to full integration which must be overcome to achieve optimum health benefits for the Chinese people.

Bethany Biondolillo
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Carl LeVan

The Democracy Paradox: Explaining the Rise of Militant Movements in the Niger Delta, Nigeria

Confrontation in the Niger Delta of Nigeria between local communities and both the government and multinational oil companies has existed since the discovery of oil in 1956. Grievances of local communities include environmental degradation, poverty, underdevelopment and human rights abuses committed by security forces. However, popular unrest has been especially visible since the early 1990s, and the rise of militant groups in the last few years has garnered international attention due to their radical tactics and significant impact on the world oil market. What explains this shift to militancy? This paper argues that contemporary movements can be traced to Nigeria's transition to democracy in 1999. Although there were high expectations that the transition would lead to less violence, the democratization process created an open political space that increased the competition for wealth and power through control of resources. The subsequent localization, fragmentation and indirect nature of governance created the environment in which local militias could respond to state incapacity and fight for resource control.

Mathias Bjorkman
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Mamuka Tsereteli

The Europeanization of External Energy Policy?: The European Energy Security Debate from a Historical-Institutional Perspective

The progressive relocation of external energy policy decision-making to the supranational European Union level has long been obscured by the strong desire of individual Member States to keep firm control of perceived national security imperatives. Yet, recurring gas rows in 2006 and 2009 between Russia and its former Soviet satellites have facilitated an emerging debate in both academic and policy circles on the necessity of a “common voice” in addressing the geopolitical vulnerabilities of one of the largest energy-consuming regions in the world. This paper traces the trajectory of EU external energy policy from a historical-institutional perspective in order to determine the extent of presumed Europeanization. By attempting to identify historical processes and institutional mechanisms that can explain the inducement for integration and, inversely, that so far have constrained the adoption of a truly Europeanized policy regime, the paper posits that EU Member States have reluctantly relinquished some national sovereignty to the increased competencies of the supranational EU, as evinced by the increasing interference of the EU Commission. By utilizing two contrary cases, the largely bilateral Russo-German Nord Stream pipeline project, and the multilateral EU-Russian Energy Dialogue, this paper argues that the evolving notion of energy security has resulted in a coordinated, if not yet a common, external energy policy.

Lauren Bobay
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Michael Zeilinger

Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis: A Comparative Case Study of Mozambique and South Africa

Tuberculosis is largely a forgotten problem in the West, but for the rest of the world it is a major public health issue. Treatment of tuberculosis is lengthy and complicated, making it difficult for many developing nations to adequately treat the disease. In recent years the rise of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) has multiplied these difficulties because treating it is even more complicated and expensive. Two nations struggling with MDR-TB are Mozambique and South Africa. This paper is a comparative case study of the responses of both countries to MDR-TB. To evaluate their health systems and response plans to MDR-TB, this paper looks at the history and evolution of the countries, their health programs and international TB guidelines.

Alan Boswell
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Timothy Titus

The Media Paradox: How an Increasingly Connected Society Has Meant a Society Increasingly Disconnecting

American society is becoming increasingly fragmented as the individual takes on more and more importance and as subcultures become growingly isolated. Meanwhile, media technologies are playing an increasingly central part of how we interact with each other and form communities. Why does our wired, connected world feel more and more disconnected? The paradox of this relationship between technologically mediated interactions and forces of societal fragmentation is the focus of this Capstone. While showing that media has always had this dual effect from the printing press onward, the essay analyzes current trends in social media and explores the possibilities of future social media being new forces for community re-convergence or serving to aid the further fragmentation of society.

Jaclyn Boyle
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Rachel Robinson

Chinese Youth Opinions and the Potential for Democracy in China

This project analyzes potential causes for the lack of democratization in China by focusing on the opinions of young intellectuals. The absence of political change in China, despite economic liberalization, is puzzling, so this research looks to the potential role of youth toward this outcome. Young people have played a central role in many democratic movements around the world, including the colored revolutions in Eastern Europe, and have been essential in China's history of political movements as well. Based on 32 interviews with Peking University students from 20 different provinces, this Capstone asks whether this generation will demand democratization in China. Findings show that Chinese youth are actually unlikely to induce political change because they are satisfied with the present situation and value social stability over political democracy. In particular, most young intellectuals do not feel democracy is a suitable option, given China's history and culture, and cannot imagine China becoming democratic.

David Brisson
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Anthony Quainton

Quechua Education in Peru: The Theory-Context Mergence Approach

The status of the Quechua language has long been an issue of debate in Peru. Effective education programs offered in Quechua would lift up a marginalized sector of Peruvian society, as well as create inroads for development and provide a stepping stone toward Spanish literacy for Quechua monolinguals. Although the country possesses a relatively large number of Quechua speakers, deep-seated cultural prejudices have made progressive policies difficult to implement. This study examines the possibility of a holistic approach to implementing Quechua education in Peru by analyzing other language movements throughout the world and theories on minority language education. Using these findings to identify ideal practices, the study examines the possibility of adapting such theories to the Peruvian context through combining concepts of top-down government policies with bottom-up local empowerment programs.

Julie Byrnes
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: John Shosky

Poland's Compatibility with the European Union: Transition, Integration and Future Prospects

This paper seeks to determine the societal compatibility of Poland and the older member states of the European Union (the EU 15). The future cohesiveness of the society of the EU depends on how frequently and to what degree the member states can come together to agree on the issues affecting the union. An examination of Poland's compatibility with the older, more established members helps to form a prognosis for the future of the EU 27 as well as the possible future and viability of an even larger organization. This examination includes a survey of the existing literature on societal issues in the EU with special emphasis on Poland and the EU 15. Studies such as the World Values Survey and the Eurobarometer will also be examined to gauge changing and possible convergence of cultural norms. The outcomes of this research provide a better understanding of how the EU operates and predictions about how it will continue to function with the current members as well as what can be expected of future enlargements.

Joshua Cahan
University Honors in Political Science
University Honors in Communication: Public Communication
Capstone Advisor: Mark Schaefer

Reaching the Collegiate Generation: Strategies for Effective College Ministry

The Puritans established Harvard College in 1636 for the sole purpose of educating ministers for the church. However, with the secularization of higher education over time, evangelical leaders began to recognize college students' need for spiritual guidance. The rise of college ministry to meet this need created organizations that have a shared purpose but differ in everything from organizational structure to ministry strategy. This project explores various models of evangelical college ministry, assessing which aspects of specific ministries are most effective. Structure, ministry philosophy, student leadership and other topics are addressed.

Miriam Callahan
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisors: Linda Lubrano, Bülent Aliriza

Foreign Policy Discourse and the Construction of Turkish Identity

While much literature currently exists on the relationship between Turkish national identity construction and domestic policy, little is known about the relationship between Turkey's identity and its security policy. Working from a constructivist paradigm, this project seeks to determine whether there is a relationship between Turkey's competing secularist and Islamist constructions of national identity and its security policy. Discourse analysis is performed on 119 articles, opinion columns and interviews published in three mainstream Turkish newspapers during the 2000-2005 EU accession negotiations and the 2002-2003 Iraq crisis. Comments are evaluated to determine whether, to what extent and toward what end those opinion-makers use the language of identity in discussions of security policy. As one of the first examinations of identity and security in the Turkish case, this paper fills a gap in the literature in constructivist studies.

Kelsey Cambronne
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Margaret Smith

Indigenous Language Preservation in Mexican Education

Indigenous communities in Mexico speak more than 60 languages and 300 linguistic variants. For many years, the only education available to indigenous communities was in Spanish, taught through the lens of mestizo culture. Today, many indigenous languages in Mexico are at risk of dying out due to only a few remaining speakers and inadequate educational resources to promote their continued learning and usage. Mexico is constitutionally committed to protecting the languages of its native people and has taken important steps in promoting indigenous rights. Through analysis of recent research studies on indigenous education in the country, this paper makes the case that the education system of Mexico can still do more to preserve its linguistic diversity and promote indigenous identities.

Tyler Case
University Honors
Capstone Advisors: Mary Hansen, Kara Reynolds

The Bowie Effect: Investigating the Influence of Technology on the Market for Concert Tickets

A fundamental question in many economic studies relates to the substitutable or complementary relationship of different goods. The Bowie Effect is a change in relationship between live music and recorded music from complementary to substitutable. This project considers the specific case of recorded music and live music from 2001 to 2007. A data set of 700 tours sampled from the 100 top-grossing tours for the time period is analyzed against data describing price and availability of Internet, cable and compact discs. Price changes in possible substitutes result in changes in quantity demanded, which are statistically indistinguishable from zero. This may be the first empirical paper testing the Bowie Effect and sets the groundwork for future study.

Sarah Caudill
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisors: Linda Lubrano, Ayse Kadayifci

Islam in France and America: The Effects of Secularism on Muslim Daily Life

This paper studies the expression of Islam within the secular societies of France and America, which increasingly restrict and frown upon religious expression in the public sphere. The reason that France and America were chosen is the different ways in which these two countries approach secularism. The paper aims to further examine the effect that secular attitudes have upon Muslims living in these countries, as well as the effect of technology such as the Internet, blogging and other forms of media on spreading these ideas. Both official regulations on religion and the influence of public attitudes towards religion and Islam will be examined. This paper will compare the effects of history, the impact of current policies and politicians, and current attitudes towards Islam in both France and America.

Christopher Chang
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Pek Koon Heng

Japan's Demographic Crisis: Aging, Gender and Immigration

Japan is faced with a demographic crisis characterized by three concurrent negative trends. The island nation's population has begun to decline, its women are increasingly avoiding marriage and children, and its shrinking workforce is finding it more difficult to support a rapidly aging population. To manage this deteriorating demographic transition and its attendant political, economic and social consequences, this study finds the optimal policy prescription is a comprehensive approach that considers the factors that have impeded an adequate policy response. To battle the social undercurrents of discrimination, Japan must enforce gender neutrality laws within the workplace. To satisfy the need for more labor, the government must breakdown restrictive immigration policies to foreigners, encourage family immigration and institute language and culture programs to promote assimilation. To encourage domestic growth, Japan must introduce permanent incentives to increase total fertility. The research will show that there will be significant impediments to policy implementation from both the government and the public, but that without change, Japan will slip further into crisis.

*Elliot Chiu
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Daniel Dreisbach

Factors Underlying Differences in Church-State Views among Black and White Baptists

This Capstone examines the factors underlying the differences in how black and white Baptists understand relations between church and state. To this end, three Baptist conventions were studied: the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (NBC), the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and the American Baptist Churches, USA (ABC). The NBC is the largest and oldest convention of black Baptist churches in the U.S., and the SBC and ABC correspond historically to the white Southern and Northern branches of Baptist faith, respectively. Given inaccurate popular perceptions of how black and white Baptists differ in their church-state outlooks, the author examined exactly how these differences are using the three conventions. The conventions were analyzed with regard to the theological, cultural, political and economic contexts in which they developed, and were compared with one another to determine the factors that plausibly accounted for the differences in their respective notions of church-state interaction. The factors underlying the church-state differences between black Baptists and white Southern Baptists, and black Baptists and white Northern Baptists, were found to be racial, theological and historical.

Jacob Choi
University Honors in Mathematics
University Honors in Secondary Education
Capstone Advisor: Ali Enayat

Combat Evolved: Lanchester's Laws in Modern Warfare

In 1916, Frederick Lanchester published *Aircraft in Warfare: The Dawn of the Fourth Age*, which was criticized by many who saw the airplane as having little influence on the battleground. His work was based heavily on a series of differential equations without support of computer models or simulations, but has since been affirmed by mathematicians and military theorists alike. History now shows that the airplane revolutionized the modern world and advanced warfare from a second- to a third-generation caliber, wherein speed and surprise are necessary to military victories. However, we now move to the 21st century – an age of fourth-generation warfare (4GW) where the battlefield is an urban environment. 4GW is complex, involving more input variables and influences on the battlefield (e.g., terrorism, the Internet and the presence of civilians) than the previous three generations of combat science. In this age of asymmetric warfare, do Lanchester's Laws still hold true, or have they now become a defunct area of operations research? This research shows that Lanchester's Linear and Square Laws can still be used today for military forces and their support units. Inspired by authors from Clausewitz to Sun Tzu, the paper explores classical war tactics and their applications in today's combat theater, as well as how Lanchester's differential equations have not only led to many conquests, but prevented collateral damage and saved the lives of many.

Joshua Cohen
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Chris Palmer

'Bundled Up' Environmental PSA Series

This Honors Capstone was created as a supplement to the course "Producing Environmental and Wildlife Film" with Professor Chris Palmer. The class explored how to develop and pitch ideas, contact organizations and develop marketing and outreach plans. This Capstone project aimed to put the class's ideas into practice. With the help of Prof. Palmer and the organization Conservation International, the research developed the concept for a series of two-minute public service announcements dealing with the issue of climate change. The project involved the writing of treatments, the development of a script and storyboards and the shooting and editing of a final video. The final video contains original footage as well as footage from Conservation International, including high-definition video and their official logo.

* *Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Jessica Conrado
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Richard Linowes

US Weekly Magazine Analysis and Recommendations

This project identifies the key problem areas in the entertainment/celebrity magazine industry and provides an emphasis on the specific problem areas for *US Weekly*. These challenges include the recent growth of entertainment Web sites, the economic recession, and the constant speculation that Wenner Media, LLC is thinking about selling *US Weekly*. In addition, this project offers solutions to the aforementioned challenges. These recommendations are that *US Weekly* should transform its Web site, create more theme issues and consider selling the magazine to Conde Nast Publications, Inc. These actions would provide solutions to both the short- and long-term challenges that are currently facing the publication.

*Charles Corbett
University Honors in Philosophy
Capstone Advisor: Farhang Erfani

Postmodern Religion in America and Nothingness

An increasing number of Americans have begun leaving institutional religion and started identifying themselves as “spiritual, but not religious.” This research explores what exactly this movement means and what repercussions it will have for American society. This migration has its philosophical basis in postmodern religion, which places spirituality in an anti-essentialist view of God. This Capstone argues, using existentialist thinkers like Friedrich Nietzsche and Jean-Paul Sartre, that in this postmodern view, after abandoning the institution of religion and the dialectic between man and God that goes along with it, individuals atomize themselves and destroy the possibility for genuine community. In conclusion, the paper explores how existentialism can and should be used as a basis for communities in the form of atheistic humanism.

Erwann Couesbot
University Honors in International Studies
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Richard Linowes

Ice Imperium: Business Plan of a Water Desalination Company in East Asia

This report explores the potential of Ice Imperium (water utilities and infrastructures) Corporation. Ice Imperium aims to be a major player in the East Asian water market. Focusing on sea water desalination, Ice Imperium differs from its global competitors due to its strong regional focus and commitment to the industrial segment of this market. As a Hong Kong-based company, Ice Imperium aspires to provide fresh water to Chinese industries using offshore desalination plants. Although the Chinese water market represents one of the most, if not the most, growing and stable sectors, neglecting domestic competitors and regional challenges would undermine the potential of the present venture.

Lindsay Cronin
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Benjamin Jensen

People Bringing Down Giants: A Survey of Successful, Failed and Turned-Violent Nonviolent Movements

Throughout the past century, dozens of nonviolent movements have been waged with varying degrees of success. While several nonviolent campaigns have succeeded, many others have failed to meet their goal or become violent. This paper seeks to describe what causes movements to succeed, fail or turn into violence. This paper will argue that significant population involvement, diversity of methods, some form of leadership and effective planning are important to the success of a nonviolent movement. Failure in one or more of these areas, or the presence of historical or contemporary examples of violence, will increase the likelihood that a nonviolent movement will fail or become violent.

* *Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Megan DaGraca
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Richard Linowes

Recession-Proofing the Meetings and Events Industry

The meetings and events industry is a \$175 billion business that employs millions of people and generates revenue that results in substantial local tax dollars. Corporate meetings and incentive trips not only enhance employee performance and fuel company growth and profitability, but also support the needs of local communities where meetings take place and aid the American economy as a whole. In light of hard statistics and proven profitability results, it would be anticipated that the meetings and events industry would be thriving during these difficult economic times. In stark contrast, however, the meetings and events industry is suffering immensely due to media backlash toward lavish events put on by companies who received federal bailout funds. Hundreds of companies, even those who have not received federal bailout funds, have canceled meetings, events and incentive trips at an alarming pace. To repair this serious issue, the meetings and events industry must come together as a whole to make the value of meetings, incentive trips and corporate events known and to bring the industry, and therefore the economy, back to pre-recession levels.

Rose Davis
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Simon Nicholson

Poisoned Apples?: Examining the Environmental and Trade Justice of the Chile - United States Apple Trade

Chile, among the world's leading producers of apples and the producer of about one half of the southern hemisphere's fresh fruit, presents a case study in trade justice analysis, especially with regard to the natural environment. In contrast to the United States, the world's largest importer of fresh fruit, Chile imports none of its apples, and hardly any of its fresh fruit, a practice that can support local growers and fair labor practices, contribute to balanced trade, allow for consumption of fresher, more natural fruit, use less fossil fuel in transportation of perishable goods and allows for a closer relationship with the natural environment for the consumers of apples. The U.S. relies on Chilean apples to support its population's "healthy" eating trends, and Chile has come to rely on the U.S. for much of its income from apple exportation. Understanding this relationship requires an analysis and synthesis of history, trade theory, agricultural practices and environmental science. Overall, the apple export industry has grown along with the Chilean economy, subject to larger agricultural policies that neglect the specific needs of the industry, its workers and the environment. The 2003 U.S. bilateral free trade agreement with Chile furthered the difficulties experienced by small farmers in Chile. Heated political debate about U.S. – Chile agricultural trade has largely ignored topics of environmental justice to the farmers, workers and consumers of Chilean apples. This paper argues that positive, environmentally just outcomes can be promoted by U.S. consumers' choosing fairly traded apples with smaller carbon footprints and by the removal of arbitrary cosmetic standards for apples.

McKayle Davison
University Honors in Communication: Print Journalism
Capstone Advisor: John Watson

Transference of Ethical Standards in News Media

Journalists have always been preoccupied by the question of ethics. In a field where credibility is the most important asset, it is essential to make sure that every decision or judgment is made with the utmost consideration for ethical concerns. It is surprising, then, that in the brand new world of online journalism, ethics often fall to the wayside. The difference between print journalism and online publishing and the challenges each present is vast, but rarely discussed. An exploratory dialogue is just beginning about the specific ethical issues of Internet media, but neither journalists nor media scholars can reach a consensus on key problems. This project focuses on the ethical concerns associated with the rise of Internet journalism and how people in the field are struggling to create new policies and practices that deal specifically with these issues.

*John DeBaun
University Honors in Political Science
Capstone Advisors: Laura Langbein, Kimberly Cowell-Meyers

Examining Education Aid Distribution Practices in the States: What School Districts Receive Targeted Funding and Why?

The education finance reform movement was spurred by numerous state supreme court cases challenging school funding systems and the alleged disparities in inter-district resources that they propagated. Since its inception, this movement has focused on improving educational quality for students. Are states targeting their funds to school districts? Do certain school district conditions or characteristics lead some states to grant more aid than others? Does the presence or absence of some statewide characteristics make a state more or less likely to engage in targeting practices? Through a 50-state, district-level analysis over three different academic years, this study finds that enrollment's impact on state aid has shifted since Morgan and Pelissero's seminal research; in enrollment's place, other factors, like social and financial demographics, have ascended to impact how state aid is distributed.

Michael DeMinico
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Richard Linowes

Leadership Traits: Which Ones Create the Most Effective Leaders and How to Get Them

Finding and developing a great leader for an organization is one of the hardest problems that a firm faces. As the world becomes more and more knowledge based, the best firms will be those that have the capability to produce and continue to create the best leaders. Many books, programs and movies have been written on this topic. However, most writers focus on what the particular author considers to be the most useful personal qualities. This is a poor analysis, as often the author brings little proof of his or her idea. In addition, there is much debate over what traits are considered necessary to become an effective leader. Yet another weakness is that hardly any resources combine the qualities needed with programs on how to actually obtain those characteristics needed to strive. This paper attempts to present to the readers not only the personal values needed to become a great manager for a firm by doing much analysis, but also how to train oneself to get those values as well. This will be done by using a framework of psychology and management studies and supplemented by literature pieces about business.

Victoria Docu
University Honors in Communication: Public Communication
Capstone Advisor: Rhonda Zaharna

Strategic Cultural Public Relations in the Middle East: West Bank and Gaza

The Capstone attempts to establish the cultural criteria a public relations campaign must meet to be a successful in Gaza and the West Bank. Various case studies are analyzed on the background of the Palestinian cultural profile to determine how salient cultural beliefs affect perception in the Palestinian territories. The case studies include a corporate analysis, a political analysis, a social marketing campaign and examples of public diplomacy.

Amy Doherty
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Julie Mertus

Human Rights and Its Discontents: U.S. Policy toward Egypt

There is a gap between U.S. foreign policy rhetoric and foreign policy practice, particularly in the area of human rights. This gap is extremely visible in the strong relationship maintained between the United States and countries such as Egypt, whose treatment of Sudanese refugees is one of many examples of its disdain for human rights. The maintenance of this relationship is indicative of a greater trend in U.S. foreign policy, one that illustrates the priority given to strategic relationships at the cost of support for human rights.

* *Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Allison Doolittle
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Elizabeth Cohn

A Sip in the Right Direction: The Development of Fair Trade Coffee

In the past decade, fair trade as a social movement has grown rapidly in the coffee sector. McCarthy and Zald's resource mobilization theory provides a framework for analyzing three pillars in the fair trade movement: nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), certifiers and corporate interests. NGOs galvanized the movement by educating consumers, mobilizing resources and campaigning to change the rules of conventional trade. Certifiers have used public relations and marketing tactics to re-embed coffee in the context of relationships between coffee farmers and consumers. Building upon social movement theory, this research extends the literature on fair trade by examining strategic communications used online and in coffee packaging. By examining corporate involvement in the movement, this research also seeks to provide a foundation for understanding fair trade and offer insights into the emerging challenges faced by the social movement.

Megan Edelman
University Honors
Capstone Advisors: Victoria Connaughton, Chris Tudge

The Physiology of Restless Legs Syndrome

Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) is defined as a sensorimotor disorder in which the primary symptom is a severe, compelling, almost uncontrollable urge to move the legs. The physiology has not been clearly worked out, but faulty dopaminergic pathways have been implicated in causing the sensations common to RLS. This paper proposes that the diencephalic dopaminergic pathway is the one that researchers should focus on to better understand RLS physiology. This pathway has not been implicated earlier, as it accounts for a very small amount of the dopamine in the brain. RLS patients may have a dysfunction in this pathway, which turns off inhibition of other pathways that are now excitable and able to send aberrant signals to the legs, causing the urge to move.

Anthony Edwards
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Richard Linowes

Clear Channel Outdoor and the SmartBike: Bringing Smart Innovation to America

Since the 1960s, bicycle sharing programs have sprouted all over the world, flourishing mostly in Europe. Besides the obvious ecological benefits these programs provide, the programs offer a smart, innovative, profitable and healthy way to replace a person's daily commute by car or traditional public transportation. Clear Channel Outdoor operates 12 of their SmartBike bicycle sharing programs in Europe and one in the United States, located in Washington, D.C. This Capstone will analyze the global bicycle sharing industry, explore the advantages of implementing a SmartBike program by Clear Channel Outdoor, and propose further expansion of the program in America, based on the demonstrated need of American cities and the profitability of the program.

Whitney Enright
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Randon Noble

Making Waves: What You and Oceanic Treaty Law Share

With the ever-increasing amount of specialized knowledge emerging in focused fields of study, one may struggle with processing information in a meaningful way. Individual fishing quotas and the tragedy of the commons may seem to bear little importance to daily life, but in fact the underlying concepts of such terms and theories are more relevant than one may think. This Capstone bridges the gap between seemingly remote technical phrases in oceanic treaty law and daily life with the use of the literary genre creative nonfiction. The tragedy of the commons, hummer vehicles, individual fishing quotas and simple water conversation are blended together in a braided essay to form a unique paper that examines the connection of international issues to everyday life.

Matthew Espina
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Carolyn Gallaher

New War and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front

This Capstone is a compilation and analysis of research on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the largest armed separatist group in the southern Philippines' island of Mindanao. Drawing on contemporary "new war theory," a relatively young, continually evolving model of conflict, the paper asserts that the course of the conflict is on a distinctly new war path, due to the collapse of both the state and the fragmentation of the MILF, which traditionally acted in the capacity of a state to suppress the violent tendencies of armed men in lawless areas. The current violence in Mindanao is rapidly departing from the more traditional political and ideological motivations of violence, becoming more and more oriented toward personal profit – merely using ideological rhetoric when convenient. To argue this point, the paper traces the conflict from its historical origins, showing the influence of politically oriented armed groups acting in a state capacity in suppressing new war tendencies, highlighting the weakness of law in the region, and how the current resurgence of violence reflects the recent fragmentation of the MILF itself.

Zachary W. Faden
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Kate Haulman

A Transatlantic Interpretation of Bernard Mandeville

Providing more than mere biography, this thesis examines the story of an era's intellectual environment. The figure of Bernard Mandeville allows for fruitful examination of the evolution of modernity. His philosophic writings on political economy and ethics challenged the status quo edicts of Britannia's Church and the Court. This project predominantly utilizes primary sources to reveal the cerebral conflict and reify the debate. Despite official condemnation, Mandeville and his work received great readership and awareness during his lifetime. Yet, the denunciations affected Mandeville's reception. This muddled comprehension affected the transatlantic interpretation of Bernard Mandeville.

*Meghan E. Falter
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Christine Chin

The Crisis of Identity in Contemporary Europe: Renegotiating Self and the Other

Understanding the dynamics of identity is key to addressing the issue of integration. The existing political approach to integration focuses on the majority, but does not take identity into account. The cultural perspective addresses identity, but emphasizes the minority perspective. Despite these differences, both methods of analysis assume the majority identity is static and constructed independently from Others. Employing a theoretical framework that foregrounds the dynamic and co-constructed nature of identity allows for a more comprehensive approach toward integration. Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann's understanding of social constructivism highlights the dynamic nature of identity; Michael Crang's definition of Othering underlines identity's co-construction, the defining of Self relative to the defining of the Other. It is thus theorized that if majority identity, specifically in the national context, is dynamic and co-constructed it can incorporate the minority populations without losing its integrity. This study utilizes the case of contemporary France through discourse analysis to question the extent to which French majority identity is dynamic and co-constructed vis-à-vis France's minority populations. Research findings demonstrate the majority population engaging in debate and introspection as well as Othering of the minority populations in the public discourse, confirming the dynamic and co-constructed nature of the French majority identity.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Jennifer Fantasia
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Albert Cheh
Capstone Partner: Althea Mickiewicz

Xerocomus Chrysenteron's Potential as a Bioremediation Agent DDT

As interest in the state of our environment increases, so goes the study of bioremediation, the use of biological organisms to clean up pollution. At Peking University in China, the potential for an ectomycorrhizal fungus, *Xerocomus chrysenteron*, to degrade the environmental toxin DDT was studied. A series of assays was used to determine the presence and activity of two fungal enzymes, laccase and lignin peroxidase, produced by the organism, and then used gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) to identify and quantify the metabolites formed in *X. chrysenteron* exposed to DDT. While a qualitative assay using fungi plated on agar indicated *X. chrysenteron* produces lignin peroxidase, a quantitative assay was not able to measure enzymatic activity in liquid medium. The GC-MS tests, however, identified a lower concentration of DDT as well as increased concentrations of its degradation products, DDE and DDD. The relationship between DDT and fungal enzymes, specifically laccase, needs to be examined more thoroughly to determine if DDT induces enzyme activity and if the fungal enzymes can effectively degrade DDT.

David Farber
University Honors in Law and Society
Capstone Advisor: Lynn Addington

Gun Control in America: An Analysis of the Effects *District of Columbia v. Heller* Will Have on Gun Control Policy in the United States

This work explores how the Supreme Court has chosen to interpret the Second Amendment, particularly in light of its ruling in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. It examines a number of controversial issues in gun control, and adopts a three-pronged approach to examine what advocates on each side of a given issue believe, as well as what the Court has said about each issue. The work goes on to predict the trends that are likely to emerge in future gun control legislation, assesses the potential impact of the 2008 election and explores challenges to gun control that will likely come before the Court.

Meghan Farrar
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Elizabeth Fox

Health Communications in Washington, D.C.

This Capstone is a working policy proposal designed to address the problem of low birth weight (LBW) in Washington, D.C., with a health communications approach. The project is interdisciplinary and applies concepts of public health, health communications, international development and international relations in a practical manner. The World Health Organization identifies LBW as a public health concern, stating that LBW newborns are 20 times more likely to die within a year and are susceptible to impaired development, infectious diseases and lasting chronic disease. The U.S. national average of LBW is higher than most developed nations, and the Washington, D.C., rate is comparable to that of sub-Saharan Africa. This health communications proposal offers an often neglected, low-cost and effective means of reducing LBW in Washington, D.C., by promoting an understanding of the issue as well as providing health officials and women of childbearing age with necessary skills to alter behavior and reduce the risk of LBW.

Laura Feldman
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Rachel Robinson

Population Messages in the United States: Organizational Stances on Family Planning and Population Growth

Since the publication of Malthus's *An Essay on the Principle of Population* in 1798, academics, policy makers and regular citizens have debated the implication of population growth for human well-being. This Capstone explores the social movements that shaped the discussion in the United States during the 20th century, including the eugenic, neo-Malthusian, feminist, environmental and anti-immigration movements. These histories provide the context for understanding how organizations today use population growth to frame their overall messages. Additionally, the research analysed the content of the Web sites of nonprofit organizations based in Washington, D.C., working in the areas of reproductive health, environmentalism and immigration. Family planning and population organizations were found to be most likely to suggest limiting population growth as a desired outcome, using environmental justification. Anti-immigration and environmental organizations also tend to cite the link between humans and the environment as justification for their stances, and those who called for stabilizing populations did so under the auspices of environmental protection and sustaining natural resources. These findings suggest that population growth remains a powerful frame across a wide range of organizations representing different social movements.

Laura Fenwick
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Patrick Ukata

British and French Styles of Influence in Colonial and Independent Africa: A Comparative Study of Kenya and Senegal

The British and French colonial administrations had fundamentally different approaches to their African dependencies. While both created institutions to economically exploit their colonies, France promoted a policy of assimilation in West Africa. This cultural aspect of colonialism, coupled with France's reliance on its empire for international prestige, gave little motivation to either the metropole or francophone leadership to change their relationship after independence. This is distinct from British disengagement from the continent, motivated by economic depression and international pressure in England as well as calls for political independence in African states. This Capstone presents the different approaches to colonialism and argues these differences account for the nature of relations after independence. While France maintained a tight grip on the economies of its former colonies through comprehensive Cooperation Accords, England did not legislate trade ties and preferred to rely on the Commonwealth of Nations as a decentralized tool for influence.

*Fletcher Fernau
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Peter Howard

Putting U.S. Space Policy in Context: How and Why Have Policymakers Drawn on Existing Rhetorical Commonplaces to Legitimate U.S. Space Policy?

This project is an analysis of U.S. outer space policy that examines how successive policymakers have drawn on existing, popularly understood concepts to legitimize their policies and how those concepts have evolved in response to those policies. It examines how space policy is legitimated domestically and to an international audience. This account is premised on the notion that how the U.S. space program is conceived, communicated, and defended is contingent on a confluence of historical and social factors that could have happened differently. Specifically, this project traces the use and history of the "frontier" as a rhetorical commonplace. Analysis suggests that in the case of the effort to legitimate space policy preferences, particularly those of President Kennedy, the rhetorical commonplaces deployed act as legitimating mechanisms for state building. The rhetorical commonplace of the frontier can be used to harness support for otherwise cost-prohibitive government programs.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Eric Fillinger
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisors: Linda Lubrano, Kristin Diwan

Mubarak Matters: The Foreign Policy of Egypt Under Hosni Mubarak

The goal of this research is to identify how Egypt defines its national interest and how it uses foreign policy to promote this interest during the presidency of Hosni Mubarak by looking at three case studies: the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War, the 1991 Persian Gulf War, and the 2003 invasion of Iraq. The research was conducted through the lens of neoclassical realism. Theories on foreign policy decision making were also examined in order to reach a more complete understanding of how Mubarak executes foreign policy. Such a project is needed because available scholarly work on the topic of Egyptian foreign policy during Mubarak's time in office is scarce and not focused on Egypt's definition of its national interest. Research was conducted using primary sources, such as newspaper editorials and documents from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as scholarly articles that analyze and critique Egyptian foreign policy. The results indicate that Egyptian foreign policy is determined by Mubarak's desire to guarantee the influence and power of Egypt throughout the region, as well as a need for Mubarak to guarantee the security of his regime.

Kellee Fitzgerald
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Robert Johnson

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury: Observations of Juror Interactions in a Death Penalty Trial through Prose

There are a great number of flaws in the modern American justice system, especially when it comes to the jury's role in deciding one person's fate and in regards to the death penalty. A majority of the American public advocate the death penalty, but many or most Americans are grossly misinformed about the reality of the death penalty. Death penalty cases are decided by a jury chosen from a randomly selected pool. Juries themselves are also frequently misinformed about their role in the trial process, as well as what is expected of them. Jury instructions are very often misleading and convoluted. This paper seeks to expose these flaws through fiction, raising awareness about the problems plaguing our justice system today.

David Flynn
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Ellen Feder

Ressentiment and Human Rights

Through close readings of Nietzsche, Max Scheler and David Kennedy, this Capstone attempts to reevaluate our notions of human rights and who is responsible for human rights abuses.

Keely Foutch
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Katherine Guernsey

The Kwangju Uprising: A Legal Analysis

On May 18, 1980, in Kwangju, South Korea, a violent confrontation occurred between pro-democracy activists and the Korean military. Called the Kwangju Uprising, this controversial "massacre" served as a pivotal bridge between the former authoritarian rule and the newly democratized Korea. This Capstone investigates why Korea took its particular approach of domestic judicial action as recourse for the actions taken by the government leaders at the time of the Kwangju Uprising by comparing the solutions utilized by Japan during the Rape of Nanking, South Africa during Apartheid, and the former Yugoslavia during its act of ethnic cleansing. It concludes that, because of the newly gained political power and the need for democratic legitimacy, closure, judicial equality and historical revision, the government was forced to prosecute the government leaders of the Kwangju Uprising using a domestic channel.

*Erin Frankrone
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Martha Starr

Understanding Trends in Law School Debt: A Guide for Prospective Law Students

Prospective law students face a trade-off between the value of their earning stream if they proceed directly into employment and potential earnings upon completing a law degree, less the value of debt repayment. This investigation presents students with a firmer understanding of expected debt burdens at the time their loans would enter repayment as a way to help them evaluate this trade-off and anticipate the amount of future earnings they will require to service their loans. This study simulates the amount of debt law students should expect, in order to understand the extent of the financial risks they incur in the hopes of reaping greater rewards upon graduation. Findings imply that, while nominal total payments required to service debt under either 10- or 25-year repayment schemes are considerably greater than tuition rates, the real value of these repayments over time is on the decline.

Amanda Fulton
University Honors
Capstone Advisors: Richard Stack, Robert Johnson
Capstone Partner: Molly Kenney

Death Penalty Literacy: Teaching D.C. High School Students about Capital Punishment

This curricular unit aims to raise awareness among Washington, D.C., public high school students about capital punishment in America. Combining academic research, classroom observation and extensive informational interviews, the death penalty lesson will be implemented as part of the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project at the Washington College of Law. In one or two class sessions, an overview of the death penalty is presented with a focus on both policy and in practice. Critical issues in capital punishment with relevance to D.C. high school students – race, socioeconomic status, gender and juvenile status among them – are explored. The unit aims to educate students in an unbiased fashion and to inform the development of students' personal opinions on the death penalty. Understanding of the complex issues surrounding the death penalty is essential for informed citizenship and thoughtful dialogue about this controversial, life-and-death matter.

Kaylor Garcia
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Erin O'Neill

Writing Health Education Materials

Good health is a priority and a necessity for advancement in many developing countries around the world. Unfortunately, in order to have a healthy population, these countries need an infrastructure to care for their population, which often tend to be absent. Health promotion attempts to empower populations with by disseminating information and building up communities to create grassroots infrastructure. This Capstone goes through the process of writing a health resource manual following the principles that can be distributed to a population in the Philippines. It focuses on six different leading health issues in the country and provides information on primary, secondary and tertiary care. This book is a model of the various media that can be used to help people lead healthier lives.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

*Kendra Garstka
University Honors in Political Science
Capstone Advisors: Barbara Palmer, Kimberly Cowell-Meyers

Candidate Gender and Media Coverage in the 2008 Senate Race

Multiple studies have analyzed how the media portray female and male candidates differently in races for elected office, but does the media coverage change if two women run against each other, and if so, how? This study will look at three 2008 United States Senate races to analyze how the candidate's gender affects the media's coverage and portrayal of that candidate. The Oregon race featured two male candidates, while in New Hampshire a female challenged a male incumbent and won, and in North Carolina a female incumbent was ousted by a female challenger. This study will specifically focus on how the media cover the candidates' physical appearance and personal life, and will also compare which issues the media connect with these candidates. In each state, articles written about the campaign between the primary and general election were coded for physical appearance, personal life and political issues. The data were then compared between the two candidates in each state and between the races based on the candidates' sex.

*Leah Gates
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Cindy Collins

Finding the Right Fit: Applications of Technology to Improve Civil-Military Cooperation in Complex Emergency Response

Military agencies are increasingly common actors in the previously civilian-dominated field of complex emergency response. However, differences in decision-making processes and institutional culture complicate coordination among these groups, inhibiting effective distribution of resources and services to those in need. Using an efficacy metric based in Galbraith's information processing theory, this study evaluated the applicability of a range of technology and communications tools to improve information flow among agencies while respecting the diverse decision-making cultures involved. These solutions included both low-complexity options, such as wikis, which could be initiated by any participating organization, and high-complexity solutions, including immersive digital spaces such as Second Life, which would require further specialization and development to maximize benefit. The evaluation indicated implementation of several of these tools would positively impact the efficiency of civil-military coordination and enable more effective response in complex emergencies around the globe.

Laura Gaylor
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Reina Neufeldt

The Third Side in Africa

In a time when violence and civil wars in Africa continue to rise and fall between differing ethnic groups, religious groups and other dividing factors, one questions whether there is there a way to solve these conflicts before they become violent. While various forms of peace and conflict resolution, for example, the use of mediation, international influence and negotiations, have succeeded in the various regions of Africa many negotiations, accords and treaties have failed as well. The Capstone will look at the influence of the third side, as it relates to the midrange level of civil society, on negotiations to determine whether they positively or negatively affect the negotiations process in an attempt to bring about peace. The Capstone will compare the Arusha Accord (Burundi), The Darfur Peace Agreement (Sudan) and the Pretoria Agreement (Democratic Republic of the Congo) to determine the positive or negative influence on negotiations by the third side.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Allison Gerhart
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Jeffrey Schaler

Parity Legislation Analysis

Group health insurance providers have traditionally placed greater insurance limitations on mental health care services than they have on physical health care services, but Congress enacted further legislation to end this practice in a bill attached to the 2008 Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. This paper reviews the recent legislation as well as the 1996 Mental Health Parity Act and various state laws. It discusses the limitations of the Americans with Disabilities Act to grant the relief that parity supporters demand, and it evaluates the concerns that opponents advance. Lastly, the merits of parity legislation and its ability to meet the needs of the interested parties are discussed.

Veronica Gessner
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Olga Rojer

Denkmaeler und Nationalerinnerungen

This Capstone argues that the nature of monuments and memorials built in Berlin is significantly different from monuments found in other cities. This difference is due to the German attempts at Vergangenheitsbewältigung, or “coming to terms with the past.” Responsibility for past events is seen as corporate. Consequently, individuals are seldom memorialized.

Christina Gonsalves
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Nanette Levinson

Microfinance and Development Banking: NABARD and FINCA International

Suffering from credit fragmentation, lack of insurance, widespread poverty and rejected by formal lending institutions, many economies and communities are forced into cyclical poverty. By developing case studies, this Capstone analyzes through a social entrepreneurial lens the Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). FINCA International is a microfinance institute aimed at becoming the largest microfinance network serving poor entrepreneurs. NABARD is a development bank also operating with microcredit principles targets the rural poor in India. Both of these organizations are addressing the opportunity niches with microfinance, a tool used to bridge economic disparities and acting as a stepping stone to the end result of improved quality of life.

*Natalie Greene
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Karen O’Connor

Women’s Leadership in Primetime Television

A 2007 Nielsen Media Research report showed that with only two exceptions, every broadcast network has more female than male viewers. However, as studies going back as far as the 1970s show, women on screen not only fail to represent the numerical makeup of women in society, they also overwhelmingly show a gendered stereotype of women. This Capstone addresses the evolution of women’s leadership in primetime network scripted television from 1950 to 2008. Along with an introduction to socialization theory and feminist television criticism, the paper also covers a selection of some of the most influential women-driven shows from this period. The trends in this study show that, although women’s representation in popular culture has come a long way, there is still much to be done before women are fairly portrayed.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Kent Harrel
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Linda Lubrano

Trafficking in Transnistria: The Role of Russia

After declaring de facto independence from Moldova in 1992, the breakaway region of Transnistria became increasingly isolated and turned into a hot spot for weapons and human trafficking. Working from a neoclassical realist paradigm, this project assesses the extent to which the Russian government and military abet trafficking and the way in which Russia uses trafficking to adversely affect Moldova's goal of greater integration within European spheres. Existing scholarship on Transnistrian trafficking fails to focus on the role of the Russian government and military, and in turn does not account for the ways in which trafficking hinders Moldova's national interests. This paper is based on data from sources such as trafficking policy centers, first-hand accounts, trade agreements, non-governmental organizations and government documents. A review of the literature includes secondary sources such as scholarly and newspaper articles. This project seeks to develop a more comprehensive understanding of Russia's role in Moldovan affairs in order to add a significant work to the existing literature.

*Curtis Harris
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisors: Linda Lubrano, Anthony Quainton

The Discipline of Nunavut: Governance in Canada's Eastern Arctic

On April 1, 1999, the birth of Nunavut transferred to the Inuit authority over a potentially strategic and economically important region the size of Western Europe. However, this indigenous-controlled territory has ostensibly maintained much of the previous Canadian governing structure. Why, when given the opportunity to construct their own institutions, did the Inuit choose ones that mimic those of Western societies? Using Michel Foucault's ideas of discipline and biopower, this paper seeks to provide a different interpretation and explanation for Nunavut's governing institutions by expanding the concept of governance to include all facets of society, not just the state. By studying philosophies, myths and values alongside anthropological and political science literature, an explanation has emerged for the curious institutions of Nunavut. Decades of Canadian rule have altered, but not totally reshaped, Inuit concepts of governance by redefining how they view and wield power.

Mandi Hart
University Honors in International Studies
University Honors in Law and Society
Capstone Advisor: John Douglass

Facing Up

This Capstone is a full-length feature screenplay, completed in the fall 2008 semester. It tells the story of a young woman, Chasity Day, who graduated from college with a degree in psychology and subsequently stagnated in an administrative assistant position at a local law firm. At the start of the story, her current married lover leaves her to reunite with his wife, devastating Chasity and ultimately landing her in court. She is "sentenced" to mentor a local grade-school student. Chasity grudgingly begins her punishment, while also being instructed by her boss to partner with a young male law student in her work assignments and simultaneously starting a new relationship with yet another married man. When the three relationships take unexpected turns, Chasity is forced to make the hardest decision of her life.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Jennifer Harvey
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Lee Miller

The Role of Executives in Recession

The role of a modern-day executive has been called into question. With the current state of the economy and the widespread panic of recession, the government and public have placed corporate executives under intense scrutiny. The new president's stimulus bill appears to put a halt on exorbitant compensation packages, but is that the source of the global economic downturn? This paper analyzes the current state of executive management and the growing trend toward the contingent style of leadership. Parallels between similar past and present economic situations will be drawn. The Capstone also researches the growing threat of corruption and unethical practices in executive management. Finally, the paper discusses the main components of executive compensation and the controversial issue of long-term incentives.

*Joshua Hattem
University Honors in Law and Society
Capstone Advisor: Lynn Addington

Why NOT Plagiarize? A Study of Behavioral Controls in College Students

Cheating is a critical and growing problem in the world of higher education. Unfortunately, most prior research on this issue has failed to utilize an encompassing theoretical framework to direct its investigation. The current study enriches the Grasmick and Bursik (1990) deterrence framework and applies the new model to undergraduate plagiarism. Three major spheres of control – internal, social and institutional – outline a self-report survey for which 830 responses were obtained from the full population of undergraduate students at American University. Constructs derived from the deterrence framework are compared to determine the factors most predictive of past plagiarism. The findings conclude that ethics and a propensity to neutralize deviant behavior are the best suppressants of academic dishonesty. The results will hopefully inform more effective, empirically validated policy decisions that curb the instance of plagiarism in colleges and universities.

William Herman
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Margaret Marr

Supreme Court Leadership and the Role of Soft Power

The purpose of this work is to examine judicial leadership on the Supreme Court using current Justice David Hackett Souter as a primary case study. This piece argues that for a justice to be a successful leader, one must have the necessary soft power traits (such as an amiable personality and temperament; a sophisticated, logical jurisprudence; common life experiences with other justices, etc.), as well as the motivation, passion or interest to use such traits to achieve certain ends. Justice Souter is a fitting case study as he, in large part, embodies all of the necessary soft power traits, but has not proven himself to be an effective, consistent leader throughout his tenure on the Supreme Court.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Stanley Ho
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Max Friedman

Analyzing Chinese Anti-Americanism: From 1996 to Present

The conventional wisdom of American media seems to be that China's anti-Americanism is irrational and on the rise. This research is a quantitative analysis of anti-Americanism in the People's Republic of China from 1996 to the present. It first explores the meaning of "anti-Americanism." Then it analyzes whether anti-Americanism exists in contemporary China, and if so, what kind, what are the causes, how does it manifest itself and what is the magnitude of such sentiment. The research will argue that there are various forms and causes of anti-Americanism. Contemporary Chinese anti-Americanism is a by-product of growing Chinese nationalism since the 1990s. Chinese anti-sentiments are often mild and momentary. China is not inherently anti-American – anti-Americanism in contemporary China is often only a reaction to specific American actions resented by the Chinese.

Julia Hodgson
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Mark Schaefer

Our yoUUthful Lives: A Guide to Running a Unitarian Universalist Youth Group from a Recent Alumnus

"Our yoUUthful Lives" is a comprehensive guide for leaders of a Unitarian Universalist youth group for high school-age youth. Filled with projects, bonding activities and more than 35 different worship services, this guide can lead a youth group through a year of religious exploration. In addition to a deeper exploration of their own faith, this Capstone guides youth through teachings of other religions so that they might broaden their worldly scope. Other worships focus on the challenges that youth will have to deal with, such as relationships and becoming an adult. This allows them to discuss these issues in a safe environment and to learn to frame their lives within their religious values and perspectives. It concludes with a compilation of inspirational readings from sources all over the world. Interspersed throughout the guide is original artwork, worksheets and resources to aid youth leaders.

*Joanna Holmes
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Caleen Jennings

Psychology in Two Acts: Research, Writing and Performance of an Original Script

This multimedia project is a writing and performance-based exploration of psychological fragility. Over the course of a year, a pointed analysis of several thematic elements and characters in popular plays is used to strengthen and enhance an original two-act script. In the spring semester, the first act of the resulting play, *This Is Not Macbeth*, was staged in the Katzen Studio Theatre. In addition to the initial research, written script and performance work, a production journal was compiled exploring character work and analysis, the similarities and distinctions between playwriting and acting and the working relationship between playwright and director.

Abby Horowitz
University Honors in Communication: Communication Studies
Capstone Advisor: Nick Clooney

The Stages of the Ideological Meal within the Food Film Genre

This project argues that every meal has four stages: choosing the menu, preparing the meal, eating and cleaning up. Throughout the food film genre, each of these stages is used consistently to the same end. Which stages of this ideological meal are stressed consequently becomes an indication of the overarching theme and purpose of a film. The first stage frames conflicts of culture; the second explores food's aesthetic elements, along with themes of isolation and loneliness; the third stage resolves interpersonal conflicts and stresses food's role as a great equalizer; the fourth stage, by virtue of its omission, functions as a reminder of the limitations of the film medium and its inherent inability to capture the reality of the dining ritual.

* *Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Jeanne Hosler
University Honors in Performing Arts: Musical Theatre
Capstone Advisors: Karl Kippola, Cara Gabriel

The Apple Tree

As a musical theatre performance major, I felt it essential to relate my Honors Capstone to what I have learned as a member of the Department of Performing Arts here at American University. I wished to perform, but I also was determined to experience what it was like to produce a show. Therefore, I chose to produce and star in a production of Boch and Harnick's *The Apple Tree*. I researched not only previous productions of this show, but the Washington, D.C., theatre community and how successful theatre companies thrive. I found a professional director, music director and stage manager, and enlisted students as my fellow performers and designers. I located the space for the performance, assisted with the set, light and costume designs and had a hand in every aspect of the performance. While this experience was incredibly challenging, I rose to the occasion and was able to produce and perform in a very successful show. The overall experience will always be one of the most rewarding theatrical events of my career and life.

Xiaoqing Huang
University Honors in Mathematics
Capstone Advisor: Stephen Casey

Mathematical Exploration of JPEG Image Compression Scheme

This project studies the JPEG scheme for compressing images. Generally, JPEG represents a function with a collection of coefficients as building blocks, each of which provides information about the position, as well as the frequency, of the signal. While exploring JPEG and JPEG2000 in the research, a variety of mathematics were found behind the process. Starting with the basic Fourier analysis that is used in baseline JPEG compression algorithm, the Capstone shows how to express a “wave” as an oscillating function of time or space. When working towards general wavelet analysis, the author learned that wavelet is preferred over wave, since it allows simultaneous analysis of both time and frequency signals. To demonstrate the difference of image quality, an image was compressed with JPEG and JPEG2000 with the same compression ration respectively and then the RGB number was abstracted from each pixel. The difference in RGB number is the difference of two compression standards. In the end, the paper will provide the advantages and disadvantages of each scheme.

Meredith Hughes
University Honors in Political Science
Capstone Advisor: Sonja Walti

Predicting the Potential for National Health Care Reform in the Obama Administration: A Look Back on the Lessons of the Clinton Era

This paper examines the potential for national health care reform in the Obama administration by comparing aspects of the current political climate with conditions in the political climate of the early 1990s, focusing specifically on the issues argued to be most detrimental to the success of the Clinton health care reform plan. This paper analyzes several factors that were significant in blocking reform efforts, conceptually organizing them according to Kingdon's multiple streams model. Evolution in the state of the health care problem, mainstream policy proposals and political developments including the national mood towards health care reform, trust in the federal government and institutional structure within Congress will all interact to the support or detriment of health care reform within the current presidential administration. Though the problem of health care in terms of cost and coverage has grown worse over the past 15 years and strategic moves on the part of the Obama administration have shown a clear desire to avoid the most significant problems of the Clinton era, there is still relatively little consensus in the policy stream.

Raphael Janove
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Mamuka Tsereteli

The Fallacy of Critical Dialogue: Libya and Iran, Sanctions and Economic Interdependence Peace Theory

Scholars have done extensive research analyzing why Libya changed from an international pariah to a country seeking rapprochement with the West. Extensive analysis exists on the current similar, yet less successful, efforts against Iran. As of yet, no study has compared the economic sanction efforts against Libya to those currently against Iran. This paper seeks to fill the void through a comparative analysis of research into the sanctions levied against both countries. The research has led to the conclusion that for any sanction regime to successfully achieve a major political objective, it needs to have multilateral support and multilateral implementation.

Aly Jiwani
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Christine DeGregorio

The New India Lobby and the India-Pakistan Influence Game

Because the U.S. democratic system is open to the tugs and pulls of special interest groups, certain well-organized ethnic groups systematically use their influence to benefit their community and their motherland, perhaps sometimes more than in proportion with their numbers. This Capstone examines how these ethnic lobbies wield influence on the American political scene. It examines the strength of the most prominent ethnic lobby in the United States, the Jewish lobby, which is considered a model for upcoming ethnic lobbies. It then traces the evolution of the Indian lobby within the last decade and discusses the tactics the Indian lobby uses to gain effectiveness. The role of the Pakistani lobby is also discussed, as the two South Asian countries battle for influence in Washington, D.C. The analysis uses a two-pronged approach, considering both the role of the governments of the two countries as well as the role of the grassroots ethnic communities residing in the United States.

Carrie Johnson
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Tom Williams

Rural State Wind Energy Development: The South Dakota Case Study

State policy has been a significant driver of wind energy development in the United States. The academic literature on state renewable energy policy, however, has yet to sufficiently question why many Midwestern states with abundant wind energy resources have resisted adopting aggressive renewable energy policies. There is insufficient information about the challenges which rural states face when working to capitalize on their plentiful renewable resources. This paper examines potential policy tools rural states can employ to overcome their existing obstacles by using the state of South Dakota as a case study. The author conducted over 50 interviews and surveys of state legislators and a sample of the South Dakota Farmers Union membership.

Robin Jones
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Deborah Brautigam

Democratization and Literacy in Sub-Saharan Africa

Many scholars have investigated factors that influence the rate of democratization and democratic consolidation in states, especially the relationship between human and economic developmental factors and levels of democracy. Stephan Sanderson tested Tatu Vanhanen's Index of Power Resources and found that adult literacy is by far the best predictor of democracy across the world. However, this Capstone shows that his thesis does not hold true in Sub-Saharan Africa, possibly because a lack of job opportunities for educated citizens prevents the establishment of a strong middle class.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Jamie Kamlet
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Robert Johnson

Pretty Poison, Deadly Games: Two Stories On Crime and Punishment

This Capstone is a fictional story paralleling two women and their interactions with the criminal justice system. The story is broken into parts chronicling the investigation, prosecution and incarceration of both women. The first woman is accused and convicted of killing her child, while the second woman is accused and convicted of killing her husband. The story highlights the discrimination and judgment female defendants face throughout the process. Stereotypes of women cause one to be viewed more harshly because she violates the widely held view that a mother should never hurt her own child and that there are no conditions that would justify or even substantially mitigate such harm. In the other case, the belief that a woman would never kill her husband unprovoked, or without good reason, causes the second woman to be viewed more mercifully and with more understanding from the criminal justice system.

Julia Kasyuk
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Sally Fowler
Capstone Partner: Thomas Reedman

Fast Fashion - Prevailing Passion

With diverse international experiences, command of various foreign languages and shared interest in international business, the authors sought to further explore their passions through a strategic case analysis of Zara. While focusing on the “Fast Fashion Model,” the case presents a thorough analysis of Zara, the leader in global fashion management and distribution. By incorporating concepts mastered in various business courses, as well as internships in the United States and abroad, the pair analyzed Zara’s unique vision and created a prospective growth plan for continued expansion of the Zara brand.

James Kelley
University Honors in Political Science
Capstone Advisors: Stephan Kane, Kimberly Cowell-Meyers

Party De-Polarization in Times of Economic Crisis

Last fall, as our nation descended into the current economic crisis, key Republican ideological leaders like Alan Greenspan significantly shifted rhetoric in favor of heightened financial regulation and oversight. This change represented a shift toward the political center, utilizing themes more commonly employed by Democratic partisans. Prior research has suggested that political parties have a strong incentive to employ centrist rhetoric in campaign environments in order to win over swing voters in the ideological center. This paper analyzes the Democratic and Republican platforms for all presidential elections from 1900-2008, developing a measure of the overlap in economic pledges by the two parties. Utilizing a regression analysis, it tests the hypothesis that, as the financial markets decline, parties become more likely to utilize similar campaign pledges on economic issues. Findings indicate a strong relationship between these two variables in the period from 1950-2008, but no relationship in the years prior to 1950, indicating that this relationship has strengthened over time as stock ownership has become increasingly widespread.

Molly Kenney
University Honors in Law and Society
Capstone Advisors: Richard Stack, Robert Johnson
Capstone Partner: Amanda Fulton

Death Penalty Literacy: Teaching D.C. High School Students about Capital Punishment

This curricular unit aims to raise awareness among Washington, D.C., public high school students about capital punishment in America. Combining academic research, classroom observation and extensive informational interviews, the death penalty lesson will be implemented as part of the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project at the Washington College of Law. In one or two class sessions, an overview of the death penalty is presented with a focus on both policy and in practice. Critical issues in capital punishment with relevance to D.C. high school students – race, socioeconomic status, gender and juvenile status among them – are explored. The unit aims to educate students in an unbiased fashion and to inform the development of students’ personal opinions on the death penalty. Understanding of the complex issues surrounding the death penalty is essential for informed citizenship and thoughtful dialogue about this controversial, life-and-death matter.

Michael Kerman
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Naomi Baron

Chinese: The Next Global Language?

Using an historical perspective, this paper addresses the ways in which three languages – Latin, French and English – became dominant languages in the past. It analyzes which variables (political, economic, cultural, technological and/or linguistic power) allowed these languages to become important lingua francas. This paper explores whether these variables can apply to all languages or whether different factors affect each language to a varying degree. Next, this analysis is applied to the current global situation, to determine whether it is more likely that English will remain the dominant lingua franca, or if the Chinese language shows signs of becoming the next global language. Although there are signs of the growth of the Chinese language, China still lacks the political, economic, cultural and technological power that have allowed Latin, French and English to become dominant languages.

Rebecca Kern
University Honors in Communication: Print Journalism
Capstone Advisors: Angie Chuang, Richard Stack

Upshur Street in the Petworth Neighborhood of D.C.: Where New Cultures Meet Old Communities

This project involves recording the interactions between the older store owners and residents on Upshur Street in Petworth and the newer store owners who have opened up shops on the street and residents who have moved into the neighborhood in the past five years. Older community members are mainly African American, while newer store owners and residents are Asian-American, Caucasian and Salvadorian. A few business owners are asked to comment on how their neighbors of differing racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, have influenced the surrounding businesses, customers and neighborhood around Upshur Street. Also included is the reaction of store owners and residents to new housing developments in Petworth. Ward 4 Council Member Muriel Bowser is consulted in regards to the new developments that are going up in Petworth and how these may affect current businesses and residences. President of the Neighborhood Development Company, Adrian Washington, who is building two housing developments on Georgia Avenue in Petworth supplies his viewpoint as well. All interactions will be documented in an in-depth article. The Capstone also features a photo slide show of the various businesses, an interactive Google Map of the neighborhood and a short video showing how the newer businesses interact with the older business on the street. All elements can be found on the Web site rebeccamkern.com.

Kristina Khudyakova
University Honors in Economics
Capstone Advisor: Mary Hansen

U.S. Ethanol Policy: Effects on Domestic and International Corn Markets and the Domestic Ethanol Market

Brazil's ethanol sector has often been called a success story. Indeed, it seems like the Brazilian government has managed to solve multiple problems associated with using gasoline as a fuel by establishing policies promoting increased production and consumption of ethanol. However, a World Bank study on Brazil's sugarcane and ethanol sectors revealed that the situation is far from perfect. It was found that the effects of Brazilian government ethanol policies on the domestic sugar and ethanol markets resulted in a loss of more than \$660 million a year. These results are important to the analysis of U.S. ethanol policies, since Brazil and the U.S. are very similar in their ethanol sector structures and policies. By applying the World Bank model used for Brazil to the U.S. corn-based ethanol, this Capstone estimated that current government policies result in net benefit in both domestic corn and ethanol markets. Net effect on international corn and domestic markets could not be estimated due to the lack of data. The difference between World Bank findings and this research is explained by oil prices. At the time the World Bank study was conducted, oil and gasoline prices were low. Thus, government policy in Brazil forced consumers to buy ethanol even though it was a more expensive fuel. High oil prices in 2007-2008 made ethanol cheaper in comparison to gasoline. Therefore, the same Brazilian policy that was applied by the United States government several years later has resulted in a net benefit.

*Jeremy King
University Honors in Performing Arts: Musical Theatre
Capstone Advisor: Cara Gabriel

Musical Direction

This Capstone, focuses on musical direction and conducting, with an emphasis on musical theater. It involved working with Doug Bowles as the Assistant Music Director for the AU main stage production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, teaching notes and harmonies, working with singers on stylistic choices, balancing harmonies in group numbers and often serving as the rehearsal conductor when the director was not present. This provided a chance to work directly with the orchestra as well as with singers, affording an opportunity to work on everything from musical interpretation to conducting technique in front of musicians in an actual performance. The other components of the Capstone involved working with AU Symphony Orchestra conductor Jesus Manuel Berard on conducting technique and score analysis, working specifically on Rossini's overture to *La Gazza Ladra* and preparing a conductor's score as well as conducting the AUSO in rehearsal. The culmination of this project was musical direction of the student's own musical theater cabaret that doubled as the holiday party for the Department of Performing Arts. This involved working with the other performers to select song choices that would provide a balanced program, as well as teaching notes and most importantly, working with the other singers on interpretation.

Erin Lauer
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Boaz Atzili

Stop the Madness: American Christian Zionism and U.S. Policy on Settlements in the Occupied Territories

This research explores the connections between Christian Zionism, a religious and political movement rooted in 16th century England, and the Israeli settler movement that began in earnest after the 1967 war. William Blackstone, a Chicago resident in the 1890s brought Christian Zionism to the American political scene, arguing for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine based in part on the biblical control given to the Israelites. The modern incarnation of this movement includes organizations like Christians United for Israel and Christian Friends of Israeli Communities, who both advocate policies out of line with the U.S. government view as well as international consensus. The organizations' influence in the policy realm, as well as their connection with Israeli settlers, is analyzed, leading to the conclusion that, while the United States government has not been greatly influenced by Christian Zionism, the non-governmental influences are changing the facts on the ground and shaping the future of a Palestinian state.

* Capstone Research Grant Recipient

Adrienne Lee
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Richard Linowes

Strategic Direction for Whole Foods Market, Inc.

Whole Foods Market, Inc., has long been admired as an innovative company with quality standards, devotion to community, environmental responsiveness, a healthy growth model and highly regarded employment practices. However, the company has faced recent difficulties as a result of the economic recession, increasing competition and complications from acquisitions. To revitalize the company from historical lows in its toughest year in history, Whole Foods Market must reassess its costs, refocus its expansion strategies and promote its brand to compete for the diminishing consumer spending dollar. Recommendations for the organic grocer include the increase and redistribution of marketing budgets, strategic entry into new markets and new incentive programs. Additionally, the company must reconsider its business activities in the United Kingdom and assess all activities to determine where it can be most profitable. If the company can implement these changes while also preserving its high-standards image, Whole Foods Market will be well-positioned for continued growth by the end of the recession.

Jong Eun Lee
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Richard Benedetto

Lure of the Bully Pulpit: How Presidents have Used Public Rhetoric to Generate Political Support, Only to Discover its Limited Capacity

Are popular presidents always the most successful ones? Modern U.S. presidents have pursued public support as political leverage over other branches of the government. Yet, even popular presidents have faced difficulty in establishing dominance over the political establishment, raising questions on the capacity extent of the president's bully pulpit. This Capstone examines, by case study, the leadership of two presidents who have utilized public rhetoric as a tool of governance, Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Bill Clinton. Critiquing the success and setbacks of the two presidents, the paper analyzes the complementary factors that affect a president's effective assertion of the bully pulpit. Drawing lessons from their presidencies, this Capstone considers the proper use and framework of a president's public rhetoric and highlights the intricate relationship between a president's inside and outside political support.

Jessica Leeser
University Honors in Communication: Communication Studies
Capstone Advisor: Rodger Streitmatter

You Can't Say That on TV: How the Sitcom Dared to Change Society

Throughout the past 40 years, the American television sitcom has addressed important societal issues earlier than any other television genre. Sitcoms used humor to make audiences more comfortable with these issues and ultimately helped influence popular perception. Three case studies are used to illustrate this point. *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Murphy Brown* and *Sex and the City* helped change how Americans viewed the single, independent woman. *Soap*, *Ellen* and *Will and Grace* brought gay characters into American living rooms every week and *All in the Family*, *Maude* and *Seinfeld* dealt with taboo sexual issues in a public forum for the first time. All of these sitcoms are discussed in terms of their history, content, media response and the unique factors contributing to their success and their ability to change society.

Josh Levitz
University Honors in Biology
Capstone Advisor: Victoria Connaughton

Sodium Binding and Translocation by the Na/K ATPase

The Na/K pump is a P-type ATPase that uses the energy of ATP hydrolysis to export three sodium ions and import two potassium ions across the membrane against their respective electrochemical gradients. This “pumping” action produces a net negative charge in the cell which provides the basis for neuronal excitability and also modulates cell volume and pH. Due to the vast physiological significance of the Na/K pump, it is very important to develop a complete understanding of how it functions in terms of both kinetics and structural dynamics. When deprived of potassium ions experimentally, the Na/K pump may be limited to sodium translocation steps. In this modified cycle, external sodium ions are bound and occluded into the membrane under negative membrane potential. Their subsequent release occurs at 0 mV or greater and may be measured as transient pre-steady state current. In this research, electrophysiology and molecular biology were used to examine the kinetics of these translocation steps. Recent advances in understanding of the structure of the Na/K pump were integrated to propose a model for how cation binding sites associate with the pump function. This research has produced evidence that supports a sequential model of sodium release as previously proposed. These results will contribute to a cohesive theory of how sodium binding sites I, II, and III release their ions, in a precise order, to the exterior of the cell.

Meghan Libman
University Honors in History
Capstone Advisors: Kate Haulman, Peter Kuznick, Cara Gabriel

Political Theater in the Early 20th Century United States: A National and Local Identity Builder

This history thesis investigates the political messages in theater from World War I through the end of the Great Depression. Research demonstrates how playwrights motivated unskilled workers to identify as a social class, while also demonstrating a national identity that related to Americans across the country. Post-WWI American writers were compelled to appeal to a middle-class audience by a new form of social idealism that moved in from Europe as the war came to a close. Playwrights made great efforts to decentralize theater from Broadway, using theater as the educational tool to project messages to an average audience. This resulted in community theater businesses that embodied how workers could imagine better lives in the United States. These emotions saturated the Great Depression and emerged strongly through the Federal Theater Project, a New Deal initiative that served to further the impact of theater on all social classes by funding regional projects that employed large numbers of unemployed working-class Americans. Led by prominent playwrights and innovative directors, this theater initiative solidified the role of political theater in United States culture and encapsulated the sentiments that would explode after World War II.

Claire Lunieski
University Honors in Economics
Capstone Advisor: Martha Starr

Commodity Price Volatility and Monetary Policy Uncertainty: A GARCH Estimation

This research design is intended to analyze the effects of uncertainties in monetary policy on commodity price volatility. By analyzing price movements in gold and the Commodity Research Bureau/Reuters commodity price index against the prediction error of the federal funds futures rates, this research will discern how increasing transparency of FOMC decisions has altered the volatility of commodity prices. A GARCH model is used to capture the effects of past residuals and variances of gold and the CRB/Reuters index, while also estimating the prediction abilities of exogenous determinants. Ultimately, the results suggest that uncertainties in monetary policy increase the volatility of gold prices and lower the price of commodities included in the CRB/Reuters index.

Kristen Lyon
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Pek Koon Heng

The People's Liberation Army: Transition to a Status Quo Force

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) began a significant modernization effort in the mid 1990s. In the 1930s, Mao Zedong established a revolutionary war doctrine focused on internal defense that is still followed by the PLA. However, the PLA modernization was begun by subsequent national leaders, such as Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s, Jiang Zemin in the 1990s and Hu Jintao currently. These new leaders point to a PLA doctrine that surpasses its revolutionary roots. Just as the Chinese nation has adopted many Western traditions, so has the PLA adopted western military practices, most notably through involvement in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. The old PLA traditions are not lost, as the PLA continues to play a part in internal disaster relief and combating internal separatist movements. The 21st century PLA shows clear signs of growth from a revolutionary force into a military structure that combines revolutionary aspects with modern regional force projection activities. This paper identifies some of the key indicators of this growth on the path to becoming a more modern and professional force.

Keysha Martinez Roman
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Stephen Silvia

Regionalism vs. Multilateralism in International Trade

The debate of regionalism versus multilateralism in international trade policy has important implications. Scholars such as Bhagwati claim that regional trade agreements create trade diversion and undermine the World Trade Organization's authority and relevance. However, others argue that trade blocs such as the European Union have created a model that has become very influential in taking free trade to a level never before seen. Most of the scholars who have written on the subject of regionalism do not answer the question of why there is such a prevalence of PTAs in the first place. This Honors Capstone analyzes why free trade agreements have become so prevalent and expands on the implications that this may have on international trade.

Aishah Ma'ruf
University Honors
Capstone Advisors: Walter Park, Mary Hansen

Determining the Effect of Prescription Drug Price Controls on Future Pharmaceutical Innovation

In order to determine the effect of possible price controls on the supply of new drugs in the American pharmaceutical industry, data concerning prices, research and development (R&D) investment and public and private expenditure on pharmaceutical products were studied in relation to the number of new drugs approved for sale by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The time lag between industry figures in the year each innovation project started and the year in which the drug was approved was estimated to be 12 years. Regressive analysis indicated little correlation between any of the independent variables and the dependent variable. This lack of correlation implies that pharmaceutical prices have little effect on the supply of new drugs on the market. Results suggest that price controls would not have a direct effect on drug approvals, and thus the supply of new drugs into the market, contrary to what previous literature on the subject indicates.

Stephanie McDaniel
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Patrick Thaddeus Jackson

The New Kingdom: An Exploration of the Philosophical and Socio-Political Forces Acting on the Fictional Kingdom of Penjuste

In the tradition of Voltaire's *Candide* and Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, this fantasy novel confronts the questions posed in conventional political and social thought, engaging the inherent complexities and contradictions of these questions in an accessible context. A society ruled by a corrupted noble lie must rediscover its national identity while fighting internal rebellion and attack from a steadily growing empire. Through the protagonist and antagonist, sovereigns of Penjuste and Uig, this Capstone explores how to rule a just society, whether rulers ought to be loved or feared, and the necessity of gentlemanly conduct in warfare versus a power-driven realist approach. It dialogues with Plato, Machiavelli, Kant and Hegel on the necessity of morality to ensure the progress of society. The protagonist eventually achieves a Kierkegaardian faith in her kingdom's ability to prevail, despite her rational doubts. Additionally, an exiled religious people force the characters to confront the dangers of an entirely secular society and the difficulty of reintegrating diversity into the population.

Erin McLaughlin
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Lynn Addington

Dual-System Youth: The Need for Systems Integration to Improve Outcomes for Foster Youth Who Commit Delinquent Acts

The first juvenile court, founded in 1899, intended to improve outcomes for youth by acting as a "child-saving" institution that would separate juveniles from the corrupting influences of the adult criminal justice system. Acting under a *parens patriae* doctrine, early juvenile courts were granted broad powers to respond to the issues of juveniles brought to the court for a variety of reasons, including delinquency, status offenses, abuse and neglect. Over the next century, the belief that the needs of neither dependent nor delinquent youth were being met fostered a separation of the juvenile court into the modern child welfare and juvenile justice systems. This paper uses theories of juvenile delinquency to argue that there is a significant overlapping population between the systems: foster children who engage in delinquent behavior. The separation of the two systems, however, poses a unique set of challenges for dual-system youth. Finally, this paper examines policies that have attempted to improve communication and coordination between the two systems and argues that attempts to build a bridge between the two systems are necessary to improve outcomes for this population of juveniles.

Ann McManaway
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Richard Linowes

Solar EnerTech Corporation: Strategic Analysis and Recommendations for an Emerging Solar Cell Manufacturer

This Capstone presents a business-level strategic analysis report for Solar EnerTech Corporation, a start-up Photovoltaic (PV) solar cell manufacturer, in the context of the current PV industry and global economic conditions. The report offers an overview of the PV industry; an examination of the U.S. and California PV market; an analysis of Solar EnerTech Corp.'s strategy, strengths, and challenges; and recommendations for the company based upon that analysis. These recommendations include increasing the company's focus on its California market, increasing investment in research and development to create a competitive advantage, expanding production to capture economy of scale and routinely re-evaluating the company's ability to address other challenges.

Kathleen Mee
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Gregg Ivers

Tobacco Advertising: Exploring the Competing Interests of Public Health and First Amendment Rights

The public health community has achieved success in lowering the prevalence of tobacco use in the United States. This effort has included campaigns to outlaw or severely restrict tobacco advertisements. Yet, regulation of tobacco advertisements raises a difficult constitutional question regarding the commercial speech rights of the tobacco industry and the compelling interest of the government to protect public health. This paper discusses the Supreme Court's creation of a commercial speech doctrine. It then analyzes these Supreme Court decisions focusing on the repercussions to the tobacco-control community's efforts to regulate and restrict tobacco marketing campaigns. Finally, the paper makes recommendations for how the tobacco-control community should pursue future advertising restriction campaigns in order to maximize effect and avoid violations of First Amendment commercial speech protections.

Kendal Melvin
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Calvin Goldscheider

The United Arab Emirates: Melting Pot, Mosaic or Neither

Society in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a juxtaposition of modernity with tradition and wealth with poverty. In the UAE there is a 7:1 ratio of non-nationals to nationals residing in the country, with Indians and Palestinians being two of the largest non-citizen groups. Comparing Indians and Palestinians to the Emirati using measures of ethnicity reveals which group is more integrated (citizenship, less discrimination, job opportunities) into Emirati society. The contexts for ethnic inclusion and exclusion include the strain of political institutions, religiosity, community, culture and ethnic origins. According to these factors, Palestinians are more incorporated into Emirati society because of Gulf norms, religion, refugee status and the jobs they hold in the public sector. Indians tend to work in the private sector, marry Indian women, travel home annually, and live in segregated housing. Therefore, internal and external factors contribute to the degree of integration of each ethnic non-national group.

Althea Mickiewicz
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Albert Cheh
Capstone Partner: Jenn Fantasia

Xerocomus Chrysenteron is a Potential Bioremediator to Break Down DDT in Soil

DDT (Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethane) is a persistent organic pollutant, meaning it does not break down easily, but instead accumulates in the food chain. DDT was used extensively in the 1950s to increase crop yields. Despite international conventions in the 1970s to limit use of DDT, developing countries still struggle with toxic residues. China particularly feels the need to rehabilitate contaminated land, 20 percent of which has been deemed unsuitable for agriculture. Ectomycorrhizal Fungi (ECMF) are organisms that form a symbiosis with plant roots. They surround the roots, extending the plant's ability to reach water and nutrients while receiving sugars in return. The ECMF, *Xerocomus chrysenteron* (Xc), exudes ligninolytic enzymes found to degrade DDT. The potential for enhancing this process for bioremediation of persistent toxins and heavy metal contamination is of interest to both the Chinese government and the environmental community at large. Through a laboratory study with the College of Environmental Science at Peking University, the relationship between Xc enzyme activity and DDT was investigated. Findings indicate more research should be applied to this process before undertaking large scale application, and questions remain concerning what happens to DDT degradation products and how best to apply this strategy of bioremediation.

Farley Miller
University Honors in Audio Technology
Capstone Advisor: Paul Oehlers

CANNOT BE STOPPED's 'Mountain' – A Recorded Collection of Musical Works for Solo Drum Set (Controlling a Synthesizer)

The proliferation of music technology throughout the 20th century has radically altered both the composition and performance processes of music making, as well as the resulting sounds. Electronic devices have allowed real-time production of any sound imaginable. However, the logical correlation between the gestures of performance and the sounds they produce is often completely lost and the visual element of a performance is rendered confusing and/or uninteresting. In an attempt to reestablish this connection without returning to a purely acoustic realm, this Capstone required designing a system that allows a performer to use the familiar interface of an acoustic drum set to control a digital synthesizer. While the drum set has been modified to produce unexpected sounds and allows a non-virtuoso drummer to play compelling music on a solo basis, there is an apparent visual connection between the drummer's performance and the computer's processes. This project manifests itself as a recording of seven original compositions for the system packaged as a CD.

*Katlyn Miller
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Robert Johnson

Cradle to Termination Dust

With media talk of “pain at the pump” for consumers and record profits for oil companies, anti-oil company sentiment is stronger than ever. This Capstone, *Cradle to Termination Dust*, uses America's largest oil development, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, as a case study to examine the distribution of profits between the state of Alaska, the federal government and the oil companies. In other words, this book examines where the oil money goes and who is making money. The economics presented in this book were developed using publicly available facts and data.

Thais Miller
University Honors in Literature
Capstone Advisors: Kermit Moyer, Jonathan Loesberg

Plasticity

When we recognize our lack of control over human suffering, we frequently respond by entering a state of inaction. In *The Birth of Tragedy*, Friedrich Nietzsche calls this state “nausea.” To combat “nausea,” people often create false meaning in their lives and curb their actions into monotonous routines to escape from engaging with the unknown of the world. This Capstone, *Plasticity*, both exemplifies how literature counters “nausea,” enabling people to act, and aims to compel the reader to act. *Plasticity* is about a protagonist who commits suicide and subsequently finds herself as a reader in a library, not wanting to continue to read. By showing the protagonist three books containing unique lives, a librarian convinces this protagonist to live again, through reading. The novel is titled *Plasticity* because the author defines “plasticity” as the way literature empowers people to endure suffering through the ability to be deformed without breaking – to live in the present and allow pleasurable and painful events to shape and change them while still acknowledging that the underlying humanness remains fixed. Literature emotionally and viscerally moves people to have plasticity through suffering – by awakening perspectives and sensitivity to the mysteries of life through defamiliarization and alienation.

* *Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

*Michael Minnick
University Honors in Political Science
Capstone Advisors: Alison Jackowitz, Kimberly Cowell-Meyers

State-Sponsored Merit Scholarships: Do They Reverse the Trends of Brain Drain?

Many states across the U.S. are highly concerned with the idea that their best and brightest are fleeing to another state, in a phenomenon called “brain drain.” One proposed solution, the implementation of a sweeping state-sponsored merit scholarship program, was first tried with the HOPE program in Georgia, and has since spread to 26 other states, despite previous findings of negative, unintended consequences. Previous literature has focused on those unintended consequences, neglecting to evaluate the programs on their intended consequence of ending brain drain. This study tests that exact question by operationalizing the quality of a state’s workforce in the number of degrees conferred, educational attainment, and gross state production. Analysis of the lagged, paneled time-series data produced no practical correlation between the policy and a stronger workforce, calling the usefulness of the programs into question.

Catherine Morgan
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Richard Linowes

FDA and China Relations

This project explains current issues, initiatives and recommendations for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding Chinese relations. After discussing the background of the FDA and its entering into a “new era,” the project delves into detail on the Beyond Our Borders program. There are three recommendations given: revamp inspection procedures and information systems, increase collaboration between countries to ensure preventative versus retroactive protection and strategically maximize the use of overseas offices. Also integrated is an extensive plan of implementation for strategic growth and effectiveness.

Austin Morton
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Irving Rosenthal

The Case for a Department of International Development

This paper argues for the optimum reorganization of the U.S. government foreign assistance framework into a single independent department-level organization as the best way to improve and reform the administration of U.S. foreign assistance. No single sector of society or state can bring about a strong developmental policy to enrich our world and better secure the United States against weak and failing states. Instead, achieving bilateral development goals requires a U.S. foreign assistance framework that coordinates all of the policy areas in development assistance by the strongest possible mechanism. The first section of the Capstone discusses the history and modern environment of U.S. foreign assistance and the lessons that can be applied to potential organizational reforms. The second section reviews the literature of reform proposals. The final section analyzes the pros and cons of a department-level organization and offers a new structure to best coordinate development efforts with diplomacy and defense missions abroad.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Carla Francesca Muhrer
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Amy Oliver

**Movimientos del Margen: Convirtiendo la Adversidad en Ventaja
(Movements from the Margin: Turning Adversity into Advantage)**

This paper explores the effects of marginalization on indigenous peoples in Latin America. Drawing from the theories of Latin American philosophers Leopoldo Zea and Walter Mignolo, this paper traces the trajectory of indigenous groups' marginal status from their roots in the Conquest to the present day in order to identify the unique mentality the indigenous have developed as a consequence of their exclusion from society. The Capstone argues that this mindset has equipped indigenous people to become successful political actors in their nations today because it has grown from a shared experience of social exclusion and political resistance. This theory is supported by analysis of the rise of the political party Movimiento al Socialismo (Movement for Socialism) in Bolivia, which culminated with the election of the country's first indigenous president, Evo Morales. The paper is written in Spanish.

Anneke Mulder
University Honors
Capstone Advisors: Jonathan Loesberg, Madhavi Menon

**The Tragedy of a Duchess, The Comedy of a Girl: Reading Gender and Desire in
The Duchess of Malfi and *The Roaring Girl***

This reading of gender and desire in two Renaissance plays begins with Ferdinand de Saussure's claim that the linguistic sign is comprised of two separable entities: the signifier and the signified. It then complicates the post-structuralist claim that this difference between signifier and signified is anxiogenic in the realm of gender and desire. That is, it is not difference that disrupts and destabilizes the structure of acceptable desire in the two plays; it is rather the introduction of sameness to desire that proves threatening. The identification of a subject with, rather than against, the object of desire is catastrophic to the oppositions of difference that enable the process of signification according to Saussure.

Mary Aileen Murphy
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Richard Linowes

Accenture: Recommendations for Expansion into Lima, Peru

Since its inception in 2001, Accenture has successfully become the industry leader in global expansion. With operations reaching more than 52 countries, the company has developed its Global Delivery strategy to reach the needs of its customers. Currently operating in Asia, Europe and the Americas, Accenture provides a wealth of office locations; however, with the ever increasing rate of global expansion, it is essential that Accenture keep pace. As of January 2009, all of the Fortune 100 Companies employ Accenture services. The top 100 clients of Accenture have been loyal customers for at least five years. In light of the current economic crisis, it is essential that Accenture err on the side of caution when soliciting new investment opportunities and seek only those with elevated potential. After careful analysis, it is recommended that Accenture open its next office in the booming city of Lima, Peru.

*Kara Newhouse
University Honors in Anthropology
Capstone Advisor: Nell Gabiam

Anti-Politics Movement: The Individualization of Change in Fair Trade Discourse

Is fair trade a social movement that speaks to neo-liberal political subjectivities, or does it operate more like economic development? Fisher's framework of "articulating modes of social transformation" allows both interpretations to be relevant. This Capstone uses interviews, participant observation at a Chicago fair trade organization and discourse analysis of fair trade materials to study up the side of fair trade partnerships that exercise more economic power. Participation in fair trade offers Northerners a way to reconcile their recognition of possessing disproportionate wealth in the global economic system with their uncertainty of how to create structural change in that system. Because fair trade calls on Northern consumers to make change at the individual level, the identities of Southern producers at the "underdeveloped" end of trade relationships are constructed in depoliticized, acontextual ways, thus limiting the possibilities for conceptualizing more radical transformation of poverty in the Global South.

*Sabine Nguini
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Julie Mertus

How We Failed Darfur: The Unlearned Lessons on Genocide

In 1994, as the genocide in Rwanda unfolded before the eyes of the international community, 800,000 people were killed in 100 days. Upon witnessing the brutality and inhumanity of these events, world leaders swore to prevent and stop genocide by signing conventions and treaties. Yet a decade later, the world is watching yet another genocide, in Darfur. This Capstone discusses the failure of the global community to adequately address the genocide in Darfur. It demonstrates through a comparative analysis between Rwanda and Darfur that the international community has yet to learn its lessons from past genocides and provides policy recommendations for future genocidal situations.

Huyen Nguyen
University Honors in Biology
Capstone Advisor: Karen Bushaw-Newton

Genetic Analysis of PAH-Degraders in the Anacostia River

The Anacostia River is one of the most heavily polluted rivers in the United States, with markedly high levels of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs). These compounds can be carcinogenic and have a profound effect on the ecosystem. Although bacterial PAH-degrading activity has been studied in numerous other waterways, there has been a lack of investigation of this ecologically important phenomenon in the Anacostia. Primers targeting the PAH-degrading gene suites NID, NDO and TMOA were used to isolate PAH-degrading genes in bacterial isolates from various river sites. Denaturing Gradient Gel Electrophoresis was used to separate the PAH-degrading genes based on GC content. The bands containing the genes were excised, amplified and sequenced. The TMOA sequences were heavily degraded, so making a phylogenetic tree was not possible. The NID genes showed relative disparity between the upstream and midstream sites, while the division was not as distinct for NDO.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

William Nicholson
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Mary Hansen

The Impact of Performance-Based Pay Incentives on the Attrition of American Public School Teachers

Over the past half century, the vast majority of white collar occupations have adopted a compensation structure with flexible wages that reward and punish based on ability. The public education sector, unlike its private counterpart, has been very reluctant to adopt such a wage structure. Despite requiring a college degree as well as specific training, teacher compensation is centrally determined, with wages based on experience and education level as opposed to ability. Research shows that this wage structure has frustrated many young teachers, causing them to leave the profession en masse. “Merit pay” is believed to encourage young, competent teachers to stay in the profession and drive out less-qualified individuals. With data provided by the National Center for Education Statistics, this Capstone uses a series of probit models to analyze the effect of merit pay on both the attrition and movement of young teachers while controlling for both school level and personal characteristics.

Cristen Oehrig
University Honors in Political Science
Capstone Advisor: Beryl Radin

Uncertain Environments and the Evolution of Organization for Disaster Management

The inherently uncertain and unpredictable nature of the modern security environment and natural weather phenomena has influenced structural frameworks for disaster management over the past several decades. Literature suggests that uncertainty and other environmental changes are often the impetus for organizational changes. This study evaluates the evolution of organization for disaster management to determine how uncertainty in an environment such as terrorism or natural disasters affects the government’s organizational response. Does it make governments rely more on hierarchical or network structures? Using a qualitative research methodology, the study examined the existing body of research and undertook an analysis of historical legislation. By evaluating the evolution of organization for disaster management through historical legislation, this study determined a pattern indicating that uncertain environments tend to cause the federal government to rely on a more tested and tried organization structure, such as a hierarchy.

Laura O’Friel
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Katharine Norris

Answering the Pretender’s Declaration: The Impact of the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion on American British Identity

On August 1, 1745, Charles Edward Stuart, grandson of deposed Stuart King James II, and son of the “Old Pretender” James Francis Edward, landed in Scotland and roused the Highlands to march south and retake the throne of Great Britain for a Catholic king. Though separated from the Rebellion by the Atlantic Ocean, American colonists closely watched events in the mother country, expressing their disgust of Catholic Jacobites in newspapers, propaganda pamphlets, sermons, and government proclamations. This Capstone researched the reaction to the ‘Forty-Five in Maryland and Pennsylvania, the two colonies with legal Catholic inhabitants and Jesuit missions. Print sources during the Rebellion reaffirmed a British identity centered around Protestantism, empire and constitutional government. While the print response expressed ardent anti-Catholicism, both colonies abstained from persecuting Catholics as a whole, instead addressing isolated incidents of Jacobite sympathies. This contrast indicates a purpose of print prejudice beyond anti-Catholicism. The sources of printed anti-Jacobitism were publishers, Protestant ministers and colonial governors, those most knowledgeable of or connected to the imperial state. They used the Jacobite threat to promote participation in King George’s War, the ongoing struggle against French and Indians on the Canadian frontier. When the Maryland and Pennsylvania General Assemblies resisted involvement in King George’s War, they rejected an imperial Britishness. This research contributes to the understanding of American colonial identity in the 18th century by examining a paradox involving verbal support of empire and actual identification at a provincial level.

*Grenye O'Malley
University Honors in Biology
Capstone Advisor: Victoria Connaughton

Retinal GABA Distribution of Hyperglycaemic Zebrafish

Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in the U.S. and causes blindness in 70 percent of patients who have had diabetes for more than fifteen years due to continued high blood-sugar levels (hyperglycemia). To determine the effects of high blood sugar on retina, hyperglycemia was induced in zebrafish by alternating their environment between 0 percent and 2 percent glucose solutions. Fish were sacrificed and their blood glucose levels were measured every two weeks; blood glucose levels during this time were consistent with previous results. The retinas of weeks 0 and 8 fish were cryostat sectioned and costained to identify cell nuclei (DAPI) and GABA distribution patterns. The staining in control fish showed GABA in horizontal processes and amacrine cell bodies. In contrast, horizontal cell process staining was absent in the experimental group. Amacrine cell labeling was also not as continuous across the inner nuclear layer in the experimental group, and the GABA staining was diffuse and not confined to cell bodies. In some of the experimental samples, the inner nuclear and inner plexiform layers were thinner. These results indicate amacrine cell loss and release of GABA occurs following prolonged high-blood sugar levels.

Cara O'Shell
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Arturo Porzecanski

Liberalizing Investment: Bilateral Investment Treaties

This Capstone project addresses two questions: what are the key barriers to international investment, and how do bilateral investment treaties (BITs) address these issues? Much of the current literature reinforces a liberal institutionalist view that BITs are economically beneficial to both states because they decrease market frictions, allowing for easier access to capital, thus increasing market activity all around. Rather than strictly a quantitative analysis, this study describes the major barriers to international investment as assessed by firms and/or financial service providers. It also provides a qualitative examination of the current clauses outlined in the American and Canadian treaty models, specifically analyzing adherence to key liberal economic goals and removal of the barriers described in part one. Results are likely to show that there is liberal rhetoric in BITs, but that the actual clauses are in favor of the dominant nations.

Erin Owens
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Julie Mertus

Masculinity and Male Involvement in Women's Empowerment Programs: Is Postcolonial Feminism Working?

As gender mainstreaming has become fact of the field among development agencies, questions now revolve around how civil society and government interventions incorporate gender into development programming. This project seeks to understand the inclusion of men, or lack thereof, in women's empowerment programs. This is done through investigation of both non-governmental and governmental institutions, as well as an analysis of the organizational intent and execution in regards to men's participation. In addition to practical applications, an emphasis is also placed on theory; this project focuses on postcolonial feminism and its impacts on the inclusion of masculinity in the theoretical backing for gender programming. This Capstone concludes that men and masculine attributes are not included in gender interventions to a sufficient extent, to the detriment of the programs' effectiveness.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Eric Pajonk
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Mamuka Tsereteli

The Renewal and Evolution of America's Economic Security

With a financial sector in peril, an economy in recession, a stock market at decade low levels and an unemployment rate skyrocketing to 8.5 percent, America appears bloody and bruised. Quantitative evidence of the severe damage inflicted by the financial crisis is abundant, yet the crisis is characterized by more than facts and figures. Exemplified by the profound harm felt by its citizens and the dramatic policies enacted in response, the current financial crisis has highlighted the renewed importance of economic security in the 21st century. Eliciting frightening comparisons to the Great Depression and yielding billion dollar bailouts and stimulus spending, the crisis has reshaped the notion of security in America. Whereas physical threats were previously the primary concern of national security, this catastrophic event has demonstrated the hazards posed by economic forces.

Lindsay Perlman
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Yoram Peri

The Relationship between the Jewish Diaspora and the State of Israel: What is the Jewish Identity?

The relationship between the Jewish community in the United States and Israel is unique. By looking at the four factors of denomination, Jewish education, age and family background this Capstone examines what causes an individual's level and strength of support for Israel. Using surveys of one Jewish community and the official stance of each denomination, this paper tries to determine which factors have the strongest influence on personal attachment to Israel. In addition, the notion of the Jews as a race and what it means to be both a religious and an ethnic identity are discussed.

*Gianna Petito
University Honors in Psychology
Capstone Advisor: Bryan Fantie

Mood and Memory: Searching for a Heritable Endophenotype

Anatomical differences exist in the hippocampuses of people with and without depression. Since this structure plays a role in memory, these differences may explain the variation in cognitive capabilities found between the two groups. It is unclear whether structural hippocampal changes are a result of exposure to a depression episode or medication or if they are a potential risk factor that can predict the onset of a mood disorder. If altered hippocampal anatomy pre-dates the state of depression, it might be under the influence of genetic traits. First-degree relatives of people with depression are at a high risk for developing an affective disorder and thus might also demonstrate, to a lesser extent, altered hippocampal structure and function. It was hypothesized that anatomical differences in the hippocampus are heritable and that hippocampal performance measures can act as an indicator of risk for depression. In this study, participants were asked to provide details of their personal and family history with depression and were then led through a series of hippocampus and non-hippocampus specific computer generated memory tasks. It was predicted that first degree relatives would score between people with depression and controls on measures of hippocampus-dependent memory but would show no differences from controls on measures of non-hippocampus-dependent memory.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Stephanie Petrides
University Honors in Justice
Capstone Advisor: Robert Johnson

More Than Words: A Look at Art and Writing in Juvenile Detention

Prisons and juvenile detentions today increasingly use both formal and informal measures to stifle inmates' voices. Through routine and harsh discipline, the prisons themselves strip inmates of their autonomy. Because of the ruthless and unforgiving nature of the prison environment, inmates adhere to an unspoken code that forces them to conceal all emotion. These forces make personal development and free speech in prison all but impossible. This Capstone explores the use of a different method of speech – art and writing – as a vocal and rehabilitative agent in juvenile detention. Through short fictional vignettes, this paper details a young boy's life, from his difficult upbringing through his days in juvenile detention as he creates a lasting relationship with the art teacher and realizes that spoken words are not the only way to tell his story.

Emily Petro
University Honors in Communication: Public Communication
Capstone Advisor: Richard Stack

Comprehensive Event Plan – Global Giving

Mariam Breant, a Professor at American University, has a great passion for helping children living on the Ivory Coast, specifically in her hometown of Seguela. Upon visiting the CHR Hospital of Seguela, Breant witnessed terrible conditions, outdated equipment and helpless patients. Combined with her passion for children, this visit drove Breant to create the non-profit organization Centre International pour L'enfant et La Mere, or C.I.E.M. This Capstone project, Global Giving, is a detailed and thorough plan for Breant's use in conducting a large event to raise funds for her newly created organization. The event will be a gala, open to the public through ticket purchases, and showcasing Breant and local child performers as the musical entertainment for the evening. Working closely with Professor Stack's Public Relations Case Studies class, the author plans to assume a management position to organize, guide, lead and engage other students in the creation of this detailed plan.

R.J. Pettersen
University Honors
Capstone Advisors: Richard McCann, Michael Manson

Notes in the Sand: Life Stories

Notes In The Sand: Life Stories includes one analytical essay and four works of creative nonfiction. In the analytical essay, Judith Butler's conception of gender, embodiment and performance, is tailored to the author's chosen genre, life stories. The Capstone considers disembodiment and suggests that when viewing life stories as performances, untold stories reveal as much as the stories that are told. Creative nonfiction comprises the bulk of this work, which implicitly revolves around performance, anxiety and embodiment. In "Child Actors," the author recast his middle school experience, when he faked his voice to reassert his masculinity. In "Passenger Seat," the author use performance anxiety to connect vignettes from his deli job with the five times he failed my road test. In "Invisible Burdens" the author embodies anxiety by describing hemorrhoids and cicadas. In "Machiatto," he contextualizes his anxiety with his family's anxiety.

Carolyn Phenicie
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Stacie Tate

The Impact of Certification Methods on First-Year Teachers' Experience in the Classroom

The traditional American idea of a teacher who has completed a four-year degree in education and undergone a period of student teaching with an experienced teacher is rapidly disappearing. The growth of alternative certification programs, caused by a teacher shortage and doubts about teacher quality in the 1980s and spurred by programs like Teach for America, has led to the creation of alternative teacher-certification programs in all 50 states. This project reviews the history of teacher certification in the United States and examines current research on the demographics and impact of alternatively certified teachers. Finally, this project examines the impact that certification method has on the experience of first-year teachers in the classroom by surveying first-year teachers in the Washington, D.C., metro area.

Holly Polish
University Honors in History
Capstone Advisor: Katharine Norris

'The Glamour of Egypt Possesses Us:' How Ancient Egypt Became Common Knowledge to Britons, 1870-1922

This Capstone investigates the fascination with Egypt that occurred in Victorian and Edwardian Britain, during the British colonial relationship with Egypt. The project focuses on how knowledge about Egypt – particularly ancient Egypt – became popularized and a standard for amateur scholarly knowledge. Through dissemination of information in periodicals and books, knowledge trickled down from travelers and expert Egyptologists to the “armchair scholar.” This thesis relies on Egyptologists’ work, travel guides, periodicals and newspapers to discover how Britons saw and discussed Egypt. This trend is representative of Victorian identity being one of consumption and a popularizing of intellectualism. Furthermore, lively interest in Egypt sheds light on a genteel manifestation of patriotism and what it was to be a learned Briton.

*Juan Diego Prieto
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Amy Oliver

The Intersections between War Victimization and Poverty in Colombia: Preparing the Ground for a Necessary Exploration

This paper’s objective is to lay out groundwork for further thought and research on the intersections between war victimization and historical socioeconomic exclusion. Using the findings of a 2008 national survey of victims of the Colombian armed conflict as a reference point, it analyzes transitional justice literature on reparations, peace and conflict studies theories of “structural violence” and political philosophy on oppression. As an attempt to explain why most victims in Colombia are concerned primarily with receiving material reparations rather than symbolic or political ones, this Capstone suggests that the reparative quality of material reparations evaporates as soon as these reach the hands of people who are not only victims of an armed conflict but also of oppressive societal structures that keep them materially deprived. Reparations checks are then not so much symbols of redress for past injustices as they are palliatives for an unjust present.

Tejaswini Reddi
University Honors in Biology
Capstone Advisor: Kathleen DeCicco-Skinner

The Intricacies of Skin Cancer: How the Tpl2 Gene Enhances Tumorigenesis and Affects Tumor Phenotype

The Tpl2 gene encodes a serine/threonine kinase in the MAPK signal transduction cascade and has been implicated in inflammation and tumorigenesis. The protein homolog in humans, MAP3K8, is a member of the mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPK) family downstream of Ras signaling. It activates transcription factors such as Activator Protein-1 (AP-1), a complex involved in growth, differentiation and apoptosis. Previous research showed that Tpl2 knockout mice treated under the two-stage skin chemical carcinogenesis model have a significantly higher incidence of tumors, with a higher number of tumors per animal on average. This Capstone tested whether TPA-treated knockout primary keratinocytes have altered protein expression of specific AP-1 family members. An analysis of the mRNA levels of various AP-1 family members was included by using real-time PCR. The results indicate that AP-1 expression is regulated at the transcriptional and post-translational processing stages, resulting in its increased expression in the knockout. This suggests a link between c-Fos expression and the higher number of sebaceous adenomas observed in the Tpl2 knockout genotype.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Thomas Reedman
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Sally Fowler
Capstone Partner: Julia Kasyuk

Fast Fashion - Prevailing Passion

With diverse international experiences, command of various foreign languages and shared interest in international business, the authors sought to further explore their passions through a strategic case analysis of Zara. While focusing on the “Fast Fashion Model,” the case presents a thorough analysis of Zara, the leader in global fashion management and distribution. By incorporating concepts mastered in various business courses as well as internships in the United States and abroad, the pair analyzed Zara’s unique vision and created a prospective growth plan for continued expansion of the Zara brand.

Andrew Robinson
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Peter Howard

The Role of the United States in Internet Governance

This paper examines the place of the United States in Internet governance: what it means for the continued development of the Internet, what stands to be gained from holding a privileged position in the realm of Internet governance and how the United States government interacts with other Internet stakeholders. The United States is by no means the dominant force in Internet governance, but it undoubtedly holds a position incongruous with the amount of power many stakeholders feel that governments should be allowed to maintain. Its privileged position is a result of the historical development of the Internet. The desire to see the Internet’s further development proceed along lines compatible with American principles of free speech shapes the continued involvement of the United States government in Internet governance.

Rachel Rosenthal
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Erik Kothari

Roles of Impulsivity Control, Novelty Seeking, and the Dopamine D4 Receptor in Psychopathy and Drug Addiction

Psychopathy and substance addiction are highly co-morbid. This co-morbidity has often been examined in a cause-and-effect relationship, where one condition pre-dates the other and results in the onset of the second. Rather than view the co-morbidity between addiction and psychopathy as a cause-and-effect relationship, these disorders can be explored through a series of underlying traits which link the two. These traits do not serve as simply common characteristics among addicts and psychopaths, but rather as an explanation for the emergence of both addictive and psychopathic behaviors in certain individuals. In examining the presence of impulsivity and novelty seeking in both addicts and psychopaths, these characteristics emerge as hallmark traits in both populations. Recent evidence suggests that both these traits may result from the presence of a specific polymorphism on the dopamine D4 receptor gene. This 7-repeat sequence on the dopamine D4 receptor gene may ultimately account for a pre-disposed, genetic vulnerability for the emergence of psychopathy and addictions as the result of increased impulsivity and novelty seeking coupled with negative environmental factors.

Hilary Ross
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Peter Whitney

What is Hugo Chavez Doing in Bolivia?

This paper explores the relationship between Hugo Chavez, president of Venezuela, and Evo Morales, president of Bolivia, and how Chavez's influence, strategy and money are being used in Bolivia to bolster Morales' presidency. The project also includes an assessment of investment risk in Bolivia. Chavez helped to fund Morales' presidential campaign and since his election, Venezuela has donated military equipment and personnel, as well as money for coca-processing infrastructure and hydrocarbon mining infrastructure to Bolivia. Chavez also created the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA), a trade union and symbol of solidarity for countries opposed to U.S. hegemony and capitalism, to which Bolivia belongs.

Elizabeth Royall
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: W. Joseph Campbell

Realities and Reflections: The International Community's Reconstruction of Afghanistan and the American Newsmagazines' Coverage of the Conflict

After spending billions of dollars, deploying tens of thousands of soldiers and reconstructing Afghanistan for seven years, the situation is deteriorating. With the United States, NATO, the United Nations, the European Union and the Afghan government involved in reconstruction, there has been much chaos and confusion in Afghanistan. Efforts have been incompetent and uncoordinated, and American newsmagazines may share a measure of blame due to their insufficient coverage of Afghanistan, which have allowed to go unreported the government's *laissez-faire*, failing policies. If there was more coverage, more questioning of the handling of the war and reconstruction, would Afghanistan be more stable today? To answer this, the author conducted interviews with relevant policy makers and consulted numerous articles, data, and reports on the organizations' programs in Afghanistan; and read articles published on Afghanistan in *TIME*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News & World Report* over a seven-year period.

Paul Ruffner
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Clarence Lusane

Music, Money, and the Man: A Comparative Analysis of the Political Economy of Music in Cuba and Argentina

In this paper and a lecture presented under the same name, the political economy of Cuban and Argentine music and the relations between the community of musicians and the state are analyzed. The Capstone posits that, while in Argentina's political music is highly critical of the neo-liberal state apparatus, Cuban political music remains within a context framed by the 1959 Marxist-Leninist revolution and the social, political and economic changes caused by Soviet collapse. Furthermore, the paper argues that this difference exists largely as a result of differences in the respective state reactions to political music, as well as the respective political and economic situations of the countries in recent years.

*Chelsea Ruggaber
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisors: Linda Lubrano, Boaz Atzili

Imagining Identity through the Modern German Soldier

Over 50 years have passed since the end of World War II and the trauma of the Nazi campaign still haunts the concept of a German military force. Does this historical memory also affect the role of the military when it comes to the formation of German national identity today? This research explores these relationships in the context of two sets of scholarly literature that overlap in their attempts to define national identity and explain German security policy. The key sources of the interpretive analysis include newspaper and magazine articles, government documents and feature films. Findings indicate that the debate over the role of the German military within German society suggests larger trends in national identity formation. The Capstone argues that the juxtaposition of Germany's historical experience with its international standing today uniquely positions modern German society to reflect the complexity of merging national and transnational identities.

* *Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Michael Sala
University Honors in Philosophy
Capstone Advisor: Ellen Feder

The Body of Ressentiment

This Capstone pursues a Nietzschean analysis of disability within contemporary society. Utilizing Nietzsche's phenomenon of "ressentiment," as developed in his text *On the Genealogy of Morality*, it offers an explanation of the state of disability and disability rights within society. With the aid of several other sources, the paper argues that resentment has fueled the marginalization of those with disability. The current paradigm opposes able-bodiedness to a disabled other who may be characterized as something evil or wrong. The Capstone will demonstrate this to be influenced by resentment and the power gained by the medical community. Finally, it offers disability rights activists and movements as an example of "the will to power" described by Nietzsche and a movement away from the morality dictated by resentment.

Hamissou Samari
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisors: Linda Lubrano, David Hirschmann

Xenophobia and the Long Road to African Integration

It has been about a half-century since most part of the African continent became independent, yet Africa still lags behind the rest of the world in terms of human development. Even regional organizations to ensure prosperity and solidarity exist in African, African countries have not been successful in their efforts toward regional integration. Does a xenophobia-driven acrimony among Africans play an important role in explaining such failures? African regional specialists have thus far emphasized the governments' unwillingness to integrate and their competition over resources as the primary reasons for poor cooperation. This research turns to the scholarship on social identity, however, for an alternative explanation. The study shows that xenophobia, caused by socio-cultural intolerance, plays an important role in the overall backwardness of the continent. Using a quantitative analysis, this paper relies mostly on survey data from the Afrobarometer to see how Africans define their identity and how they perceive regional and continental integration. The research finds that the continuing scenes of violence in Africa are both a consequence of the high emphasis Africans place on their socio-cultural identity and also the cause of failures in socioeconomic integration.

Julie-Anne Savarit-Cosenza
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: David Hirschmann

Seeking Sustainability and Legitimacy: An Evaluation of Literature and Application to the African Education Program and The Amos Youth Centre

This Capstone provides an assessment of two young NGOs: the African Education Program (AEP) and The Amos Youth Centre (AYC). The former is an American organization with a mission to help African youth access education; the latter, as a Zambian NGO that receives full funding from the former, and organizes and manages various educational supplement programs in Kafue, Zambia. This paper analyzes the two NGOs in view of academic literature on NGO sustainability and legitimacy (legitimacy for both organizations, and sustainability specifically for AYC). It discusses the progress made by both organizations. The paper also establishes weak links and need for improvement. As a result, recommendations to achieve the final goal of sustainability and legitimacy are established, as well as a prioritized list of steps for the future. The findings of this paper show that both organizations are making great progress in terms of building legitimacy, but that the prospect of sustainability for AYC is far from a reality.

Andrew Scalise
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Richard Linowes

The Fall of Circuit City

Circuit City once dominated the consumer electronics market, but two decades of intense competition and poor decisions led to its downfall. Circuit City refused to acknowledge its competitors' strengths and its own shortcomings, following the status quo in a rapidly changing marketplace. In 2003, the company took a major gamble that sent it on a downward spiral toward the inevitable closing. Needing to cut costs, the company cut jobs and salaries, but as sales fell, the company invested in new buildings and services. Each impatient decision contradicted a decision in the past, highlighting the lack of focus and strategy that led to the fall of Circuit City.

Victoria Schauerhammer
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Eve Bratman

From Early Child Development to Human Development: An Evaluation of Aid Institutions through a Case Study of Kenya and the World Bank

Recent research has shown that programs fostering the education of young children can have a significant influence on a lifelong healthy lifestyle and can reduce their risk of infection with HIV/AIDS. In consideration of the critiques of the World Bank's work, this paper looks at the World Bank's Early Child Development initiative in Kenya and evaluates its success in terms of planning, implementation and evaluation. Based on the results, it offers suggestions on how to adjust the role of institutions in the process of economic and human development. This Capstone finds that in order to better address the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the Early Child Development programs need to be implemented more effectively and completely; only then will they be able to achieve the goal of keeping children in school and instilling healthy behavior. The findings also emphasize the importance of grassroots implementation of projects. This suggests that the World Bank should assume a more passive role in the execution, oversight and evaluation stages of its projects through delegation and act as a financial backer and advisor.

*Brittany Schell
University Honors in Communication: Print Journalism
Capstone Advisor: Lynne Perri

***Ripple Effect*: The Impact of Growing Urban Populations on the Chesapeake Bay**

Ripple Effect is a magazine that examines the state of waterways in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia with a strong focus on the Chesapeake Bay – the end point for all of the area's waterways. The Chesapeake Bay's ecosystem is threatened by human activities. The bay cannot be restored to a healthy state without water that is clean, clear and rich in oxygen; but currently the bay and the rivers that flow into it are too polluted for the ecosystem to regulate itself and remain balanced. The challenge of restoring the bay is magnified by a growing human population and a pollution problem spiraling out of control. Projections through 2030 show continued population growth, additional loss of natural areas and increased urban development in the Chesapeake Bay area. As development and population growth continue, the Chesapeake Bay will not recover unless drastic action is taken to offset the impact of human activities.

* *Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Eric Schmidt
University Honors in Performing Arts: Music
Capstone Advisor: Marc Medwin

Ichumar: The Guitar and the Revolution of Tuareg Culture

Electric guitar music, known as ichumar, has developed among the nomadic Tuareg of the Southern Sahara in the last 30 years. It is a highly political genre that was banned by the Malian and Nigerien governments until the mid-1990s because it encouraged Tuareg nationalism and promoted violent rebellion. Since relative peace was restored in 1996, this genre has become popularized both in these nations and across the world, and it now tackles other issues relating to the rapidly changing Tuareg society. Ichumar adapts Western musical elements, especially compositional practices, to traditional Tuareg music, and has dramatically changed the sound of Tuareg music. Through the transcription of musical recordings and close readings of ethnographies on Tuareg culture, this ethnomusicology project traces the changes in Tuareg music – in terms of its stylistic qualities and sociopolitical significance – from traditional forms through earlier ichumar and on to the Western stage, in order to demonstrate how ichumar is a tool that the Tuareg use to cope with the challenges facing modern West Africa.

Susan Schneider
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Eileen Findlay

Cuban Women – The Revolution, Equality and Nascent Discourse on Domestic Violence

This Capstone analyses the scholarship on women's experience in two distinct periods in post-revolutionary Cuba. The late 1970s and 1980s were the height of Cuba's economic well-being, a time when women's full integration into the economy and public institutions appeared successful. This paper analyzes both Cuban political discourse and scholarship about women on the island and highlights the omission of discussion of domestic violence in both venues. Interestingly enough, however, research shows that cultural productions, such as film, did discuss domestic violence during this period. In the context of the Special Period (1989 – present), this Capstone explains how nascent social movements and new feminist scholarship have targeted the revolution's short-falls for women – and both recently have begun to explicitly discuss and politicize domestic violence.

David Schultze
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisors: Linda Lubrano, Kelli Hash

A Constructivist Analysis: Gorbachev's New Thinking and the Role of Ideas in the End of the Cold War

While much research has been written on the end of the Cold War and the fall of the Soviet Union, faulty historical memory, political purposes and revisionism have often colored perceptions of events. This research addresses these perspectives by examining and analyzing the impact of Mikhail Gorbachev's new thinking on the fall of the Soviet Union, juxtaposed against the popular American perception of Ronald Reagan as a Cold War hero. While Reagan's anti-Soviet policies made their impact, it was the democratizing agents of Gorbachev's new thinking that contributed strongly to the end of the Cold War and collapse of the communist system. This qualitative research paper employs the lens of constructivism to illuminate how much of an effect Gorbachev's reforms and his dramatic paradigm shift of foreign and domestic policies had on his own country and on the relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. Through the constructivist tool of discourse analysis, this paper explores the public dialogue between Gorbachev and Reagan, their histories and speeches, as well as contemporaneous and current public and scholarly views in order to understand each of their different interpretations of the paradigm shift that Gorbachev's reforms introduced.

Rachel Schwager
University Honors in Communication: Public Communication
Capstone Advisor: Darrell Hayes

The Strategic Use of New Media in Nonprofit Communications

With the emergence of new media technologies and their prevalence in the public sector, this Capstone explores their use within nonprofit communication strategies. Communications needs for nonprofits are similar to marketing a product, but with minimal budgets and the need to create a more intimate connection with the audience. This exploration of three cases – the film *Call+Response*, Rock the Vote and (Product) Red – created a multifaceted view of nonprofit communication tactics with a focus on interactive communication in the consumer market. The communication strategies are multi-directional and encourage participation in a variety of online and real world avenues that make use of traditional media to support the digital effort.

Maegan Scott
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Marcy Fink Campos

Depictions of Culture: How Murals and Heritage Trails Aid in the Understanding of Culture and Community

The constant flux and movement of people and increasing levels of diversity lend themselves to the multiculturalism of big cities. But when does multiculturalism stop being an exchange between cultures and start becoming a marketing tool for an area's cutting edge and connectedness? The latter form of multiculturalism is multicultural-lite – surface mixing, or mixing for mixing's sake. A danger posed by multicultural-lite is how it distills cultures to their tangible or most stereotyped aspects – often food or the arts – and decontextualizes these aspects of culture by lumping them in a “tossed salad” or melting pot. Two things occur: the complexity and vibrancy of various cultures become muted or ignored and these touted, uncontextualized aspects of culture tend to mask the sometimes serious struggles those groups face as they are moving – or being pushed – through the revolving door of big cities. This Capstone explores this process by looking at murals – public expressions of community and identity – and heritage trails – civic-sponsored recountings of culture and history.

Mallory Scott
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisors: Linda Lubrano, Benjamin Jensen

They Will Hear You When You Scream: Why the Kosovo Liberation Army Won the Media War

The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) is today considered one of the most successful insurgencies in modern history, yet it lost almost every major engagement with Serbian forces. Why was this rag-tag force able to become a major player in the Kosovo War? The literature of new war primarily addresses the military tactics insurgency groups use against the state but fails to address the importance of international media exposure and opinion. The research presented here compares the local and international media exposure given to the peaceful movement led by the pseudo-government of Kosovo and the exposure given to the violent movement of the KLA. The failure of the peaceful movement to harness international opinion for its cause gave the KLA an opportunity to rise and supplant it as a legitimate power in Kosovo.

Jacob Shelly
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Carol Whitney

Applied Practice in Presidential Speechwriting

A politician's rhetoric is one of his most important tools. It can demagogue, obfuscate and deceive. But it can also inform, inspire and exhilarate. In the wake of Barack Obama's presidential election – which was due, at least in part, to his oratorical gifts – this Capstone is a project in applied political rhetoric. It includes original drafts and analysis of six major speeches for a hypothetical presidential campaign. Imagining Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI) as the candidate, the Capstone includes an announcement speech, a policy speech, a convention speech, a crisis speech, a victory speech and an inaugural address.

*Alison Shott
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Robert Durant

The Potential for Green: Policy Design, Environmental Protection and NAFTA

This Capstone evaluates the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) impact on incorporation of environmental values into trade relationships between Canada, Mexico and the United States. It examined how the policy designs NAFTA and its environmental supplement, the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC), affected the implementation and effectiveness of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). The CEC was established under the NAAEC to help prevent potential trade-environmental conflicts, address regional environmental concerns and promote the effective enforcement of environmental law at all levels of governance within North America. The Capstone examines agenda setting, problem definition and policy design in order to understand the impact to date of NAFTA and the CEC. It offers a comparative case study of CEC efforts to evaluate its mixed impacts in reducing environmental-trade conflicts, addressing regional concerns and enforcing environmental law. This Capstone concludes by comparing the policy design of NAFTA and the CEC to other international and regional agreements and drawing from these comparisons implications for future environmental treaties.

Alise Smith
University Honors in History
Capstone Advisor: Kate Haulman

True Women, New Women and Civilizers in the American West: White Women Teachers and Matrons in Bureau of Indian Affairs Schools, 1880-1930

In the late 19th and early 20th century, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) instituted educational reforms that focused on "civilizing" American Indians. Assumed by conventional gender norms to be "natural" civilizers and guardians of virtue and morality, white women constituted the majority of the teachers and matrons charged with carrying out this "civilizing mission" in Indians schools. Few studies have addressed these women's experiences and attitudes towards their work from their own point of view. This study endeavors to fill this gap by examining seven memoirs of BIA women within the context of both the BIA's civilizing mission and the conventional ideal of the True Woman as expressed by the cult of domesticity alongside the emerging idea of the New Woman at the turn of the 20th century. Investigation of these memoirs finds that BIA teachers and matrons who went West confronted the ideal of the True Woman as they moved outside the home and sought to increase their independence as New Women by joining the BIA, while at the same time reinforcing the tenets of the cult of domesticity by accepting their role as the supposed purveyors of culture and moral values. Their experiences in the West, however, led them to challenge the cult of domesticity both by affirming their identities as New Women and questioning the virtue of the civilizing mission. In the end there were limits to how far these women could question the civilizing mission and the cult of domesticity because their power and influence as New Women was intimately linked to their ascribed role as civilizers of the American Indians.

Angela Smith
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Robert Johnson

The Death Penalty in America

For centuries, society has relied on one form of punishment to deal with its most heinous offenders: the death penalty. This can be seen in numerous historical contexts, from the Bible to Hammurabi's Code. England used this penalty through the Middle Ages; when English settlers came to the New World, they brought the practice with them. Over time, the methods have changed and Supreme Court cases have limited the scope of capital punishment, yet our nation still retains it. This paper examines the historical underpinnings of capital punishment, the case law that dictates its present-day application, the processes that are used in executions and the state of death row today.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Lauren Spink
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Yael Warshel

Identity and Child Development in Israeli-Palestinian Conflict through Human Figure Drawing

This Capstone discusses the nature of child development and psychology in a conflict situation, particularly the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and explores human figure drawing as a means of understanding child development. The hope is that understanding the way in which children are socialized within conflict might lead to more successful methods of conflict resolution. The issue is approached from the angle of identity construction and how the concept of self and “other” coalesce. Stereotypes and their development are discussed, as is the particular nature of intractable conflict. The way in which human figure drawing can be used to assess the internal and external perceptions of children is also investigated. A set of human figure drawings obtained from Israeli children is analyzed and future research with human figure drawing is proposed..

*Stanislava Staneva
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Robert Sicina

Complexity Theory in World Politics

Complexity theory is an interdisciplinary theoretical framework focused on the study of complex adaptive systems. The concept has been largely understudied – possible applications have not been sufficiently explored and taxonomy has not been well defined. However, as a novel scholarly approach, it carries a high epistemological potential. Complexity is especially applicable to the study of the social sciences. This paper demonstrates cases of successful uses and applications of complexity in the field of world politics. It offers a set logic, which reveals that the conventional theories in international relations oversimplify the reality of world affairs, often resulting in ineffective policy measures and decisions. With its potential to improve our understanding of world politics, complexity theory is proposed as a solution to this problem. The paper also stresses the importance of the introduction of the complexity thought model in social science classrooms. The study suggests that a gradual internalization of the complexity paradigm has the potential to revolutionize our understanding of world politics.

Jacquelyn Suarez
University Honors in Communication, Legal Institutions, Economics and Government
Capstone Advisors: Jeffrey Schaler, Drew Littman

Motor Living Wills

Inspired to action by the Terri Schiavo case, this Capstone would create a solution to this issue by way of legislation: motor living wills. The work advances the understanding of living wills, how to implement them and why they are important. This Capstone seeks to create a federal law making living wills easier for adults to submit and readily accessible to doctors. Upon license renewal, individuals would have the opportunity to submit a simple living will. After doing so, a scroll icon would appear in the upper right-hand corner of one’s driver’s license, exemplifying the fact that the person has a living will, and the actual document would appear on a national registry accessible to doctors.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Katherine Suplick
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisors: Linda Lubrano, Pek Koon Heng

China's 'Client State?' China-Burma Relations and Burma's Human Security in a Regional Context

What is the nature of China's relationship with Burma and how does this dynamic affect Burma's human security? In this context, why has Burma's human security remained low for decades, and how can it be strengthened? The international society and human security paradigms employed in unison provide the multifaceted framework necessary to determine the complexity of this relationship and its implications for Burma's citizens. The normative project utilizes qualitative, interpretive analysis, including in-depth interviews from the Thailand-Burma border, to ascertain the multi-dimensionality of China and Burma's ties and their regional context. This analysis necessarily includes the degree to which the interests of other regional actors affect China-Burma relations. Current Asian and U.S. strategies to address Burma's repressive regime have not been successful, which in turn perpetuate transnational security problems. As a result, the Capstone explores new ways in which collaborative regional action can increase human security levels in Burma.

Sabrina Sussman
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Lauren Feldman

A Journey Through Change: The Influence of Barack Obama's Presidential Campaign Speeches

Senator Barack Obama's campaign for president was widely recognized for its use of powerful rhetoric and profound speeches. Throughout the campaign, Obama wove themes of change and hope together with stories of real Americans. In doing so, Obama was able to establish a national conversation about the future of our nation. This research selects three of Obama's most powerful speeches for analysis in order to discover the root of their strength. By examining each speech's context, content, media coverage and impact on public opinion, a clear trend of influence is discovered. The strength of Obama's campaign can be seen in his spoken connection with voters, and the collective journey of Americans toward understanding the meaning of change.

*Joyprada Swain
University Honors in Political Science
Capstone Advisors: Denise Baer, Kimberly Cowell-Meyers

No Reason for Cohesion? Political Participation and Community Organizing among Indian Americans

As one of the fastest growing demographic groups in America, Indian Americans have influenced numerous industries and American culture. Nevertheless, Indian Americans have not become actively engaged in the American political process. Furthermore, scant academic research has been devoted to the study of how and in what capacity Indian Americans participate politically. This study aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of political behavior by Indian Americans. To explore this issue, the study will take a three-pronged approach of examining voting behavior through exit-poll data, advocacy, organization and issue agendas through interviews with community elites and leaders and political contributions through campaign finance data of Indian American PACs. The study hypothesizes that the Indian American community has difficulties in finding issues of commonality, which has led to difficulties in mobilizing and political participation. The exception that this study expects to find is in the aftermath of critical mobilizing events where an increasingly unified identity among the Indian American community will lead to cohesive political activism, meaning that the majority of the adult population participates in lobbying, voting and contributing toward common causes.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Mary Swears
University Honors in Biology
Capstone Advisor: Victoria Connaughton

The Rewarding Influence of Food: A Conditioned Place Preference Study in Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)

Conditioned place preference (CPP) is a method traditionally used to assess the rewarding and aversive properties of drugs or other stimuli in laboratory animals. Using CPP tests, researchers have been able to discover more about reward and the role it plays in a phenomenon like addiction. This study focuses on inducing a CPP in zebrafish, using food as the rewarding stimulus. Using standard models of classical conditioning, the unconditioned stimulus of food was paired with the initially non-preferred environmental context, as established during a pre-test. Conditioned changes in preference towards the non-preferred side were documented after three conditioning cycles. The study found that 80 percent of the fish in the experimental group shifted their place preference towards the initially non-preferred side, while only 40 percent of fish in the control group shifted their place preference. These results were significant ($p < .00003$).

*Tsuyoshi Takagi
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Richard Linowes

“Made in Japan” Succeeding in the United States: What Enables Japanese Corporations to be Successful beyond the Cultural Barrier?

Toyota, SONY, Nintendo, Panasonic, Canon – there are a number of Japanese corporations successfully manufacturing their “made in Japan” products in the United States by employing American workers. In particular, between the United States and Japan, there is a variety of cultural differences that interfere with the business outcomes overseas. After their first attempt in the mid 20th century and many trials and errors since then, how did the Japanese corporations thriving in America overcome the cultural barrier? Did management completely shift to American ways, or did they somewhat efficiently adapt Japanese ways to American ways? Based on full-time internship experience in a Japanese corporation, as well as interviews with several Japanese managers working in the United States, this Capstone introduces the unique cultural values inside the Japanese corporations and analyzes the significant factors as to why Japanese corporations have been successful in America.

*Laura Taylor
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: David Vine

‘We Don’t Fight for No Reason:’ Resisting Criminalization and the PIC

This paper is a non-traditional ethnography, an “ethnography from below,” which combines personal accounts and reflection on youth organizing in southeast Washington, D.C., with history and policy research on state and correctional institutions. This ethnography argues that youth and community organizers are aware of trends in policing and gentrification that scholars are just beginning to name. Using original research and observations of youth, this Capstone argues that gentrification and forced displacement are accelerated through aggressive policing tactics known as “broken windows” policing that result in growing incarceration rates and a growing prison industrial complex in Washington, D.C. The prison industrial complex (PIC) is a complex series of relationships between economic, political and social interests that drive the growth and privatization of corrections as an industry, based on the criminalization and control of low income communities and communities of color. In D.C., the major function of the political interests of the PIC is to de-politicize the states of poverty and neglect in neighborhoods that are targeted as “crime ridden” or “blighted” and are subsequently heavily targeted by the police. The efforts of youth and community organizers documented in this paper focus on “re-politicizing” and reframing this dominant discourse as a means to build community, identify structures of oppression and create alternatives.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

David Teslicko
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Michelle Egan

The European Union's CFSP: A Lowest-Common-Denominator Approach to Foreign Policy?

With the upcoming celebration of the tenth anniversary of the European Union's European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP), it is important to reflect on both the role and the impact of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). The group of 27 Member States, which operates on a consensus basis, has increasingly taken on larger, more difficult missions and initiatives over the past few years. This paper examines three case studies to demonstrate the role that national interests play in collective decision-making, as well as the influence that EU-level actions have on Member State policy positions. The examples of the EUFOR Tchad/RCA security mission, EULEX Kosovo rule of law mission and Guantanamo detainee transfers are explored to provide greater insight into this evolving institution as well as to propose areas for organizational improvement.

*Kathryn Thornborough
University Honors
Capstone Advisors: Robin Barr, Zehra Peynircioglu

Examining the Roles of Phonology, Orthography, and Semantics in the Speed of Lexical Access for Bilinguals

This study examines how word pairs that have similar phonology, orthography or semantics in the two languages of a bilingual affect the speed of lexical access (i.e., word retrieval), for each word. The materials were 180 Turkish and English word pairs: 20 in each of nine categories representing every possible combination of same or different phonology, orthography and meaning between the two words in the pair. Also created were 180 nonsense words that were pronounceable in either Turkish or English. Turkish-English bilingual participants performed lexical decision tasks on individual words, deciding whether the presented word was a real Turkish or English word. Their reaction times were recorded and analyzed using a statistical program to determine whether certain categories of word pairs facilitated or inhibited lexical access. The results show a significant difference between the reaction times of certain categories of words, suggesting that various combinations of same or different phonology, orthography and semantics either facilitate or inhibit lexical access in bilinguals.

*Alissa Tombaugh
University Honors in Sociology
Capstone Advisor: Celine-Marie Pascale

Pretty Dresses and Privilege: Gender and Heteronormativity in Weddings

This Capstone examines wedding advice columns using textual analysis to critically engage with aspects of inequality that persist in contemporary weddings. It proposes that the language surrounding weddings functions to reflexively construct a reality in which women's subjugation goes unquestioned and heterosexuality remains entrenched as the normative system. Through an ethnomethodological analysis of tacit knowledge, the presence of heteronormativity is revealed. Examination of category-bound behaviors associated with the bride illuminates the way in which her potential accountability as a bride becomes linked to her accomplishment of idealized femininity. The results confirm and extend existing literature on inequality in weddings, point to the omnirelevance of gender as a membership category and further explore the complex intersection of gender and heterosexuality at the interactional level.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Alessandra Torres
University Honors in Communication: Print Journalism
Capstone Advisor: Jeff Bieber

YES!: The Development of a Social Marketing Campaign

This Capstone provides a firsthand perspective on the development of a social marketing campaign. “The YES Campaign” is a campaign for students, by students. With the goal of raising awareness of sexual assault on AU’s campus, the YES Campaign focuses its messaging on consent – encouraging students to have healthy sexual relations through effective and clear communication. This Capstone follows the process of creating and launching the campaign. The blogs provide a regular personal perspective of how the class worked together, the struggles encountered, challenges faced and the overall successes. The op-ed pieces addressed the issue of sexual assault and followed the progress of the campaign. Lastly, the video serves as a “how to” for those interested in creating their own campaign in the future.

Teresa Tu
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisor: Jim Townsend

Who Really Decides? An Examination of the Possible Explanations behind NATO’s Missions in Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan

This project aims to understand the shifting of NATO policy over the years, from the fall of the Soviet Union to today. During these last two decades, NATO has expanded in size, seen the collapse of its primary adversary, and participated in out-of-area missions in the Balkans and Afghanistan. This paper examines the missions in detail and seeks to determine which one of the following explanations – NATO-EU competition, organizational theory, specific leadership, or domestic politics of the member states – adequately explains the involvement of NATO in each of the three missions: Bosnia/SFOR, Kosovo/KFOR, and Afghanistan/ISAF. While it is clear that each of the four explanations impacts NATO’s decisions, as NATO-EU competition has led to a division in resources, organizational theorists argue that forces within NATO seek to maintain the organizational for its own sake by expanding the specific mission, and specific leadership skills, in the form of NATO Secretary Generals and national leaders, are vital in the acceptance of new missions. However, it is domestic politics and the considerations at home that ultimately lead a country to participate in the mission and decide upon the allocation of resources to each specific mission.

*Vishal Vaidya
University Honors in Performing Arts: Musical Theatre
Capstone Advisor: Karl Kippola

Capstoned: An Honors Musical Theatre Recital

This Capstone is the culmination of four years of vocal and acting training into one performance. It is an opportunity to gain insight into the work ethic required by professional actors before actually venturing out into the professional acting community. The process of creating this hour-long show has allowed for heightened awareness of oneself as a performer. The recital consists of two parts – the first being a look at the origins of musical theatre, beginning with Gregorian chant and culminating with the pop musical of today. The second part is more geared toward the student as a performer, and showcases songs from different “roles” that one might play in a lifetime. The title “Capstoned” reflects the end of undergraduate learning, but also its irony, since our personal educational journey has just begun.

** Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

James Valvo
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Alan Levine

Just War Theory and Presidential Doctrines for the Use of Military Force

This paper is an examination of the confluence of just war theory and doctrines for the use of military force put forth by U.S. presidents. It begins with a detailed analysis of the religious foundations of the theory, including St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas. It profiles secular rationales with a focus on the works of Immanuel Kant, Reinhold Niebuhr and Michael Walzer. The Capstone provides a synopsis and offers a personal framework for a modern application of just war theory. The framework is then applied to three presidential doctrines: Monroe, Truman and Bush, and three applications of these doctrines: Manifest Destiny, the Vietnam War and the Iraq War. The Capstone offers a unique application of the theory because it uses *jus ad bellum* constructs for conceptions of presidential doctrines and *jus in bello* constructs to analyze specific wars fought under the auspices of those doctrines.

*Amy Warren
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Pek Koon Heng

The Evolution of East Asian Regional Integration

In only 30 years, East Asia managed to transform itself into one of the world's three major economic regions. With this economic success came closer integration between countries on both the state and sub-state level. This paper seeks to add to the current theoretical discourse on East Asian regional integration by tracing the role of Japanese and Chinese firms in the regionalism and regionalization process since the 1970s. Applying a neo-liberal institutionalist perspective, the Capstone argues that it would be a mistake to dismiss Japan's influence in Southeast Asia vis-a-vis China's rise. China has managed to gain momentum as a regional manufacturing hub, but the volume of Japanese investments in Southeast Asia is still greater. The future of East Asian regionalism has become dependent on positive relations, not competition, between the two countries.

Madalyn Wasilczuk
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Richard Bennett

Rule of Law Promotion in Kenya: Possibilities for a Legal Empowerment Approach

Rule of law promotion has long been a part of democratizing and development programs in developing countries. However, many of these programs have focused their energies on the state, which itself is often an obstacle to the rule of law. This Capstone examines the rule of law in Kenya and the criminal justice system that supports it using reports from human rights organizations and in-country interviews, with the aim of identifying the capacity of civil society to promote the rule of law through a legal empowerment, rather than a state-centric, approach. To do so, it draws on already-existing efforts in Kenyan civil society and suggest ways in which legal empowerment may be effective in rule of law promotion. It also analyzes the limitations of legal empowerment and emphasize the political nature of rule of law promotion in Kenya.

* *Capstone Research Grant Recipient*

Dayna Wells
University Honors in History
Capstone Advisor: Katharine Norris

Evolving Fictional Visions of Josephine Bonaparte, 1950s-2000s

This project examines portrayals of Josephine and Napoleon Bonaparte in novels from the 1950s through the present. In earlier novels, Josephine was a semi-villainous, frivolous character. However, in recent books, she is a strong-willed, self-possessed heroine. The Capstone's goal is to examine how changing portrayals of female historical figures like Josephine illuminate the context in which they were written – whether as an accurate historical character reflecting the state of historical knowledge of the time or a reflection of the conventions of the female heroine. The study utilizes novels, authors' statements of their goals, contemporary book reviews and feminist writings, endeavors to provide a better understanding of the ways in which historical fiction simultaneously entertains, conveys historical knowledge and provides models of proper behavior.

Meg White
University Honors in Language and Foreign Studies: Spanish Studies
Capstone Advisor: Brenda Werth

The Past Among Us: Memory and the Pursuit of Justice and Truth in the Southern Cone

After the brutal authoritarian dictatorships of the 1970s and 1980s, the new democratic governments of Argentina and Chile had to come to terms with the past. Real justice seemed impossible, so the new regimes instead sought truth and recovery. After the investigations of the truth commissions, politicians expected to move on and put the past behind them. This Capstone is a reaction to that attitude of “turning the page on history.” Not only did the state fail to resolve the primary issues of justice and truth, but the obsession with a single national narrative silenced many victims of repression and limited opportunities for civic participation. This study examines the legal, political, historical and artistic strategies that the government and civil society developed to address issues that remained unresolved after the transitional period.

Meg White
University Honors in Language and Foreign Studies: German Studies
Capstone Advisor: Olga Rojer

Who Needs a Wall? The Difficulties of Reunification in Germany with a Focus on Berlin

The speed of the reunification process surprised both East and West Germans, and both disapproved of the process for their own reasons. Several complications arose – not because Germans did not support reunification – but because of social and economic pressures and stereotypes on both sides. To compound these issues, the new state released documents that for the first time revealed the depth and breadth of the repressive spy network in the former German Democratic Republic. This research addresses the challenges of reconciliation between both East and West Germans – whose lifestyles and values had estranged them from one another – and among East Germans – who had betrayed and been betrayed by one another at the behest of a manipulative state apparatus.

Andrew Wolf
University Honors in International Studies
Capstone Advisors: Carolyn Gallaher, Farhang Erfani

Articulating a Movement: A Discourse Analysis of the Pingüino Student Movement in Chile

This Capstone involves ethnographic research undertaken during summer of 2008 on organizing methods and identity politics within the Chilean student movement. Rather than discovering a “typical pingüino,” it was found that pingüinos came from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives. Despite differences in students’ economic backgrounds and their visions for society, common threads emerged in student discourse. Organizing effectively did not mean articulating a demand common to everyone since needs differed greatly among students, but instead creating a discourse around which students gathered. This meant that identifying with the movement was a contingent process, continuously reevaluated through participation.

Evan Wong
University Honors in Mathematics
Capstone Advisor: Joshua Lansky

Cryptology and Applied Cryptography

Cryptography is the art and science of creating secrecy systems – the means by which information can be transmitted while guarding against the possibility of an unintended recipient. Modern cryptography is dominated by two themes: abstract mathematical constructs and ubiquitous cheap computing power. Modern algebra provides cryptographers with a class of constructions called fields, of which our familiar number system of integers and fractions is but one. Finite fields – fields consisting of a finite number of elements and a cyclic structure – pose a mathematical question that has yet to be solved, known as the discrete logarithm problem. The intractability of this problem allows cryptographers to exchange information without great concern of messages being intercepted and decrypted, but effective implementation requires large amounts of computing power. Here, computer code in the Java programming language is used to demonstrate the structure and operation of a simple public key cryptosystem, with the intent of being viable for commercial or government use, given a sufficiently powerful computer.

Dimitar Yordanov
University Honors in Business Administration
Capstone Advisor: Richard Linowes

The Past, Present and Future of Riva Fashion Ltd – A Strategic Analysis

Riva Fashion Ltd. started out in 1994 as a small women’s fashion wholesale business in Bulgaria. Since then, the Riva brand of clothing has earned national recognition, enabling it to move away from wholesaling and to open its own private label retail outlets in three of the largest Bulgarian cities. Now, after 15 years of steady growth and expansion, Riva Fashion has to develop a new strategic direction – one that is better tailored to the size of the company and to the needs of its demanding customers. Based on an extensive analysis of internal and external factors critical to the business, a strategy consisting of marketing, management and movement recommendations has been proposed. In order to maintain its profitability and growth rate, Riva Fashion has to adopt a long-term marketing strategy focused on efficient direct marketing to clearly defined customer segments. The company then needs to implement management training initiatives in response to its pressing need for additional executive talent. Finally, it should direct its expansion efforts to the Bulgarian seaside cities, where Riva can benefit from a fast-growing market with predictable seasonal demands.

Allison Young
University Honors in Economics
Capstone Advisor: Mary Hansen

Gasoline Tax Fueling Innovation: The Effects of a Gas Tax on Vehicle Innovation

Fossil fuels such as petroleum are finite resources that can have damaging effects on the environment, health, national security and consumer welfare. Given these concerns, governments worldwide have explored policies aimed at curbing the use of petroleum products, particularly automotive gasoline. In the best case scenario, government policy would induce enduring, energy-saving consumer behavior. One tactic for accomplishing this is to induce energy efficient innovation to replace less efficient technology. This paper addresses the effect of a per liter gasoline tax on efficient innovations in vehicle technology across 13 countries between 1996 and 2004. Vehicle innovation is measured by the quantity of application for vehicle technology patents. If gasoline taxes induce vehicle innovation, governments could use tax policy to curb long-term petroleum dependence. Using a fixed effects econometric model, results show that a gasoline tax did significantly contribute to an increase in innovation as measured by a broad patent classification for vehicle technology innovation.

Stephanie Zechmann
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Sarah Irvine Belson

An Evaluation of the Proposed Performance-Based Pay Plan for Teachers in the D.C. Public Schools

In recent years, many school systems have begun experimenting with performance-based pay for teachers in order to improve student achievement and attract teachers to difficult-to-staff schools. The chancellor of the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), Michelle Rhee, has proposed introducing a pay-for-performance plan for teachers in the school system. This proposal has been the center of a great deal of controversy, with critics claiming that it will be unfair to teachers and advocates arguing that it will lead to much-needed gains in student achievement. The purpose of this Capstone is to review existing literature on pay-for-performance schemes and analyze the chancellor's proposed plan for the DCPS. Ultimately, the Capstone argues that although research on the effectiveness of pay-for-performance schemes is inconclusive, the chancellor's plan seems to be well designed and has the potential to bring about gains in student achievement.

Amy Zeigler
University Honors
Capstone Advisors: Susan Shepler, Brenda Werth

Chile: Youth within Post-Pinochet Educational Structures

Through the lens of education and collected perceptions of individual Chileans, this Capstone aims to reveal the meaning of Pinochet's violent regime to today's youth who lived very little, if any of their lives, beneath it. Pinochet's neoliberal policies, as well as their harsh application, have resulted in complicated consequences for youth today as they live in an apathetic political environment and face increasing socioeconomic disparities. This paper, explores the space the youth voice is given in the context of Chilean society, as well as how that context is believed to influence them. It is an examination of the effects of Pinochet's policies through the lens of education and what that has meant for Chilean society today. The Capstone has developed several recommendations to address the issues of Chilean youth today: developing a political culture that is truly democratic and addresses the continued impunity that perpetuates a culture of fear and repression and thinking outside the neoliberal paradigm to discover solutions to the socioeconomic divide that continues to widen. Youth are taking the situation into their own hands and are using their voices to force the Chilean public to rethink the environment that has been allowed to develop along Pinochet's terms. Lamentably, the structural changes that the youth ask for seem to only be able to come from the ruling adults. Thus, Chileans must provide the means to allow the youth to voice their concerns while also providing them with the necessary support to take the changes upon themselves, which may mean a rethinking of how Pinochet's legacy will play out in the nation's culture, economy and society.

Kun Zhao
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Robert Feinberg

Chinese Student Migrants to the United States

In academic year 2007-2008, there were about 600,000 international students in U.S. higher education, 13 percent of which were from mainland China. China started to send students to the U.S. in 1979, and is now one of the leading exporters of international students to the U.S. Additionally, the U.S. is the top destination for Chinese students abroad. This Capstone looked for the major factors affecting this trend of student migration, including Chinese family income, Chinese family education expenditures, U.S. higher education and living cost, and changes in Chinese preferences of higher education. Finally, this Capstone aims to predict the influence on the future of China – U.S. educational exchange.

Lindsay Zoladz
University Honors
Capstone Advisor: Madhavi Menon

Signifying Nothing: Representations of Ophelia

The critical discourse about Ophelia has amounted to an endless game of contradictory name-calling: virgin, whore, weak woman, martyr and (in the case of Lacan) O-phallus. Because no one can agree upon what she signifies, Ophelia is a problematic candidate for iconicity; the plethora of artistic renderings of her forces us to confront what Roland Barthes calls “the terror of an uncertain sign.” Through the analysis of historical representations of Ophelia and the identification of Ophelia figures in Robert Bresson’s film *Mouchette* and Agnes Varda’s *Le Bonheur*, this Capstone argues that Ophelia’s speech articulates a paradox that has always been paramount in feminist criticism: woman’s struggle to express herself in a discourse that systematically excludes her. Analyzing our cultural obsession with Shakespeare’s elusive heroine and the history of her representation illustrates the ways in which Ophelia challenges and unravels patriarchal constructions of meaning.