Spring 2022 GCC STUDENT SYMPOSIUM  
Friday, May 6, 12-2 p.m.  
Nahman-Watson Library

Schedule of Events

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<td>12:00-12:05</td>
<td>Welcome, Liza Harrington, GCC Library Coordinator</td>
<td>Library Solarium</td>
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<td>12:05-12:15</td>
<td>Opening Remarks, Rick Hopper, GCC Interim President</td>
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<td>12:15-12:35</td>
<td>Scene IV from <em>The Elephant Man</em>, followed by Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>12:35-12:55</td>
<td><em>Prometheus Press</em> panel presentation, followed by Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>12:55-1:20</td>
<td>Poster Sessions</td>
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<td>1:20-2:00</td>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
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<td>Special Display: Zines</td>
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Scene IV from *The Elephant Man*, followed by Q&A

After being canceled by the pandemic, two years later *The Elephant Man* returns! Written by Bernard Pomerance, *The Elephant Man* takes place in late 1800s England and is based on the life of Joseph Merrick, referred to as John Merrick in the play, whose life was complicated by extreme growths on his body. Directed by Tom Geha with a cast and crew of over 25 students, alumni, and community members.

Play runs two weeks at Hawks & Reed: May 6 & 7 at 7:30pm, May 8 at 2pm, and May 12, 13 & 14 at 7:30pm. Masks and proof of vaccination required for all audience members. Reserve tickets at [hawksandreed.com](http://hawksandreed.com).
How We Started a Newspaper
Stacy Blackadar, Robert Calafell, and Zac Poulin

Prometheus Press started in a history class, when newspapers of GCC past were passed around. This exercise showed a slice of life during the 60s when GCC had sports teams and many other clubs. One student saw this, and realized this celebration of community was lacking at their Community College. This sparked the student newspaper you’ve probably seen around campus. The school newspaper is an eight page work we collaborate over, argue over, and fight like hell for. In the short six months we’ve been working on this project, we’ve all grown so much; as journalists, poetists, artists, and friends. This is something that we take great pride in, and if you’d like to know more about our process and content, this presentation is for you.

Poster Sessions

Tabletop 1: Make Way For Amphibians: Why Did the Salamander Cross the Road?
Maria Mendez
BIO-127H, Amanda Hyde

On warm wet spring nights in the Northeastern United States, amphibians travel to their breeding ponds and puddles, forcing them to traverse busy roads. Research has shown that tens of thousands of migrating amphibians are killed in traffic each year. Community science projects have fought to decrease these fatalities by providing crossing assistance, traffic mitigation, and education. By carefully analyzing existing literature and a case study investigation of a local community science project funded by the Harris Center for Conservation Education (HCCE), this project aims to determine whether these community science efforts have significantly contributed to fatality prevention and amphibian conservation.

Tabletop 2: That's Me in the Corner, That's Me in the Spotlight: Analyzing Distortion of Racial Demographic Representation on Community College Instagrams
Megan Velez
SOC 106, Linda McCarthy

How does a college choose to represent diversity? How much does impression management factor into representing diverse students on social media? These questions are addressed using a combined methodology of content analysis and interviews. An autoethnographic approach is used to share my experiences as a student of color on a predominately white campus, and discuss the potential impact of over or under representing students on community college Instagrams.
Printed 1: Kinetics of an Enzyme-Catalyzed Reaction: Phase I. Assay Development to Determine Reducing Sugars
Morgan Long
CHE 202, Trish Basford
Enzymes are biochemicals capable of catalyzing an incredibly broad range of reactions within organisms and are also used extensively to catalyze extra-physiological chemical reactions. In this project, I focused on developing the DNS assay to measure the activity of invertase, an enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of sucrose to the smaller sugar subunits of glucose and fructose. Preliminary results support the use of the DNS assay for gauging the activity of invertase, however more work is needed to be able to fully assess reaction kinetics.

Printed 2:
Transparent Wood? (Delignification & Polymerization of Balsa Wood)
Viseth Loeung Rinehart and Hunter Barron
CHE 202, Trish Basford
A shortage in sand has created public interest in alternatives to traditional glass. Transparent wood may offer a sustainable alternative to traditional glass windows and has a variety of advantages over most other available transparent infrastructure. The chemical processes necessary for the production of such an alternative have been recently brought to light in research papers and have proliferated due to public interest. Making wood transparent happens largely in three phases: Delignification, homogenization, and polymerization. Through experimentation we sought to answer the following questions: How realistic is transparent wood to create? And how transparent can this wood be?

Oral Presentations

Oral Presentation 1:
Irish Immigration: The Role of Assimilation Alongside Catholic Education
Meghan Gildea
HIS 106, Alyssa Arnell
In the mid-19th century, Irish immigrants entering the United States faced nativist prejudice by white Protestants due to their religious beliefs and immigration status. In contrast, fear among Catholic immigrants about Protestant influence in public schools created a desire to place Catholic children in their own schools. These Catholic schools were created around immigrants’ national identities that served specifically their immigrant communities, and as a result were inherently exclusionary towards other marginalized groups in America such as people of color. Because access to education has been considered a standard for social mobility and thus assimilation into whiteness, these Catholic schools aided in the assimilation of Irish immigrants by providing them access to education, which was necessary for social mobility and assimilation.
Oral Presentation 2:
The History of Mental Health Being Weaponized to Perpetuate Racism
Peter Mantell
HIS 127, Alyssa Arnell
In this presentation I explore how mental health has been weaponized throughout American history to perpetuate systemic racism from the 1800s to the 20th century. This analysis looks at three distinct periods, the slavery period, the asylum period, and the civil rights movement. In all three periods we will look at what definitions existed for mental health disorders and how these definitions, along with systematic practices, were used to discredit and oppress Black Americans.

Special Display: Zines
Created by students enrolled in ART 123, Visual Concepts II, Spring 2022
Taught by: Jennifer Simms
A zine (pronounced “zeen,” like “magazine”) is a self-published, small circulation, non-commercial booklet or magazine, usually produced by one person or a few individuals. Zines come in all shapes, sizes, topics, and formats. Most zines are photocopied, but they can also be printed offset, like a magazine or newspaper. Zines range from handwritten and sloppy, to cut-and-paste (text pasted on top of background images), to artsy with handmade touches, to produced on a computer with a professional looking layout. Zines may incorporate screenprinting, linoleum cuts, and hand-stitched bindings. Most zines have print runs of a couple dozen to a few hundred copies. In a zine, you might find typos, improper grammar, and brilliant or radical or just plain honest ideas that you don’t normally see in Time, Newsweek, or People. A zine can be about whatever subject its creator decides upon, or it may contain a variety of subjects and writing styles within the same issue. Zines can include personal essays, political discussions, fiction, craft or do-it-yourself advice, articles about music or movies, comics, poetry, reviews – anything under the sun, really. Zines are personal and idiosyncratic. The best thing about zines is this: There are no rules. (Excerpt from undergroundpress.org/pdf/Zines101.pdf)