



BUFFALO SEMINARY SEMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018

Session 1 - 8:10 AM

Yifan Mo - The History of Embroidery in China (PAC)

Tessa Covello - Deaf Children in Hearing Schools (Chapel)

Katherine Gibbons - The Big Trans-ition: Examining Transgender and Genderqueer Identities in Single-Sex Educational Settings (Colby)

Aurora Kraus - Problems Facing Teenaged Youth as Shown in My Own Successful Playwriting (Study Hall)

Session 2 - 8:35 AM

Madeleine Schen Cherr - A Study in the Art of Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven (PAC)

Casey Ball - The Manipulation of Perception in Film, Literature and Other Entertainment (Chapel)

Rose McDonnell - "Hey, Everyone, Welcome to My Capstone": The Process of Vlogging (Colby)

Charlotte Long - Life in Medieval Times (Study Hall)

Session 3 - 9:00 AM

Molly Doyle - Art Therapy and Mental Health Issues (PAC)

Zo Galarneau - The Good, the Bad, the Fairly Terrible, and the Even Worse: Representation of Transgender Identity in Video Games (Chapel)

Sydney Adams - Pre-Production of Animation (Colby)

Bridget Ewing - Poetry as Therapy (Study Hall)

Session 4 - 9:25 AM

Yixuan Li - Advertising and Art: How does Nike steal money from your pocket? (PAC)

Talia Stoffman - Benefits and Risks of Robotic Assisted Surgery (Chapel)

Anna Ange - Literary Theory: It's Cooler Than You Think! (Colby)

Aileen Cotter - Macro Social Work and Its Effects on The Community (Study Hall)



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Student Abstracts

Adams, Sydney. What are the common creative processes used in the preproduction phases of animation?

For many years I've been fascinated by animation, so for my Capstone I decided to explore in depth the pre-production animation processes in Pixar, Disney, Studio Ghibli, and the general planning required to complete character design, set design, and prop design. I've also explored a little about how artists use shapes to communicate the personality of a character as well as how the production team works together to complete these tasks.

Ange, Anna. Based on its history, what is the importance and benefit of literary theory?

What is the importance and benefit of literary theory? What is its place in our lives? Through reviewing literary theory's 20th century evolution, conducting a survey with answers from my community, and practicing theoretical analysis myself, I've tried to answer these questions. To quote Jacques Derrida, "Il n'y a pas de hors-texte." There is no outside text. There is no context one must separate, because the culture surrounding a text, is itself a text waiting to be analyzed. Essentially, literary theory is an inescapable entity necessary for understanding and navigating the world, and isn't that what we're all trying to do?

Ball, Casey. How do creators of short stories and games use control of information given to change the perception of their characters?

Creators and writers alter their audiences' perception of their characters in several different ways. From reducing the antagonist to their involvement in the plot and building a stronger connection with the audience and the protagonist, to withholding information about events in the characters' lives, creators can manipulate the image of their characters. Through analyzing films and conducting my own experiment where different groups hear two versions of the same story, I explored this technique and will be explaining my discoveries and the most useful tactic creators can use.

Cherr, Madeleine. Who are Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven, and how have their works continually shaped Canadian identity and relationship to landscape?

While he's much less notorious within American culture, painter Tom Thomson holds an almost legendary status in Canadian culture. From his embodiment of the "rugged man of the land" trope to his mysterious, untimely death, the influence of both the painter and his works continues to reverberate to this day. This project is one part homage to the artist and the following "Group of Seven" movement, and one part closer look at their works' place in Canadian culture and national identity.

Collins, Yasmeen. What makes a well-executed video game?

This capstone explores the following aspects of a video game: graphics, storylines, and challenges. After collecting data on successful games, a "rulebook" of some sorts was made for the guidelines of the ideal game. As an artifact, these guidelines were interpreted to create an extremely basic game using Dev Pro Game Stack, a program designed for beginner video game programmers and students.

Cotter, Aileen. How does macro-social work and its effect on the community differ from other classifications of social work?

I researched and studied the effects of social work in general, and specifically macro social work, on the local community. I attended a seminar on the "Pathways to Progress Report," which is the first report of its kind. The report uses census data of women and children in Western New York (Erie, Chautauqua, and Niagara counties) and specified the needs of girls in every age group. Then, to test the impact on my community, I taught an 80 minute class about the data I received during the seminar. The data has a jarring effect, and the information given often causes a change in perception, and an acknowledgement of privilege.

Covello, Tessa. How can social integration be achieved between deaf and hearing children in elementary schools?

Social integration between deaf/hard of hearing and hearing children can be achieved in mainstream schools. By having deaf/HOH students transition from bilingual to mainstream schools during their early childhood education, they can begin to interact with hearing peers. This social integration is achieved by interacting with, being friends with, and socializing with fellow classmates. This projects explores the difficulties of the communication barrier between students and why it's important for this interaction to take place.



Doyle, Molly. How is art used to cure or help cope with mental health issues and how do art therapists use these tactics?

I chose my Capstone topic because I have always had an interest in discovering and researching how Art Therapy works compared to “regular” speaking therapy. The purpose of my capstone was to understand every aspect of Art therapy, especially with adolescents. After researching and interviewing great sources, I feel well educated on this topic.

Ewing, Bridget. How is writing therapeutic?

I approached the question “how is poetry therapeutic” on three levels; personal, scientific, and external experience. The main focal point of this project was writing a poem a day for 365 days, in which I learned how to conquer problems like writer’s block, self-doubt, and other mental limitations. Not wanting to be limited to my own experience, I reached out to a poet in my own community, and consulted several scholarly sources on the subject matter. By experimenting and researching poetry and its effects on a mental level, I discovered the healing and therapeutic properties of the poetic writing process.

Galarneau, Zo. In what ways have video games done well and poorly in representing transgender identities in video games thus far? How can this be remedied in the future?

There is little to no representation of individuals of transgender experience in media, but especially in video games. Due to a supposedly homogenous clientele, a lot of developers don’t feel the need to put apt representation in their video games. From the few good examples to the many cautionary ones, this project looks at transgender video game characters, what to do to show them well, and what many people have done wrong in the past. By creating a video game myself, I have explored within the medium how to represent transgender characters. I did research into the importance of apt representation, as well as the representation that does exist, focusing on characters which were pre-created by the developers, as opposed to character-creation systems. Culminating in a developed video game, a research paper, and a booth at the Buffalo Mini Maker Faire, this project explored many alleys in the topic of transgender representation in video games.

Gibbons, Katherine. How do non-cisgender identities function in a single-sex educational environment? What are some ways that schools have addressed issues like bathrooms, sports league participation, and dress codes, and how does the law factor into these?

As academic institutions focusing on the education and empowerment of women, many girls’ schools neglect to address the growing population of transgender students in their schools. I consulted laws, regulations, court cases, psychological and sociological studies, and the policies of other schools in order to understand how schools have reacted to transgender students nationally and internationally. To gain a sense of the school climate at SEM, I decided to interview past and present students, faculty, and other members of the SEM community about their opinions on transgender students. This ultimately culminated in a feature for the SEM Weekly discussing transgender students at SEM.

Kraus, Aurora. What are the necessary steps to creating a play?

When thinking of what I wanted to do for my Capstone I decided to incorporate together the things about which I’m passionate. After much brainstorming, I decided to base my capstone on creative writing and theatre. From there I decided to write a play, which of course led to the question what are the necessary steps to create a play and incorporate that into my writing? I decided that to better my writing in this format, it will be best to visualize what I want the play to become and think about how my writing will translate on stage.

Li, Yixuan. How does advertising affect people’s attitude toward clothing?

Almost everyone has a pair of Nike shoes, but have you thought about the moment you wanted to buy them? The power of advertisement is tremendous, and my research focuses on the influence of advertisement by comparing Asian countries (China and South Korea) with the United States.

Long, Charlotte. What was Life Like During Medieval Times in Europe?

My project is about how life was during the middle ages in Europe, especially England, including how it was to be a peasant compared to a lord or a king in the upper class. I explore the Crusades, feudalism, and even what was happening in the life of Jews at that time. At the presentation, attendees will learn about how people were treated based on their class and religion.



McDonnell, Rose. What is the process of making a successful vlog?

Like many of you, I spend most of my free time on the internet. Most of the time is spent on YouTube watching vloggers such as Gretchenlovesbeauty and Emma Chamberlain. I have always wondered what makes such boring videos of other girls my age, entertaining and how I could spend countless hours watching various vloggers go about their mundane daily tasks. It did not matter if the person I was watching was going to and from SoulCycle or just sitting in their room while sipping on their iced almond milk latte. I connected with these people because I saw a reflection of myself in them. We are normal teenagers. Most of the vloggers I watch are in high school or college and have to deal with the same things as me. This led me to think I could start my own vlog channel but I was too scared to post on YouTube so I made vlogs for my Capstone. I began the process by just recording myself with my iPhone. The process of filming myself was awkward and sometimes extremely embarrassing, but I was also able to capture my deepest emotions in a simple five minute video.

Mo, Yifan. How does the content of traditional embroidery vary in different regions of China?

I studied the history of embroidery in China for my Capstone. The essential question involved the status of cross-stitch in the history of embroidery. For the artifact, I did cross-stitch to show the pattern of traditional embroidery in China. In my presentation, I talk about the different styles of embroidery in China, and the status of cross-stitch in embroidery now compared to in the past.

Stoffman, Talia. What are the benefits and risks of using robotics to assist surgery? Do the benefits outweigh the risks?

For my project, I examined the benefits and risks of using robotics to assist surgery. More specifically, I wanted to determine whether or not the benefits outweighed the risks. I decided to gain a deeper understanding of this subject by performing research on PubMed, and reading numerous articles in order to write my paper. I also participated in the Junior Robotic Surgery Challenge program at Roswell Park, interviewed local surgeons who use the robotic devices, and visited the Mazor Robotics headquarters, in order to obtain first-hand experience.