

Director's Welcome Message

Welcome to the Graduate Research Symposium at Stockton University. Today, we celebrate the journey and accomplishments of our graduate students who have engaged in research within the past year. Designing and conducting research can be a challenging and rewarding part of this academic journey and tonight signifies the culmination of one's empirical quest and capstone experience. I must acknowledge that this research could not have been possible without the dedicated assistance of faculty mentors who have shared their own passion, curiosity, and knowledge with these distinguished scholars.

The Fall 2016 presenters include students from eight distinct programs: American Studies, Business Administration, Communication Disorders, Computational Science, Criminal Justice, Environmental Science, Nursing and Occupational Therapy. Their projects signify their commitments to practitioner-based research, academic excellence, and are comprised in the oral and poster presentations listed within this booklet. We celebrate the diversity, innovativeness of the research presented this evening, and promote interdisciplinary research conversations among the campus community.

We honor Stockton University's commitment to the research projects presented here tonight. To facilitate the communities' commitment to graduate research each presenter is wearing a nametag along with a royal blue ribbon. Each additional ribbon is also significant and honors:

Graduate Program Directors	black ribbon
Research Advisor	white ribbon
Distinguished Graduate Research Fellowship	red ribbon
Graduate Student Council funding	yellow ribbon

Tonight, we embark upon a new tradition, presenting an award to the winner and runners-up of a faculty inspired poster competition. Faculty from each program will view and score each of tonight's posters and a winner and runner-up will be announced at the end of the evening.

We are proud of the presenters. We are grateful to all who contributed to the success of this event: our graduate student presenters, dedicated alumni, faculty advisors, program directors, program faculty, deans, staff, friends, family, and all of our special guests. We encourage you to attend the sessions, view the posters, and ask these remarkable scholars about their personal journey.

Best regards,



AmyBeth Glass
Director of Graduate Enrollment Management

Graduate Research Symposium

Campus Center, December 5, 2016

-AGENDA-

6:00 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.	Welcoming Remarks	Campus Center Event Room
6:15 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.	Poster Session	Campus Center Event Room

Master of Arts in American Studies (CC-M5)
Master of Arts in Criminal Justice
Master of Business Administration
Master of Science in Communication Disorders
Master of Science in Computational Science
Master of Science in Nursing
Master of Science in Occupational Therapy
Professional Science Master's in Environmental Science

6:55 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Announcement of Awards	Campus Center Event Room
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The names in this program are those of graduate student presenters as of November 14, 2016.

-Presentations-

Master of Arts in American Studies

Alexa Cabrita and Kirsten DiPatri, PowerPoint Presentation

A Time for Change: Civil Rights in South Jersey

A Time for Change: Civil Rights in South Jersey first debuted at the Noyes Art Garage, August 2016. Researched, collected, and presented by Stockton University Professors and American Studies Graduate students, the following presenters wish to share their experiences working on this exhibit together. This project was made possible thanks to the funding of a 2020 Presidential Initiative (college funding) and a NJ Grant from the NJ Council for the Humanities.

Daniel Dinnebeil, Poster Presentation

World War I in South Jersey

With the centennial of America's entry into World War I approaching this April, many organizations, groups, and individuals are preparing to commemorate the sacrifices made by our veterans and the nation. Stockton University, through the South Jersey Culture and History Center, has been dedicated to this effort. For this presentation, an approximately ten-minute narrative will be told in a documentary format about World War I's impact on South Jersey, in particular, highlighting the ghost town of Amatol. This is a work-in-progress that will serve as the basis for a more complete documentary. The intent here is to open a dialogue with members of the Stockton community and community-at-large about how to further and expand on this project.

Shawn Riggins, Poster Presentation

Teaching American Studies: Lesson Plans on Reading American Literature and Material Culture

This presentation provides an overview of lesson plans aligned with the 2016 Why the Humanities Matter Summer Institute for Teachers theme: Reading American Literature and Material Culture. The four lesson plans created center on Material Culture, Oral history, Local history, and Native American Literature. Each lesson connects with one another providing an overview of the institute's 2016 theme, infuses program specific practices and techniques in order to introduce New Jersey high school students to the field of American Studies, and engages in meeting Common Core ELA standards. The lesson plans teach students the history of Southern New Jersey and engage them in important historical research practices. In the lessons, students work with primary sources surrounding their local communities and collaborate in research. The lessons make use of Adam Golub's six habits of mind outlined in *Teaching American Studies as a Habit of Mind*: exploring the relationship between identity and culture, seeking out diverse perspectives, placing culture in relevant contexts, studying change over time, interpreting the work of culture, and practicing collaboration and public engagement. Using American Studies habits of mind in the secondary classroom setting aims to Infusing in American Studies habits of mind throughout these lessons connects students with new paths of inquiry, find connections between global and local contexts, and use 21st century skills to further their understanding of the humanities.

Master of Business Administration

“I Manager” Project- PowerPoint and Table Top Presentations

Individual presentations made by the following graduate students:

Kirsten Canuso, Sara Ferrara, Allison Henry, Kimberly Kaczmariski, & Kyle Wilson

Students participating in this study examined the impact of their gender, age, culture, ability, education, values and personality factors on their management style, philosophy, and effectiveness. Each presenter provided an analysis on how important personality is on managerial effectiveness in working with others who are different and those that are similar.

Stephanie A.N. Levin, Table Top Presentation

The Multiple Sclerosis Association of America’s (MSAA) IMC Plan

The purpose of this project is to create an Integrated Marketing and Communications Plan that incorporates social media for a non-profit organization. In this case, the plan was written for the Multiple Sclerosis Association of America’s (MSAA) national headquarters which is located in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. There were seven different sections that comprised the plan. They included the following: background information about the MSAA, organizational strategies, a SWOT analysis, market segmentation and target markets, goals and objectives for the MSAA, marketing collateral, and evaluation. In addition, a brochure, advertisement, and a press release were required as part of the project as well as addressing how to use social media as part of the marketing mix. The focus of my project illustrates how to create a fundraiser that will help benefit multiple sclerosis patients and to get the outside community involved.

Kyle Wilson, Table Top Presentation

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ocean County IMC Plan

This service learning project was focused on helping the non-profit organization Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ocean County. The purpose was to analyze the organization, and then develop a marketing plan to help them achieve specific goals that they wanted accomplished.

Master of Arts in Criminal Justice

Stacie Hill & Elissa Vazquez, Poster Presentation

Sexual Assaults on College Campuses: A Nationwide Study using UCR & Clery Data

Recent highly publicized cases of sexual assault on college campuses has generated much needed attention within academia and policymakers. The purpose of this research was to study sexual assault, and stalking incidents that occur at Institutions of Higher learning. Using official data, this study analyzes the latest trends and patterns of occurrence of rape, fondling, and stalking incidents reported from college and universities across the country. The study included nearly 1400 institutions and represented a population of nearly 15 million students. We analyzed the rate of victimization reported from the post-secondary institutions, particularly between public and private institution of higher education. This comparison revealed that nearly 56 to 64 percent of all of the sexual assault (rape, fondling), and stalking incidents are reported as occurring at Public institutions (4-year or above). However, the rate of reporting is significantly much higher in Private 4-Yr institutions, and further analysis suggest that predominant incidents of sexual victimization occurs at on-campus properties. Lastly, we found that reported rape or sexual assault is significantly less at post-secondary institution's compared to their host State. However, this relationship is reversed when only Public and Private, 4-yr institutions reported data is compared to their host State sexual assault and stalking data. Future implications will be discussed.

Master of Science in Communication Disorders

Jennie Koushel, Poster Presentation

Using Multimodal Biofeedback to Remediate Resistant “R” Production

Many children have benefitted from treatment of speech sound disorders. Some continue to demonstrate resistant errors into adolescence. This case study examined the use of multimodal biofeedback for resistant “R” production in a pre-adolescent male. Results suggest positive changes to the sound system can be obtained using this approach.

Gabriella Marrone, Poster Presentation

Intonation Discrimination in a Musical Context

Listeners with a wide range of formal and informal musical experience were asked to listen to an eight-tone diatonic C Major scale, generated using a sample library, in which one of four notes (D4, F4, A4, or C5) would be mistuned by 13 different mounts between -32% and $+32\%$. Listeners were told which note might be mistuned and were simply asked to indicate whether the scale was in-tune or not. Each listener was exposed to each degree of mistuning ten times. The frequency with which they said a scale was in-tune as a function of the degree of mistuning was plotted for each note and listener, to which a three-parameter normal distribution (mean, standard deviation, height) was fitted. The standard deviation indicated the sensitivity of the listener to intonation in each case. Listeners were then ranked based on their musical background, training, and experience. The effect of musical training on intonation sensitivity was a significant factor ($p < 0.001$). There was also a significant effect of the particular note on the sensitivity of listeners, with the intonation of A4 being most difficult to detect across listeners ($p < 0.001$).

Jennifer McIlvaine, Poster Presentation

Cellphone Usage, Practices & Attitudes Across Generations

One of the most important technological advancements of the twenty-first century was the advent of the personal cellphone. With continual innovations in cellphone technology, the need to communicate verbally has been drastically reduced. Speech-language pathologists are increasingly likely to see individuals who have not had sufficient opportunities to develop conversational skills, or who have difficulty interpreting text messages. They may also need to assist clients with understanding the continually evolving pragmatic rules of socially acceptable cellphone use, as well as appropriate use of formal and informal language in different types of spoken and written communication. Past research has found negative effects on the writing skills in college students (Drouin & Driver, 2014). The current study focused on texting practices in relation to spoken communication skills and included adult participants ages 18-75+.

Master of Computational Science

Brian Cicali, Poster Presentation

Modeling the Pharmacokinetic Properties of Crestor using Computational Estimation and Simulation Processing

Understanding how drugs are metabolized by the body is an important aspect of drug safety and efficacy. The study of drug metabolism, called pharmacokinetics, is important in drug development due to the existence of adverse drug events (ADEs) that occur when drug concentrations are too high. By understanding pharmacokinetics, drug dosages that are high enough to provide a therapeutic effect but not so high that they lead to harmful ADEs can be obtained. Traditionally, pharmacokinetic studies consist of hundreds of hours of laboratory work. These studies can be highly costly, especially as a drug enters clinical trials and seeks FDA approval. It has been theorized that with the help of Ordinary Differential Equation (ODE) modeling accurate pharmacokinetic information can be generated using significantly smaller sample sizes, saving time and money. This project focuses on applying a pharmacokinetic modeling technique using the programming language SAS. Rosuvastatin, brand-name Crestor, is a top-selling drug in the US used to lower cholesterol and prevent cardiovascular disease. Using ODE parameter estimation and simulation scripts designed and written in SAS, Rosuvastatin metabolism was characterized from a data set consisting of only eight samples. The computational metabolic characterization was then compared to the published properties of Rosuvastatin to show correlation and feasibility. The results of this project demonstrate that the pharmacokinetic properties of a drug can be characterized in a faster and cost-effective manner by using modern computational techniques. This result indicates that the utilization of this new technique is warranted for further investigation.

Matthew Kancy, PowerPoint Presentation

National Football League Data from the 2015 Season: Analyzed with SAS

This project analyzes NFL data from the 2015 season. Some datasets show players have only played one or a handful of games as the top ranked which is biased against those who play more games than others in a season. This study filters data using the SAS program to create an improved ranking of certain positions. Each team's defense and special teams are ranked and displayed graphically. Then specific positions are ranked based on improved filters for each skill position, such as kickers, quarterbacks, running backs, tight ends, and wide receivers. The improved filtering system provides a more accurate representation of ranking at each skill position.

Tarak Pandya, Poster Presentation

Comparative Study of Which Demographics in the U.S. Hospitals are Receiving Higher Wages from Ambulatory Payment Classifications (APCs) using SAS (Statistical Analytics Systems) Programming

The Ambulatory Payment Classifications (APCs) are subcategories of the United States government's method of paying for Outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS), an outpatient facility services for the Medicare program for citizens age 65 and older. This program is part of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and helps senior citizens and children with permanent disabilities obtain better healthcare services. All services paid under OPPS are classified into APC groups. This study focuses on geographic visualizations of zip code regions of the US and analyzes the most occurred APCs levels by using SAS programming. Furthermore, the cost analytics will be performed to examine which regions of the US are paid.

Master of Science in Nursing

Joselito Baligod, Poster Presentation

Power Naps for Night Shift Nurses, Minimizing Documentation Errors

The purpose of this study is to explore the benefits of power naps against fatigue as an effective countermeasure for documentation error. As human beings our body has a 24 hour physiologic clock called the circadian rhythm that regulates our physical, mental and behavioral functions. We are programmed to be active and awake during the day and sleep at night. Throwing off our natural circadian rhythm because of night shift work and prolonged wakefulness is associated with fatigue and can have a negative influence on our mental alertness, concentration and cognitive function. Healthcare workers, especially nurses who work 12 hour shifts, prolonged wakefulness during the night shift can have a profound effect. The problem may be worse because nurses must maintain vigilance with patient care and documentation, and fatigue-induced errors can start a chain reaction of improper care. One simple means of combatting fatigue and circadian system imbalance is power napping-- a short 20-30 minute sleep to reset the system and improve alertness and motor performance. This study will be conducted in an acute care facility here in the United States. Quantitative and descriptive correlational methods will be employed by comparing documentation errors before and after power naps. The findings of this study will promote awareness among managers and healthcare administrators with respect to night shift napping by nursing staff and will be instrumental in building a work culture that advocates power naps.

Nicole Conroy, Poster Presentation

The Effects of Yoga Practice on Blood Pressure Measurement in Hypertensive Patients

The number of people in the United States who are diagnosed with hypertension continues to increase. According to The American Heart Association, about 80 million adults have been diagnosed with hypertension in the United States. Although there has been success in finding medications that lower blood pressure, there has also been success in lowering blood pressure by utilizing more holistic measures. The purpose of this study is to explore the effect a 12-week yoga practice has on blood pressure measurements of hypertensive people. It is hypothesized that the 12-week yoga practice will decrease blood pressure measurements in people with hypertension. A quantitative, experimental study will be executed utilizing a convenience sample of people who have been diagnosed with hypertension. Participants will be recruited from various physician groups associated with a major medical center in northeastern United States. This study will enhance knowledge of the effects of non-pharmacologic measures, like yoga, that can be taken to decrease blood pressure.

Manpreet Doad, Poster Presentation

Restricted Visitation and the Effect on Patient Satisfaction in Critical Care Settings

After the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) recommendation for open visitation, many hospitals have adopted this framework in lieu of restricted or flexible visitation policies over the last few years. Open visitation allows for both the patient and family members to be involved in the care of the patient at all times; however, unrestricted presence may also negatively affect both patient and nurse satisfaction especially in critical care settings, such as intensive care units (ICUs) and progressive care units (PCUs). Patient satisfaction has become a main priority in acute care settings over the last few years, and it is important to determine if patient satisfaction scores are even related to the change in open visitation policies. The purpose of this study is to evaluate patient satisfaction scores from critical care settings before and after the implementation of restricted visitation policies in hospitals that already had open visitation. A descriptive correlational study design will be utilized. Patient satisfaction scores will be collected from a patient satisfaction survey that is to be completed by patients after their discharge, specifically focusing on PCUs. These satisfaction scores will be compared to satisfaction scores before restricted visitation was implemented. It is believed that there will be no significant change to patient satisfaction scores with restricted visitation. If the null hypothesis is supported by the research findings, then it may be beneficial to restrict visitation policies to improve overall satisfaction in critical care settings.

Agata Draper, Poster Presentation

Cultural Competence Education for Nurses and its Effect on Pain Control in Chinese Patients

Pain management is one of the primary causes for patients to seek medical attention. Although a lot of focus goes into improving pain management in hospitalized patients, nurses are not well educated on pain management in specific cultural groups. This research proposal is for a study that examines the relationship and influence of cultural competence education for nurses on pain control of Chinese patients. The purpose of this study is to evaluate whether cultural education regarding the Chinese patients would improve pain control and patient satisfaction. According to data from the 2010 Census, New Jersey's Asian population grew by more than 1,400 percent since 1970. About 18.5 percent of New Jersey's Asian population is Chinese. Between 2000 and 2010, the state's Chinese population increased by 34 percent to 134,442, the second largest group among New Jersey's Asian population. The goal of this study is to improve pain control in hospitalized patients of Chinese descent. The hypothesis of this study states that cultural education for nurses will improve pain control and satisfaction in Chinese patients. This research proposes to implement an educational program for nursing staff and examine its effect on pain control in this population. New educational program will be developed and implemented. A pre-test / post-test, quantitative study will be conducted that will utilize a convenience sample of Chinese hospitalized patients. Participants will be recruited from various hospital units at a large hospital in Southern New Jersey and surveyed with the pain control scale.

Debbie Gullo, Table Top Presentation

The Relationship of a Lower Body Mass Index Improving Self-Esteem While Decreasing Depression amongst Bariatric Surgical Patients

Bariatric surgery is becoming a prevalent procedure within the United States as more of the population reaches morbid obesity. Bariatric surgery has been found to be an effective treatment in individuals whom are morbidly obese with lasting results when life style changes have been made. Weight loss surgery along with positive life style changes can improve comorbidities along with depression and self-esteem which is often found amongst the morbidly obese population. For this population as their Body Mass Index (BMI) increases their world gets smaller leading them to higher risk of depression and low self-esteem. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the correlation between BMI and the effects it has on mental health in regards to depression and self-esteem. Does having a lower BMI correlate to having an improvement in depression and an increase in self-esteem? A descriptive correlated quantitative study will be performed utilizing data from longitudinal assessments on a total of 50 AtlantiCare bariatric male and female patients between the ages of 18 to 70 for a period of two years. Information will be gathered at the patient's pre-operative appointment and during follow-up visits. The main goal of this study is to provide proof that as a BMI decreases symptoms of depression will diminish and self-esteem will rise.

Kelly Heiler, Poster Presentation

24-Hour Unrestricted Open Visitation in Critical Care and Nursing Satisfaction

In order to provide quality patient and family-centered care, many Intensive Care Units (ICU) have instituted open unrestricted visitation policies. While there are slight variations among open visitation policies, their focus is on the benefits to patient and family satisfaction and safety. There is a paucity of research related to the effects of open visitation on the nurse-patient relationship or nursing satisfaction as it relates to the unrestricted interaction with visitors 24 hours a day. A review of the literature revealed several positive effects of open visitation for patients and their families but failed to reveal the effects this visitation has on critical nurses. The purpose of this study is to explore the relationship between 24-hour open visitation in the ICU and its effects on nursing satisfaction. A cross-sectional descriptive correlation study will be conducted using the critical care nurses of a 26 bed, acute care facility which encompasses Trauma, Neurosurgical and Medical ICU patients. An anonymous web-based questionnaire will be used to assess the impact of 24-hour unrestricted visitation has on nursing satisfaction. The central hypothesis of this study is that 24-hour unrestricted, open visitation in the ICU negatively impacts nursing satisfaction. This dissatisfaction can create role dysfunction, feelings of alienation, burn out, and job loss for the critical care nurses, which can have negative consequences on patient outcomes.

Brittany Hendrickson, Poster Presentation

Utilizing A Mid-Level Provider in Triage with an Emergency Department Team to Decrease Left Without Being Seen Rates in a Community Medical Center Emergency Department

Patients across the United States are flooding Emergency Departments due to the decrease in primary care physicians and the increase in the cost of health insurance. This is leading to longer wait times and many patients opting to leave the ED before they see a provider. Those patients subsequently get sicker and the hospital loses revenue. The purpose of this study is to ascertain whether placing a mid-level provider such as a Nurse Practitioner (NP) or a Physician Assistant (PA) in triage, with an Emergency Department (ED) team to initiate care, decreases the incidence of left without being seen (LWBS) patients. During the study a PA or NP will be assigned to triage with two nurses, one phlebotomist, one EKG technician, one ED Multi-tech, two registrars, and one transporter. The patient will follow a specific track to complete all testing before they take their seat in the waiting room. The participants to be included in the study are Emergency Severity Index (ESI) level 2 and 3 patients who present to a community medical center ED in the northeastern United States. The research will be collected and the program will be conducted during presumably high volume times; Mondays in March 2017 and compared to data from Mondays in March 2016. Hypothesis: The hypothesis of this study is that placing a provider in triage with an ED team will decrease LWBS rates in the emergency department.

Dzmitry Limarenka, Poster Presentation

Relationship Between Nurses' Job Satisfaction and Patients' Satisfaction with Care

For healthcare providers and institutions, patient satisfaction is an important objective, which reflects the quality of health care, assures patient returns, and guarantees income. Nearly a third of Medicare reimbursements to hospitals are based on patient satisfaction survey scores. As a result, health care institutions tend to concentrate their attention on patients' satisfaction rather than satisfaction of their employees. Since nurses are essential personnel who spend most of their time caring for patients and addressing their needs, they would be in position to affect patient satisfaction. This research attempts to detect and describe whether there is a relationship between nurses' job satisfaction and patients' satisfaction with care. A descriptive, correlational study will be utilized to illustrate this relationship by comparing patients' satisfaction scores with nurses' ratings of their work environment in a community hospital.

Lauren Rizzotte, Poster Presentation

The Relationship of Open Visitation Hours and Patient Outcomes in the Intensive Care Unit

Visitation has been a hot topic in the health care field, leading to new practice alerts by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN). Visitation has shifted to an open visitation environment to enhance patient, family satisfaction, and improve the safety of care for the patient. There are many positive qualities to open visitation. All aspects of the patient must be considered when assessing if visitation is always appropriate. Open visitation may also negatively impact patient outcomes by deflecting away from adequate rest and necessary healing time. Increased noise and stimulation from visitors can negatively impact the patients, especially in a critical care unit. Little research has been conducted in regards to how open visitation affects the patient negatively in physical ways. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact that open visitation has physically on a vulnerable population of intensive care unit (ICU) patients. This specific population includes neurologically injured, intubated patients, with strict vital sign parameters. Objective measures, including heart rate and blood pressure, will be used to assess the relationship between open visitation and physical effects on the patient. A quantitative correlational cross sectional study design will be employed. The working hypothesis of this research supports the belief that in the critical care patient population, open visitation can negatively influence patients' health status over their length of stay.

Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

Mary-Kate Fitzpatrick, Caroline Jordan, Gabrielle Richardson, & Lindsay Stanewich, Poster Presentation

Enhancing Self-Regulation Skills in Preschool Environments with Collaborative Teacher and Staff Professional Development

Current research demonstrates a correlation between self-regulation skills and academic success. Schoolteachers and classroom staff benefit from training to implement best practices in promoting the development of self-regulation skills. The Young Active Minds Program is a collaborative initiative designed to educate preschool teachers on promoting self-regulation skills in preschool classrooms. This poster outlines the Young Active Minds Program and provides initial statistical data assessing the effectiveness of teacher and staff training programs.

Professional Science Master's in Environmental Science

Kristin Ryerson, Poster Presentation

Biodiversity in Oyster Farms

Wild oyster populations have severely declined over the last few centuries from several factors, all of which are linked to reduced water quality. Over harvesting, disease, hypoxic conditions, predation and polluted waters have all negatively impacted the wild oyster stocks of the Barnegat Bay, as well as the Delaware Bay, Chesapeake Bay, and other estuaries up and down the atlantic coast.

There are currently 12 independently owned oyster farms in the coastal waters of New Jersey, 9 of which are low volume; these farms lease shallow sandy waters to raise their oysters before harvesting and selling them to seafood restaurants, distributors and individuals. Research was conducted during the months of May and August during the summer of 2016 at Forty North Oyster Farms' Rose Cove lease to determine the effects that oyster farms in Barnegat Bay have on the overall biodiversity of the ecosystem. Due to the ecosystem services provided by oysters, such as improved water quality and habitat creation, there should be a greater biodiversity among the coves that contain large amounts of oysters versus the coves that are without oysters, (results are still being analyzed).

While this is a small introduction research project, the topic at hand is one of great importance; for the future of the oyster industry, the oyster farmers and local economy, but more importantly for the ecosystem services they provide.

Thank you

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