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INTRODUCTION

The students featured on the following pages are to be congratulated for their outstanding academic achievements. These students have responded exceptionally well to the challenges and opportunities afforded them through their participation in the University Honors Program, with their efforts culminating in the production of an original work of scholarship. Their respective accomplishments reflect well on the University, the academic departments of their respective majors, and the Honors Program. The quality of the theses summarized on the following pages continues a growing tradition of quality undergraduate scholarship produced by Honors students and sets a high standard for future Honors graduates.

Phillip F. Elliott
Director
University Honors Program
HEATHER M. BARRETT
Major: Psychology
Will pursue a Master’s Degree Program in Industrial Human Resources Psychology at the University of New Haven
Thesis Title: Internal Branding and Emotional Dissonance in Employee Satisfaction and Organizational Commitment
Companies promote “internal branding” as a means of creating employees and a work environment in which decisions and behaviors display the culture of the brand. Research has shown that having a strong workplace brand increases employee loyalty to the company, reduces turnover, and can attract top employee prospects. Strong internal branding can also lead to high morale and more productive employees because they know what is expected of them. However, if a company’s actions contradict the expected ideal culture, employees receive a mixed message. Emotional dissonance is a form of cognitive dissonance that occurs when behaviors conform to organizational norms but clash with inner beliefs and feelings, leaving the employee with a feeling of uneasiness that he/she will want to reduce. Research has suggested that emotional dissonance can lead to emotional exhaustion, low job satisfaction, and increased intentions to quit. The aim of my study was to test the following four hypotheses: that differences between ideal and actual workplace culture leads to higher emotional dissonance, that higher emotional dissonance is likely to decrease job satisfaction, that higher emotional dissonance is also likely to decrease organizational commitment, and that higher job satisfaction will increase organizational commitment.

RACHEL L. BOGUE
Major: Communications
Minor: Studio Art
Plans to be a High School Field Hockey Coach
Thesis Title: Cultural Revolution and its Effect on Women’s Representation in Magazine Advertisement
My thesis research involved a content analysis of 400 ads from selected issues of Cosmopolitan, Redbook and Glamour covering the years 1960-1999. The study addresses two questions. The first, whether or not magazine ads portray women more as sex symbols now than they did in the 1960s. The second question concentrates on whether or not various social and cultural changes from 1960-1999 are reflected in magazine advertisements featuring women.

LINDSAY R. SWANSON
Major: Business Administration
Concentration in Marketing
Plans to be a Financial Analyst for The Hartford Insurance Company
Thesis Title: Important Decisions to Minimize Loss Related to Product Recalls
All businesses share a common goal—to be successful. Firms achieve this goal in a number of ways: satisfying customers, offering quality products, displaying excellent service, and delivering items in a timely manner. Successful firms are rewarded with loyal customers, positive company image, and high brand equity. Companies that focus on targeting customer needs reduce the rate of brand indifference and brand switching which leads to higher levels of lifetime consumers. One issue that interrupts a company’s path to success is faulty products. How a company handles a product recall correlates to its future success. My thesis explored the theories on existing models’ framework, the development of a model generalizing recalls, and the integration of a variety of product recall case studies to the model generated.

DAVID M. WHITE
Major: History
Plans to attend the United States Coast Guard
Thesis Title: Motive, Means, and Execution: The Reformation of Connecticut Common Schools, 1837-1861
In the decades before the Civil War, Connecticut was swept up in a period of reform. One of the many reforms taking place was in education. For my thesis project I examined the reformers, their goals, and the results of their efforts. A brief history of education and society in Connecticut before 1837 is shown and provides a context in which the struggle for reform took place. The individuals who strove for the improvement of common school education are described, as well. Their plans for the reform of school government, funding, teacher education, construction of school buildings, and many other goals are shown through an examination of their own writings, especially the Connecticut Common School Journal and certain reports made to the General Assembly. Finally, the results of years of reformation are inspected. Any changes that actually occurred are considered and discussed in light of other results of reform.
**Marc J. Rigatti**
Double Major: Biochemistry and Biology

Plans to attend Medical School

**Thesis Title:** Isolation of Antimicrobial Molecules from Kumenini Asram Aduro

Kumenini Asram Aduro is a plant obtained from the Ashanti region of Ghana. Use of the plant by Ashanti natives as a prophylactic treatment for wound infection leads us to suspect that the plant may contain several antimicrobial molecules that may be useful for the development of novel antibiotics. Extracts from the plant leaf were separated using standard silica-gel liquid chromatographic techniques. The isolated molecules were then tested against several strains of bacteria including Staphylococcus aureus and Escherichia coli to determine whether or not the molecules inhibited bacterial growth. A single active molecule was isolated with high enough purity to allow for characterization of the molecule’s structure using UV-visible spectroscopy, infrared spectroscopy, H\(^1\) NMR spectroscopy, and high resolution mass spectroscopy. Although the exact structure has not been elucidated the molecule appears to be a short peptide chain or protein.

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**Matthew R. Sweet**

Major: English

Pursue Graduate Studies in Linguistics

**Thesis Title:** Slaughterhouse-Five: Deconstructing the Way Myth

My thesis addresses the major themes of modern war literature and their perpetuation of the war myth and its portrayal in Kurt Vonnegut’s *Slaughterhouse-Five.*

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**Jessica M. Schlask**

Major: English

Certification: Elementary Education

Anticipates Teaching Elementary Education

**Thesis Title:** When Morning Comes: A Novella

My novella addresses the theme of learning to start over - something many people face at some point in their life. My target audience may be college-aged readers but it is suitable literature for any adult. My intention is to provide insight into the workings of the human heart and address issues faced by modern college students, issues such as relationships, alcohol, abuse, gambling, and making a fresh start. This novella takes the reader into the life of Jamie Amorsca, a 21-year-old college student much like myself and follows her throughout the ups and downs of relationships with lovers and friends that are common to college students in a modern world.

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**Krista L. Borkowski**

Major: Economics

Minor: Business Administration

Pursue a career in Financial Services

**Thesis Title:** Money, Supply and Inflation: Determining a Relationship

Controlling inflation has been required ever since there has been money and resulting inflation. There are two types of policies that can be enacted to control inflation: fiscal policy and monetary policy. Because of the time lags associated with monetary policy the analysis of the changes in money supply and inflation was completed for the five-year brackets, ten-year brackets, and the twenty-year span instead of single year brackets. Because the connection between money and inflation is a worldwide occurrence, fourteen geographically and developmentally diverse countries were chosen.

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**Colleen C. Devine**

Major: Physical Education

Plans to teach High School Physical Education

**Thesis Title:** Cholesterol Knowledge and Dietary Behaviors of High School Students

For my thesis project I surveyed student eating habits and their knowledge of the nutritional attributes of the foods they preferred. The survey consisted of three different sections concerning cholesterol: the first was a multiple choice knowledge survey, the second addressed food preference—students had choices between either high or low cholesterol foods, and the last section consisted of a two-day lunch recall. I then attempted to discover any relationships between the knowledge of student and what they chose to eat. I found that most students eat whatever they want, regardless of their knowledge about cholesterol and its health implications.
Thomas V. Gaudioso
Major: Sports and Leisure Management
Pursue Masters Degree in Management of Sport Industries at the University of New Haven
Thesis Title: Emergency Action Awareness at College Athletic Facilities
My thesis research examined the methods and level of instruction with which emergency procedures are taught to employees at sport facilities at universities throughout the state of Connecticut. I also considered the various threats impacting sport facilities, as well as the areas that are most in need of improvement.

Brian C. Jacobson
Major: History/Social Science
Pursue Secondary Education in History at Central Connecticut State University while continuing studies in art
Thesis Title: The De-Nazification of the Ivory Tower: British Occupation and German Universities, 1945-46
My thesis research focused on British efforts to utilize German universities as a means to eradicate Nazi ideology in post-war Germany. After World War II the allied nations divided Germany among themselves in control zones and set up a goal of de-Nazification. De-Nazification meant that the allies intended to remove all traces of the Nazi party. This organized effort consisted of destroying propaganda ads, literature, outlawing Nazi hymns and ending all membership to the Nazi party. Britain’s policy towards de-Nazifying in their zone was based on a system of re-education. Using the German universities as their weapon, the British would teach democratic ideals. However, the British faced many setbacks. Problems resulting from their own homeland issues as a result of the expense of fighting a long war, German problems such as the destruction of school buildings and food shortages, and the ideological issues of repairing a Nazi dominated educational system all resulted in the failure of the British to meet their goal of total de-Nazification.

Amber L. Monroe
Major: History and Social Science
Minor: Psychology
Pursue Masters Degree in Public History at Central Connecticut State University
Thesis Title: The Female Captivity Narrative, 1670-1900
My thesis examined the progression of narratives written by white women taken into captivity by Native Americans by tracing the development of the literary genre over time and with westward expansion in the United States. Particular attention was given to changes in native lifestyles, the role of women in society, the place of religion in society, and the relationship between whites and natives with the emergence of the federal government. These elements are compared over the course of time and across different regions to determine their influence on the female captivity experience, and the overall development of the United States.

Andrew J. Piro
Major: English
Certification: Secondary Education
Pursue Masters Degree in English at Central Connecticut State University
Thesis Title: Waiting for Life to Hit: A Creative Writing Project
My thesis is composed of three short pieces of fiction. Although there are thematic ties between the works, elements of each, such as character, setting, and plot, are disparate, so readers can appreciate each story individually. The stories examine how circumstance shapes identity. Protagonists face scenarios that necessitate self-reflection—musings that ultimately reveal facets of identity once unacknowledged by the character.
JAMES W. LINCOLN

Major: Mathematics
Minor: Philosophy
Will pursue Graduate Studies in Philosophy or Religion

Thesis Title: Mythology and Fiction as a Means to Truth: Wisdom of the Jedi Masters

Ever since people have been able to communicate they have been telling stories. These stories over time became myths. Myth can be defined as a sacred story or narrative of a people, the social function of which is the authoritative expression of the values and beliefs of that people. Furthermore, even though myth usually contains truth and fiction, it is important to remember that truth can be conveyed by myth that is given through art, and that art dredges up truth as it disloes reality. It is through the use of myth and the application of the active imagination that these truths are revealed to us. This is also true for modern day myths and legends as well. This association of myth and truth is what I explored for my thesis project. The first of three sections was an exploration of mythology, folklore, and other stories as a means to uncovering truth, either personal or impersonal. The second section was an examination of the myth, legend, and philosophy of the order known as the “Jedi Knights” in the stories known as “Star Wars.” In the final section of my thesis I argue for a return to fiction and myth as a means to truth, while noting the dangers of such a path.

MICHHELLE L. KRAMER

Major: History and Social Science
Certification: Elementary Education
Pursue Masters Degree in Elementary Education

Thesis Title: The Impact of the Modern Civil Rights Struggle on College Students in Willimantic, CT from 1963-1974

I focused my thesis on a specific group of students who attended college in Willimantic, CT between 1963 and 1974. In particular, I examined specific major events of the civil rights struggle, including the 1963 Birmingham Confrontation, the death of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, the emergence of the Black Panther Party and its presence on campus in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s, and the expansion of the Vietnam War into Cambodia, as well as the subsequent massacre at Kent State University in 1970. The response to these events from the students and faculty at Willimantic State College, later Eastern CT State College, and now Eastern Connecticut State University, as well as the lasting impact these events, were analyzed, and the changes they brought to the campus and Willimantic communities, and the institution as a whole, are made clear. It appears that the years between 1963 and 1974 revolutionized Eastern, and that the changes that were made during this time helped bring this university closer to being the renowned liberal arts institution that it is today.

ALLISON L. MANGLES

Major: History
Minor: Anthropology
Plans to Join Americorps NCCC

Thesis Title: Martin Luther King and the Poor People’s Campaign: An Exercise in National Leadership and Community Initiative in Connecticut, 1965-1968

The Poor People’s Campaign took place in Washington D.C. and in smaller communities throughout the country in the spring of 1968. Proposed by Dr. Martin Luther King in 1967, the purpose of the campaign was to bring together poor people from all races to converge on Washington and demand full economic rights. Following King’s assassination, the Poor People’s Campaign continued, as his successor vowed to keep King’s dream alive. This paper examines how the civil rights movement in Chicago, the Black power movement, and the Vietnam War, as well as King’s shifting focus from civil rights to economic justice, coalesced during the late 1960’s to bring about such a campaign. Ralph Abernathy and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s work in Washington are analyzed, as well the efforts of local groups in Willimantic and New London, Connecticut. Using published works, newspapers, and government documents, this paper examines the impact of Martin Luther King’s assassination on all of these projects and emphasizes the importance of community involvement and commitment during the Poor People’s Campaign.

CARTER A. LENNON

Major: Psychology
Minor: Business Administration
Certification: Non-Profit Organization Management and Leadership
Plans to attend Graduate School

Thesis Title: Body Image: Does Your Awareness Affect Your Self-Esteem?

For my thesis research I investigated the documented relationship between body image and self-esteem by having participants focus on positive aspects of their body and then rate their state self-esteem. Participants were randomly assigned to one of three groups and were given the State-Self Esteem and Body Esteem Scales. Then the 5 Features Group was asked to write 3-4 sentences about their five favorite body features and the 2 Features Group was asked to write about two. The control group did not write about any body features. In Exp.1, state self-esteem was retested in all three groups. In Exp. 2, participants’ state self-esteem was only tested after the manipulation. In both experiments, it was hypothesized that those in the 5 Features Group would have a higher self-esteem than the other two groups and the 2 Features Group would have higher self-esteem than the control group. In Exp. 1, it was found that the manipulation of writing had no effect on self-esteem. In Exp. 2, the manipulation produced results in the direction of the hypotheses although the results were not significant. However, it was found that gender impacted self-esteem. Male participants had a higher state self-esteem and body esteem than female participants did in Exp. 2. Future research should focus on how to more effectively manipulate body esteem in order to improve self-esteem.