



35th ANNUAL WRHC CONFERENCE

april 10-12, 2008

hosted by northern arizona university
high country conference center, flagstaff, az

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME.....	2
GENERAL INFORMATION.....	3
ABOUT NAU AND FLAGSTAFF.....	4
SPECIAL EVENTS AND FEATURES.....	5
flagstaff-as-text	
scribendi 2008 debut reception	
poster session	
welcome session	
keynote speaker	
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE.....	6
KEYNOTE SPEAKER.....	7
christopher thomas scott	
FRIDAY, APRIL 11 th PRESENTATIONS.....	8
SATURDAY, APRIL 12 th PRESENTATIONS.....	44
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	65
ATTENDING COLLEGES.....	66
CONFERENCE CENTER MAP.....	67



WELCOME TO THE 2008 WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL CONFERENCE

This year's Western Regional Honors Council conference issues in an exciting display of talent from honors students and their mentors who have spent their time, energy, and passion readying themselves to participate in a wonderful sharing of ideas and commitment to honors education in the Western United States. The papers, presentations, and sessions that you will enjoy over the next two days, which are often cross-cultural and interdisciplinary and which examine the honors experience from research in the hard sciences and literary analyses to semesters abroad and service learning, clearly represent "Honors at its Peak," a theme that we chose in order to encourage your peak performances in our beautiful, high-country setting.

And if you see the numerous folks with NAU Honors Program nametags—Glenn Hansen, Katie Sheridan, Rebecca Marks, Marcie Goldstein, Caitie Petzoldt, Brittany Bevel, and Karen Blalock, among others—please give them a hardy "thank you" for all of the hard work that they have put into making sure that this conference runs smoothly.

Welcome to Flagstaff. Welcome to our new conference center. And welcome to our celebration of honors education.

Anne Scott
WRHC Conference Chair

GENERAL INFORMATION

WRHC REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION TABLE

Please check in with the WRHC Registration and Information Table in the High Country Conference Center to obtain your conference badge, program, and other conference materials.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Registration will take place in the Lobby.

Staff and Conference Volunteers will be available at the WRHC Registration and Information Table throughout the conference to answer your questions or assist with conference-related matters.

The NAU Bookstore will also have a table from 12-5 on Friday with materials available about NAU and Flagstaff.

CONFERENCE BADGES & LUNCHEON TICKETS

Conference attendees must wear their official conference badges to be admitted to conference events, including all meals, all sessions, and all special venues. Badges and luncheon tickets will be with the conference registration materials you receive at check-in at the WRHC Registration and Information Table. Badges and luncheon tickets may not be transferred. Replacing lost badges requires an additional fee of \$50.00 that must be paid at the time the badge is replaced. Your badge also doubles as a parking voucher. Simply scan your badge to enter/exit the parking garage.

MESSAGE BOARD

A message board will be located near the WRHC Registration and Information Table for postings by conference attendees.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In the event of an emergency at the conference site, please pick up any house phone to be directly connected to the conference center concierge desk.

ABOUT THE WRHC

The Western Regional Honors Council (WRHC) is a professional organization of faculty, administrators, and students dedicated to the promotion and advancement of undergraduate honors education. The WRHC represents honors programs in universities across the Western region.

The objective of this council shall be the promotion and advancement of honors and similar programs in Western colleges and universities.

ABOUT NAU AND FLAGSTAFF

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Northern Arizona University has a student population of about 20,000 at its main campus in Flagstaff and at over 35 sites across the state.

NAU combines the features and benefits of a large institution with a personal touch that has been its special hallmark for decades. Carefully balancing teaching, research, and service, NAU caters to both its dedicated scholars as well as its students, whose success the university takes very seriously.

NAU emphasizes undergraduate education, but you will also find a wide range of graduate programs and research that extend to such national concerns as forest health and bioterrorism. In addition, NAU has carefully integrated on-campus education with distance learning, forming seamless avenues for students to earn degrees.

FLAGSTAFF

Flagstaff is a friendly city with a population of about 57,000. It is nestled at the base of the majestic San Francisco Peaks—about 140 miles north of Phoenix at the intersection of Interstate 17 and Interstate 40.

With its elevation of 7,000 feet and four-season climate, Flagstaff is ideal for year-round outdoor activities.

Nearby attractions include the Grand Canyon, Lowell Observatory, Oak Creek Canyon, Sedona, Monument Valley, Sunset Crater, Meteor Crater, and Arizona Snowbowl. More information about area attractions and things to do in Flagstaff is available at the WRHC Registration and Information Table.

HIGH COUNTRY CONFERENCE CENTER

The brand new High Country Conference Center consists of a Grand Ballroom, three conference rooms, and a board room. For your convenience, a business center is located on the first floor. The business center provides conference attendees with fax and internet capabilities. Also, the entire conference center is set up with wireless internet.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE events and features

FLAGSTAFF-AS-TEXT

Conference attendees will have the chance to get to know Flagstaff by participating in a Flagstaff-as-Text experience beginning at 4:00pm on Thursday, April 10. Pick up more information at the WRHC Registration and Information Table in the High Country Conference Center Lobby.

WELCOME SESSION

Join us as we formally kick off our conference during the continental breakfast on Friday. Breakfast is available at 7:30am and remarks begin at 8:00.

SCRIBENDI RECEPTION

The annual Scribendi Reception will be held at 4:40 pm on Friday, April 11 in the Ponderosa Boardroom. Please plan to attend to celebrate the accomplishments of the students throughout our region who will be published in this year's edition of Scribendi.

POSTER SESSION

The Poster Session has been scheduled for Saturday, April 12 from 8:00-9:00am in the Pre-function Hallway.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Christopher Thomas Scott will be speaking on "Stem Cell Research: New Frontiers of Ethics, Law, and Policy" at the luncheon on Saturday, April 12 from 12:15-2:00pm.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE at-a-glance

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2008

3:00 - 7:00 pm	Registration in Lobby outside of the Ballroom
4:00 - 5:30 pm	Flagstaff-As-Text Experience

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

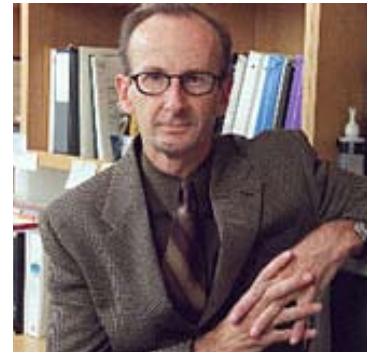
7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Registration continues in the Lobby
7:30 - 8:15 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00-8:20 am	Welcome Session
8:20 - 9:10 am	Presentation Session 1
9:20 - 10:10 am	Presentation Session 2
10:10 - 10:25 am	Break
10:25 - 11:15 am	Presentation Session 3
11:25 am - 12:15 pm	Presentation Session 4
12:15 - 1:45 pm	Lunch on Your Own
1:45 - 2:35 pm	Presentation Session 5
2:45 - 3:35 pm	Presentation Session 6
3:35 - 3:50 pm	Break
3:50 - 4:40 pm	Presentation Session 7
4:40 - 6:10 pm	Scribendi Reception
6:10 pm	Dinner on Your Own

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

8:00 - 11:00 am	Registration continues in the Lobby
8:00 - 9:00 am	Poster Session and Continental Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30 am	WRHC Business Meeting
10:00 - 10:50 am	Presentation Session 8
11:00 am - 11:50 am	Presentation Session 9
12:15 - 2:00 pm	Luncheon with Keynote Speaker, Conference Closing

KEYNOTE SPEAKER Christopher Thomas Scott

Stem Cell Research: New Frontiers of Ethics, Law, and Policy



After the successful isolation of human embryonic stem cells in 1998, ethics and policy debates centered on the moral status of the embryo: whether it is a person, and whether we should protect it at all costs. As the research has moved forward, however, new questions have emerged for the study of stem cell ethics, law, and policy. Powerful new lines made without eggs or embryos have recently been reported, the legal and regulatory environment is uncertain, and clinical trials using stem cells and cells made from embryos are about to commence. The new

landscape of ethics, law, and policy will be discussed, as well as the challenges of developing effective graduate and undergraduate curricula that can keep pace with biology's most promising frontier.

Christopher Thomas Scott is Director of the Stanford University Program on Stem Cells in Society, a senior research scholar in the Center for Biomedical Ethics, and an associate fellow at King's College, London. His research interests focus on the social, economic, political, and ethical dimensions of regenerative medicine. His recent book, *Stem Cell Now: An Introduction to the Coming Medical Revolution* (2006 Penguin) clearly explains the science, ethics, and politics of stem cell research to the lay reader. Scott also was the Assistant Vice Chancellor at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), founded Acumen Sciences, a research and consulting company based in San Francisco, was the executive editor of the award-winning *Acumen Journal of Sciences*. As Associate Director of the Center for Molecular Medicine at Stanford, he worked with Nobel laureate Paul Berg to develop one of the nation's first translational medicine programs. He is one of only a handful of senior executives awarded for their contributions to Stanford's research enterprise. He has been featured in national and local media coverage of these and other issues, including ABC, NBC, PBS, *Time*, *U.S. News and World Report*, the *Boston Globe*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, National Public Radio's *Fresh Air*, *Talk of the Nation*, and *TechNation*, and Fox News. He has discussed stem cell policy, as well, in Japan, Australia, the UK, and Switzerland, among other countries.



FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

table of presentations

	time	Aspen	Walnut	Ponderosa Boardroom	Agassiz	Fremont	Doyle	Rees	Humphreys	
	7:30-8:20	Welcome session and continental breakfast-Humphreys								
session one	8:20-9:10	D-Day Operation Overlord	COOKIES: A Good Batch That Keeps Getting Better	Pynchon Jane Austen	The Beat Goes On	Active Citizenship, Phase 2	The Converged Newsroom Honor Killings	Theory Into Practice		
session two	9:20-10:10	Determining the Minimum Cold Treatment Period Plasticity of Single Unit Neural Responses	The Art of Heroism	Artificial Intelligence in Communication Wisdom: A Lifelong Pursuit	At the Peak of Honors in Yellowstone National Park Achievement as an Adventure	The Apostle Paul An Engendered Peak	Panel: Preserving the Liberal Arts at a Public University Misogynistic Musical?		Dancing with the Scots	
	10:10-10:25	morning break								
session three	10:25-11:15	Growing a Community College Honors Program	To Bite Hard or Swallow Big Jaw Morphology	The Birth of Gods in the United States Disney	Improving the Experience of Experiential Learning Textbooks? Who needs textbooks?	The Third Culture Kid No Man is an Island	History According to Hollywood	Across Time and Space	Taking the Cake A Fragmented Understanding	
session four	11:25-12:15	Reaching the Peak in Apiculture Thermoregulation in Molting and Feeding Danaus plexippus Caterpillars	Beginning in Honors	The Dao of Job Living Descendants	Parenting Classes My First Day in School	Service Learning in Honors	"With his assistance, I cannot fail"	Empowering the Honors Student	Campaign 2008 The Press, The Politics, The Process	
	12:15-1:45	lunch on your own								
session five	1:45-2:35	Avian Influenza HPA1 H5N1 Peak Predators at Risk	Going Against the Flow	Scribendi Publishing	Peter & the Wolf	Something's Rotten in the Circle of Life Creative Science	Gangs in Arizona Prisons	The Magic and the "Reel"	This I Believe	
session six	2:45-3:35	Stuck at the Crossroads Give Me Some Space	Gene Therapy vs. Genetic Doping Genotypic Variation at the Prion Protein Gene		The Manipulation of Language Lady Macbeth	The Darker Pigments of War Art & Theory - for critical engagements	Panel: Scaling the Summit	A Field Guide to an Honors Student Advisory Board	Comic Books Astronaut vs. Superman	
	3:35-3:50	afternoon break								
session seven	3:50-4:40	From the Outside Looking in	An Enterprise Model and Student Achievement		Sex-Re-education "The Bully Blocker's Club"	Active Peer Leadership in Honors Education	The Unending Cycle of Prejudice and Discrimination	Panel: Breaking the Mold	The Moral Dilemma Surrounding the Use of Torture Comparative Systems of Political Justification	
	4:40-6:10	Scribendi Reception-Ponderosa Boardroom								
	6:10	dinner on your own								

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session one: 8:20 AM

Michael Bouey Jr.—Aspen

D-Day Operation Overlord

Many students find history as a subject involving memorization and recitation of disparate dates and events that have little impact on their daily lives. Through costumes, video clips, pictures, and other interactive media, one of the most relevant and epic times in U.S. history comes alive. Participants will get a rare view of actual events.

Adalberto Valencia, Alan Manquero, Britni Walker, Michel Ouellette, Renee Beltran & Cecilia Avila—Walnut

COOKIES: A Good Batch That Keeps Getting Better

COOKIES is a tutoring/mentoring program for at-risk elementary school-aged students in need of guidance, encouragement, and support. As with any good recipe, this year's edition has seen improvements through earlier fingerprinting and expanded involvement in the school. Cochise College, the SGA officers, and the school administration have become more comfortable with the program. The WRHC presentation will examine the progress being made to date with the program including an updated COOKIES manual for school and college administrators interested in replicating such an initiative elsewhere in the region. The presentation will look at other possible ways of introducing different "ingredients" to the COOKIES program so that other colleges in the Western region see it as a viable service-learning and community building opportunity.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL



FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session one: 8:20 AM

Johanna McCahan—Ponderosa Boardroom

Pynchon: Writer as Composer

One can argue that, at its peak, literature is combined with other forms of art. Music is one art form that weaves its way throughout literature. For instance, authors often use music as allusions in order to strengthen and enhance their stories and their poems. Thomas Pynchon employs this technique in his stories: he clearly uses his deep understanding of music not only to enhance allusions but also to structure his works. His short story, "Entropy," demonstrates Pynchon's skill at combining music with literature, as its structure resembles that of a fugue. Such an approach lends complexity and beauty to the short story form.

Elizabeth Huntley—Ponderosa Boardroom

Jane Austen: Biography and Commentary

My presentation is an overview of Jane Austen's life and her work. Beginning with her biography, I will discuss the events that scholars know occurred in her lifetime. During this segment, I will show how the events of her life affected her writing dreams and published novels. In my second segment, I will discuss the importance of her novels, and why people still enjoy reading them and, recently, seeing the movies about these memorable stories. To do this, I will concentrate on Austen's mastery of certain literature elements. I will also mention how Austen has affected the novel as an art form.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session one: 8:20 AM

Michael Miller, Virginia Brindley, Lizbeth Soto, Julia Lopez, Lam Trinh, Jesus Gastelum & Ricardo Gil—Fremont

Active Citizenship, Phase 2: A Self-Sustaining Campus Recycling Program

Arizona Western College Honors Program continues its two-year commitment to emphasizing environmental awareness and action. The goal of this work group is to reduce the campus solid waste stream by 50%. The campaign includes creating a marketing plan, educating the campus community, and even applying for appropriate grants. The project provides an opportunity for students to confront real-world issues, to develop skills in resource management, and to provide an essential community service.

Carl Porter, Shaylee Wheeler, Daniel Peterson & John Sillito—Agassiz

The Beat Goes On: The History and Pop Culture of Mid-Twentieth Century America

The "beat generation" became part of American consciousness with the publication of Allen Ginsberg's *Howl and Other Poems*, and Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*. Marking the fiftieth anniversary of *On the Road*, and the fortieth anniversary of the "Summer of Love," this class explores the events, trends and personalities that have endured, and illuminates this explosive time. This writing intensive course focuses on a journal, three papers, written reports of outside reading assignments, and several class presentations. Central to the class is a "field trip" to San Francisco where the students take the lead in presenting on the history of North Beach, Berkeley and Haight-Ashbury. The faculty members will discuss the genesis of the class and expected outcomes. The students will offer insights on the class and its impact on their development as Honors students.

Scott M. Lewis—Rees

Theory Into Practice: Incorporating The Great Books Across The Curriculum

After a brief introduction to Mortimer Adler's *Piopia Proposal* (New York: Scribner, 1982), I discuss my use of Great Books in a variety of settings. The point is to state a variety of ways that great books readings may be incorporated across the curriculum. For example: as the primary subject matter (reading Euclid's 'elements' in Euclidean Geometry), as an enriching piece of a larger curricular idea (the idea of "sense of place" in an environmentally-focused curriculum), as context for a thematic question (Newton's solution to "the Kepler Problem," and planetary motion), or as a vehicle for personal growth (honing the skills of questioning and writing in a freshman-level, or community-based great books seminar).

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session one: 8:20 AM

Kristen Mozaffari—Doyle

The Converged Newsroom in a Global Environment

Our society is on the verge of a technological revolution, the likes of which few generations have been alive to experience before. But these advances in technology and the advent of the Internet in particular, have literally changed the course of journalism forever. Classically trained newspaper reporters are feeling the related effects of a movement known as convergence, which in media refers to a blurring of the job lines and a union of journalistic styles that were previously disconnected. But in truth, the phenomenon of the Internet has become a prolonged suffocation that is slowly squeezing the life out of the newspaper tradesmen, who are now faced with double or triple workloads and tighter deadlines. The lifestyle of thoughtful intellectualism that is the newspaper industry may soon be lost as the encroachment of the big bad Internet wolf draws nearer.

Stacey Overholt—Doyle

Honor Killings

Honor killings are a prevalent practice throughout most of the Middle East and parts of Asia that solely affect women who are accused of crimes, often without merit. Among the many reasons used to justify the murders are women seeking divorces, having sex outside of wedlock, and renouncing Islam. Forced to endure cruel and unusual forms of execution that range from beatings, beheadings, and hangings, women are targeted regardless of age and are denied the basic human rights of fair treatment and legal support. Morally wrong and unjust, these crimes pose a threat to women across the globe. I will be discussing the gender-discriminating practice of honor killings, as well as the reasons used to justify them and the methods employed to perform them.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session two: 9:20 AM

Jonathan Gill—Ponderosa Boardroom

Artificial Intelligence in Communication

Artificial Intelligence has proven itself to be an elusive science with numerous differing opinions. Though whole schools of thought have been dedicated to removing the ambiguities, there remain unconforted peculiarities that this paper will discuss. Theoretically it is possible to teach an artificial being how to learn and how to recognize some set of unknown information. It is the scope of this paper to consider using algorithms to "learn" different syntaxes and to use them accordingly. The resources and hardware are readily available; all that we lack is a proper set of theories and the right software.

Pearl Griffin—Ponderosa Boardroom

Wisdom: A Lifelong Pursuit

Some people spend their entire lives attempting to become superior learners and attain ultimate wisdom. The historical progression of the Chinese religions Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism illustrate the progress of how the mind achieves intellectual excellence. Through the knowledge of nature, as illustrated in the *Tao Te Ching*, one is able to gain the calmness and humility that is required to learn about the world. Through knowledge of the world, as demonstrated in *The Analects of Confucius*, one is able to obtain the education and values that are necessary to understand the self. Through knowledge of the self, as shown in *The Platform Scripture of the Sixth Patriarch*, one is able to achieve the personal excellence and experience that is crucial to ultimate understanding. Wisdom is a lifelong occupation that demands the casting off of false preconceptions through oneness with nature, willingness to acquire new information through knowledge of the world, and reliance on personal experience through awareness of the self.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL



FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
session two: 9:20 AM

Jonathan Lord—Fremont

The Apostle Paul: Chauvinist or Feminist?

The Apostle Paul is undoubtedly one of the most influential Christians of all time. But while he may have written many meaningful passages, he also wrote some of the most controversial. In many of his letters, Paul seems to make very limiting rules on women and what role they should play in the church. In fact, many churches have used his teachings to limit the role of women in certain ministries. However, upon careful studying and examination of cultural differences, Paul in fact promotes women having an equal role to men in ministry. This presentation will explore how alternate interpretations of Paul's controversial writings concerning women can radically change the meaning of his letters from one of limiting women to one of empowering them.

Ali Mushtaq—Fremont

An Engendered Peak

It is imperative to establish the construction of the American male throughout history. To create the construction, one must break down U.S. history into four main time periods: the colonial era, the age of industrialism, the modern era, and contemporary times. Through history, one can identify how masculinity has changed throughout these four major time periods, which can be accomplished through various texts and images. In conjunction, social power model illustrates how power influences these changes in masculinity. Furthermore, sociological micro theory will be applied to interpret masculinity's effect on the contemporary, social interaction, thus interpreting the construction's effect on micro society. The following concepts will be used to explain interaction: labeling theory, looking glass self, self-fulfilling prophecy/Thomas' theorem, and socialization.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
session two: 9:20 AM

Rick Morton—Agassiz

At the Peak of Honors in Yellowstone National Park

One week surrounded by the wonder and beauty of nature can be powerful inspiration to aspiring writers. Buffalo, grizzly and black bear, antelope, wolves, elk, eagles, and more. The words flowed from ten separate pens as students from Eastern Washington University's *Creative Writing in Yellowstone* class communed with nature, and wrote. Come and share this unforgettable experience as we discuss the course and view absolutely amazing photographs. It was a truly rare experience, and one I hope you will enjoy sharing with me as much as I enjoyed being a part of it.

Andrew Darling—Agassiz

Ascending Achievement: Whitewater Rafting, Technical Climbing, Geology, and the Honors Experience

Often the most important aspect of achievement is motivation. Motivation can be found in a number of ways, and wilderness adventure is my source. Combining some of life's greatest past times with innate fascination with natural science has led to incredible and thrillingly experiences and the drive to keep going. Exploring and learning geology in particular, requires exploring the Earth, through whatever means are necessary. The same is true of mapping geology that formed 10 kilometers below the Earth's surface, but is now beautifully exposed as high peaks in the Rockies, and can only be studied effectively when scientists venture into the tundra and rocky crags. This is a look at the possibilities when wanderlust and earth science collide, and from the ashes rises determination.

Anna Joy Thigpen Hunt—Walnut

The Art of Heroism: The Pagan Warrior, The Christian Knight

A culture's stories of heroes and the monsters they fight expose a culture's answer to the question of how to live and die. Between the authorship of the Beowulf manuscript and the Arthurian Romances, Britain underwent a paradigm shift. As their society absorbed Christianity, the British peoples' reality became increasingly cerebral, abstract and complex. By comparing Beowulf and the Arthurian tales in conjunction with the art of the period we witness the creation and evolution of a living myth. Today, the budding of the globalized hero mirrors the emergence of the Christianized hero 1000 years ago. As a new epoch emerges, our recognition of our relationship to the hero and the question he represents become vital to our very survival.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session two: 9:20 AM

Felicia Lew—Aspen

Determining the Minimum Cold Treatment Period Needed to Acquire Morphine Tolerance

Previous studies indicate that chronic nociceptive stimulation has the ability to induce morphine tolerance. Our lab has shown that rats exposed to cold for seven days developed permanent morphine tolerance. The present study tested whether three days of cold exposure would achieve similar results. We tested morphine antinociception using tail withdrawal, hot plate, and paw pressure analgesia tests during which the rats were injected with increasing doses of morphine. Morphine decreased in potency from twenty-four hours to seven days after treatment. The ED50 for morphine's tail withdrawal antinociceptive effects was significantly higher for the ice treatment group than for the controls. Three days of cold exposure produced morphine tolerance only at the spinal level. This partial tolerance suggests that two pathways are involved in tolerance development in the central and peripheral nervous systems, with longer exposure needed to affect the former.

Jessica Bowman-Forrester—Aspen

Plasticity of Single Unit Neural Responses in the Cerebral Cortex

This paper will outline in detail the current research on single unit neural responses and the benefits of such research. Founded on research currently being conducted in the Brain Modeling Laboratory at Arizona State University, Dr. Peter Steinmetz and his team of researchers are "recording single-unit neural responses from the medial temporal lobe of awake human patients (who have electrodes implanted for clinical monitoring prior to surgery for otherwise intractable epilepsy)." This presentation will also give an in-depth exposition on the brain and the significant advancement of knowledge of the functions of the brain's neurons, the use of implanted electrodes to control robotic and prosthetic devices, and the accessibility and benefits the research will have on society, while also incorporating research being conducted at other universities.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session two: 9:20 AM

Alicia Behrens—Rees

Misogynistic Musical?

The American musical has long been a magical experience for all those involved. Its enticing plots and often extravagant characters have drawn spectators from many age demographics. Stephen Sondheim is paramount among the American musical giants. "Misogynistic Musical?" examines the role of women in his musical masterpiece, "A Little Night Music." The traditional character formula and transitions of the leading women are brought to light through a critical analysis of the lyrics. Influences in Sondheim's own life as well as the time period in which the musical is set will be examined. What is power? What is weakness? What constitutes a strong woman? These are all questions highlighted within the presentation.

Devonie Royal-Gordon—Humphreys

Dancing with the Scots

The art of Scottish Highland Dance finds its roots in major historical events and ancient custom. Set dances, some of which were choreographed hundreds of years ago, cover topics ranging from the battle fought by King Macbeth to the oppression the Scottish people suffered under English rule. Steps are performed to bagpipe tunes and put the performer in such diverse roles as soldier, sailor, maid, or freedom fighter. Dancers also wear traditional costumes to complete the portrait of Scottish history, illustrated through music and movement. My presentation and dance demonstration will incorporate music, dance, costumes, and in-depth explanations of the stories and customs they represent to take the audience on a journey to Scotland, past and present.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008 session two: 9:20 AM

Matthew Altman, Gerald Stacy, Liahna Armstrong & Aaron Montgomery—Doyle

Panel Presentation: *Preserving the Liberal Arts at a Public University*

This panel of faculty members will address some of the most pressing challenges faced by honors administrators and instructors in public universities. How do we attract students to a curriculum that is not directly related to their professional goals? What kind of pedagogy is appropriate for dealing with classical texts in an honors setting, as opposed to an introductory course in the humanities? How can instructors help seniors to select and narrow thesis topics, while also grappling with procrastination and diminished motivation? Finally, how can such a program be justified to administrators? What does a successful assessment plan look like? By explaining how we have answered these and related questions, we will begin a discussion about the role that an honors program should play at large state institutions.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008 session three: 10:25 AM

David Bramhall—Aspen

Growing a Community College Honors Program

In the Fall 2004 semester, the San Juan College Honors Program, well into its second decade of existence, had an enrollment of 36 students in five courses. Over the last three semesters (from the Spring 2007 to Spring 2008), the enrollment in our program has averaged over 170 students a semester in numerous courses. While the SJC Honors Program was experiencing this growth in enrollment, the standards for honors graduates were raised significantly. This growth is a direct result of considered choices both philosophic and pragmatic. This presentation will focus on the strategies, both positive and negative, which were (and are being) employed as this program continues to evolve, the challenges which we continue to face, and our vision for the future.

Cassandra Stepp-Bolling & Kristopher Lappin—Walnut

To Bite Hard or Swallow Big—a Biomechanical Trade-off in Lizards versus Snakes

Biomechanical trade-offs are widespread in nature. Lizards use their jaws to break down prey before swallowing it. Snakes, however, have highly modified, lightly-built jaws with elastic joints that allow them to swallow prey many times the size of their head. To directly test the hypothesis that differences between lizards and snakes in the construction and use of their jaws represent a biomechanical trade-off, we measured bite force in several species. Among species with similarly-sized heads, we found that lizards bite significantly harder than snakes (3-5X). This indicates that snakes' ability to swallow exceptionally large prey mechanically compromises their capacity to generate bite forces equaling those of lizards. Furthermore, specialized prey-killing mechanisms in snakes (e.g., constriction, envenomation) may reflect an evolutionary response to constraints on bite force due to their unusual jaws.

Heng Aikroy, Kiisa Nishikawa & Kristopher Lappin—Walnut

Jaw Morphology and How it Relates to Prey Capture in Anurans

In frogs, the tongue is attached to the front of the lower jaw and rotates around this attachment when it is projected during prey capture. In one family of frogs, the toads, the tongue can double in length as it is projected with astonishing speed. This ballistic movement occurs when momentum is transferred from the rapidly-opening lower jaw to the tongue. Before the mouth opens, the mouth-opening muscles are activated and store energy, which is subsequently recovered to power mouth opening. These results indicate that the jaw-locking mechanism plays an important role in this extraordinary means of prey capture.



FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
session three: 10:25 AM

Alex Pierce—Ponderosa Boardroom

The Birth of Gods in the United States: How Myths are Created in Modern America to Maintain the Republic

In *The Republic*, Plato describes how mythology is needed to create a utopian republic. Within the culture of the United States, there are many myths concerning its history and political figures. The political parties in America, whether consciously or subconsciously, craft myths that unify the party ideologically. Within the mythology of Democratic Party, Franklin D. Roosevelt has become deified. In the Republican Party, Ronald Reagan is the figure worshipped by its members. Each party vilifies the opposition's deity figure. Contrary to current beliefs, the polarization between the two parties ultimately creates an environment that sustains the American Republic.

Chelsea Judy & Betsy Parker—Ponderosa Boardroom

Disney: Diversity Embraced or Societal Disgrace?

Are Disney movies the epitome family-fare? However, are there undertones of racism in some of the films? This presentation will take a look at several Disney movies and point out perceived racisms, linking them to historical movements that were concurrent with film production times. Because Disney is seemingly revered for its moral teachings, classic storylines, and lessons audiences can learn through the characters, suggested racism has a questionable place in the movies. That audience, especially children, could pick up on these undercurrents and unconsciously implement prejudice into their own lives.

Rhiannon Pare—Rees

Across Time and Space: A Monomythic Journey for Everyone

I will discuss the purpose of myth, its impact on society, mythology in the modern world and the evolution of myth. The main portion of my project focuses on the monomythic journey as outlined by Joseph Campbell. A famed mythology historian and orator, Campbell honed the monomythic for the journey into seventeen steps and nine common mythic elements. I chose eleven heroic epics from different time periods, social and cultural backgrounds, geographical areas and worldviews. I read these works and drew from them the events that I felt best fit each of Campbell's categories, as well as some of my own.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
session three: 10:25 AM

Amanda Pohja—Agassiz

Improving the Experience of Experiential Learning

The purpose of this study was to determine which elements of an experiential learning project—a project that applies classroom learning in the real world— make it more educational and beneficial for the students involved. A multiple-choice questionnaire was administered to 70 students in an Organizational and Administrative Behavior class and analyzed for correlations and relationships. Significant findings revealed a positive correlation between the evaluation of the participant's group experience and their overall feelings about the project. A significant and positive relationship between the evaluation of the participant's group experience and the confidence these students felt in their own skills was also noted. From the findings this presentation will discuss the implications for the development of experiential learning projects in the college classroom.

Machee Caughey—Agassiz

Textbooks? Who needs textbooks?

This last semester at Southern Utah University, a group of honors students and professors from across all disciplines got together to create a class that will not be forgotten anytime soon. There were no textbooks assigned, no readings to be done, which for an Honors student is something that is unheard of. We had presentations to watch, and professors from varying disciplines to learn from. One day we learned from a professor, but the next, we were on our own, guiding our own discussions, and learning from one another. We discussed ideas from micro loans and cell phones, to Pilobolus and spaghetti sauce. It all started out with TED talks, but it ended with our own presentations which we lovingly dubbed PAM talks. We filmed, edited and watched our own presentations, which turned out to be a challenge that none of us will forget.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL



FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008 session three: 10:25 AM

Kathryn Collison—Fremont

No Man is an Island: Exploring and Defining Familial Connections

Individualism and independence are highly prized in our culture and while these are indeed worthy attributes, what about our connections to others? To our families and friends? No one person exists separate from others, and no one particular idea or view is free from influence. This presentation will look at the effectiveness and implementation of a final honors project whose end goal is to expand worldviews and impress upon students the importance of understanding themselves in terms of a larger context. In this final project, students interview a family member and reflect on the process. Students then present what they discovered in class and share their own family stories. Workshop participants will come away with a creative, new technique to engage students with their families, each other, and the world at large.

Elizabeth Stoker—Fremont

The Third Culture Kid: Transition Into America Culture

Spending their childhood overseas is a stimulating way for a young American to grow up, and most Third Culture Kids (as such children have been called) appreciate the experience that they had in another country. However, the transition back into American culture, what is supposed to be their “home,” can prove to be very difficult. Awareness of the problems they may face can make every young adult’s time of transition smoother. By examining the actual lives of such people and carefully researching what has already been found out concerning them, we discover a basic pattern during this time of reentry. This presentation will examine the common stages of transition and discuss how best to help Third Culture Kids during the time of reentry.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008 session three: 10:25 AM

Mark Nobles—Doyle

History According to Hollywood

Honors student Mark Nobles has been exploring Hollywood’s treatment of ancient history— and some reasons why. A short documentary film by Mark examines some of the latest and some of the greatest historical pictures for historical blunders and explains the reasons behind them. His project analyzes several Hollywood versions of ancient times, including such classics as *The Ten Commandments* and *Cleopatra* and contemporary films like *300* and *Troy*. On his DVD project he juxtaposes video clips with an interview from a local historian and with academic research for a fascinating comparison: the historian-based version versus the Hollywood version.

Chandler Garbell—Humphreys

Taking the Cake: Le Petit Gateaux (or The Art of the Cupcake)

Let’s face it: there’s just something inherently awesome about the tasty little pastry called a cupcake. Have you ever wondered who invented these personal portions of happiness, or how they get that perfect swirl of frosting to look so darn yummy? This presentation will cover the history and cultural evolution of the delectable dessert as well as provide a crash course in cupcake construction and decoration. Stop by and try your hand at creating the perfect swirl.

Anne Berry—Humphreys

A Fragmented Understanding: After Virtue

Why is it that we don’t automatically kill those who anger us? What is really wrong with cheating? Why shouldn’t I lie? What these questions are asking is why modern society follows basic “moral rules.” However, it’s not often that the answer extends beyond the predictable, “because it’s wrong.” *After Virtue* contends that modern ethical philosophy is in a dire state and devoid of any true meaning. MacIntyre also contends that the rejection of the narrative in which moral rules were created has resulted in the legalism that characterizes moral rules of today. This presentation will further explain MacIntyre’s thesis that the Enlightenment’s rejection of Aristotle’s moral philosophy has left the modern audience with an incorrect and flawed understanding of ethics. The presentation will conclude with examples of the flawed moral philosophy as seen in Polynesia, the word “adultery,” and the Polish film series *The Decalogue*.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
session four: 11:25 AM

Ryan Lieuallen—Aspen

Reaching the Peak in Apiculture

Honey bees are vital to the US agriculture sector and are responsible for the pollination of 1/3 of our diet, including crops such as fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Research indicates that 16% of the United States commercial honey bee stock is requeened by approximately 603 queen mothers each season. This genetic bottleneck contributes to our honey bees' inability to adequately adapt to our rapidly changing world. Through this presentation I will discuss the procedures implemented by a commercial queen rearing facility. I have partitioned the queen rearing process into five sections: Queen Selection, Grafting Procedures, Incubation, Mating, Shipping & Handling. This research and supplementary findings in the field will offer commercial apiculturists a method of queen rearing that, if widely implemented, will yield a more sustainable stock for the United States apiculture industry.

Vanessa Serratore—Aspen

Thermoregulation in Molting and Feeding Danaus plexippus Caterpillars

Many insects rely on thermoregulation to maintain body temperatures independent of the surrounding environment. Basking is one of the most efficient ectothermic tactics. Based on evidence from previous studies done on thermal behavior, I hypothesized that monarch caterpillars would thermoregulate during the molting process in a manner different to thermoregulatory patterns observed during feeding. To address the issue, an observational study of monarch butterflies was performed in Brisbane, Australia. Regression slopes showed that monarch larvae thermoregulate to a significant degree while feeding in the hot month of November and that larva do not thermoregulate when molting. Molting body temperatures fluctuated throughout the day, rising and falling in relation to sun exposure, while feeding body temperatures appeared to remain more stable. During the molting process, larvae must simply conform to the ambient temperatures available.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
session four: 11:25 AM

Rosalie C. Otero—Walnut

Beginning in Honors

This workshop is intended primarily for newly appointed directors/deans of honors. It's a pragmatic nuts-and-bolts assistance to neophyte honors institutions and individuals. Although there are many important differences among honors programs, there are some features that are similar. The workshop addresses such topics as (1) faculty and student recruitment, (b) curriculum, (c) budget, (d) facilities, (e) administration, and (f) the basic characteristics of a fully developed Honors Program and a fully developed Honors College. Participants may also bring other relevant issues to the table.

Sherry Adams & Jennifer Lane—Fremont

Service Learning in Honors: San Diego 2008

Honors students at Paradise Valley and Glendale Community Colleges researched, planned, and implemented innovative service projects to address community issues. Three separate service learning experiences made up this alternative Spring Break experience. After preliminary research and service training in Phoenix, the students left the Phoenix metropolitan area to serve the San Diego area. Students learned to Serve, Learn, Inspire, Change and Educate in a fun, dynamic environment. This session will present examples from the group's documentary trip, called SLICE, where students embarked on a journey of self-discovery and cultural awareness.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL



FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
session four: 11:25 AM

Emily Hood—Agassiz

Parenting Classes: A Societal Requirement?

Should parenting classes be required of all parents-to-be, regardless of age, social status, or gender? Parenting classes are an expected component in the process to become a foster parent. Other requirements to be a foster parent include attending orientation and ongoing parenting training sessions, allowing a foster agency to complete a walkthrough of the parent's house for safety, and agreeing to routine check-ups of the home environment when foster children are present. The government puts much time and consideration into making sure that foster parents are able to adequately take care of a child. It is interesting that this sort of inspection and attention is not required for parents who conceive their own children. This presentation examines the value and social significance of parenting classes and argues for the provision of free parenting classes for all would be parents.

Hiraiz Richards & Jeanne Holcomb—Agassiz

My First Day in School

There is a need in numerous children to be able to obtain school supplies for their "First Day in School" that can extend throughout the school year, especially in poverty school districts. The lack of basic school supplies can give these children a negative foundation for the success in their education, constituting a long term effect. College students can make a difference in the education of these children and in their own life, by getting involved with available organizations in their neighborhood. During the time that our service learning group volunteered, we received countless personal benefits as confidence builders, knowing that we made a difference by simply giving of our time to a fine cause. We learned new skills, met people that inspired us with their vision and unselfish giving to their campaign, bonded and shared experiences with new friends from diverse backgrounds, and were able to obtain a network of future opportunities.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
session four: 11:25 AM

Sophia Asbury—Ponderosa Boardroom

Living Descendants: American Indians and Archaeologists in Montana

American Indians and archaeologists have historically had a troubled relationship, primarily due to archaeologists' exploiting or ignoring American Indians in their pursuit of science. In order to combat this problem and take control of their own past, American Indians initiated legislation requiring archaeologists to consult and collaborate with tribes when they conduct research. This forced collaboration demands a new skill set for the next generation of archaeologists as they attempt to incorporate a non-academic partner and audience into their research designs. Using global examples of public archaeology, including conclusions drawn from a field school in Ireland, this study examines methods that archaeologists around the world use to involve the public in their work, such as community events and publishing in local periodicals.

Mike Mocerri—Ponderosa Boardroom

The Dao of Job: A Comparison of Eastern and Western Religions Through Methodology

What is the link between the God of the west and the monism of the east? Is that link a unified theory, in which the intricacies of two drastically differing cosmologies are related? Could the link be understood as a perennial philosophy in which the spiritual elements of these two ways of thinking are combined? Or is it in fact, a link which transcends mystical experience, religious dogma, and transient nature to arrive at the origin of human experience? It is perhaps this final understanding which best defines the unified reality in which all mystical, religious, and temporary states of consciousness reside. For it is a fact of human existence that men and women throughout the ages, across the broad spectrum of cultures and regions, have experienced spiritual awakenings. Despite the varying philosophies inherent in these religions, practitioners have discovered similar truths through similar methods.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session four: 11:25 AM

Austin Goudzward & Josselyn Berry—Humphreys

Campaign 2008 – The Press, The Politics, The Process

The Washington Center provides one and two week seminars that encourage students from throughout the United States to gain an understanding of our country's political process. Through an engaging combination of programming, speakers, site visits, and discussion seminars, The Washington Center offers an unparalleled opportunity to participate in this epic moment in American history. Austin and Josslyn share their experiences in Washington, D.C. and what they learned by leaving the classroom and visiting our nation's capital.

John Doherty & Kevin Ketchner—Rees

Empowering the Honors Student: Using Technology to Enhance Learning in an Honors Composition Course

Northern Arizona University's HON 190 and HON 191 classes serve as introductions to the Honors program and to the academic environment of the University through a reading and writing intensive course of study. While these courses are designed and delivered as face-to-face classes, the two presenters, part time instructors in the program, have begun to incorporate the University's learning management system (Blackboard Vista) to add a level of control and empowerment to their students.

Jean Fiddler—Doyle

"With his assistance, I cannot fail": The Effects of Religion on Lincoln's Views of Slavery and the Union

Abraham Lincoln never joined a church, but his faith in God always played a significant role in his life and drove him to his peak performance. However, Lincoln's faith often brought him to conclusions that differed from his contemporaries. This presentation uses Lincoln's private and public documents to show that Lincoln believed that God wanted slavery to end but was unsure that He intended for the North to win the war. At the same time, most Americans in the northern states were not convinced that slavery violated the will of God, but were certain that God would defeat the South. Thus, Lincoln was not able to publicly express his beliefs on these subjects during the war. Ultimately, the president's beliefs and those of the nation changed, and by the end of the war Lincoln was able to freely express his beliefs about God to America.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session five: 1:45 PM

Justin Crocker—Fremont

Something's Rotten in the Circle of Life

Shakespeare contemporary Ben Jonson once said that Shakespeare "was not of an age, but for all time" (Wofford). The tragedies of Shakespeare are viewed by many today as too complex to understand and too dark to enjoy. What many do not realize is that the works of Shakespeare are incorporated in much of the media today. The Walt Disney classic film *The Lion King* is simply a modern adaptation of the tragic play *Hamlet* (Volger). Upon further research I found that *Hamlet* was not the only Shakespearian work used in creating the story we have come to love about Simba and the "Circle of Life." Hidden behind Disney's charming animation and happy ending is the dark work of Shakespeare. The playwright's ability to appeal to any audience proves that Shakespeare was truly "not of an age" as Johnson claimed.

Anastasia Buerger—Fremont

Creative Science

Educators are constantly searching for the best method of teaching new abstract concepts in high school and college biology classes. Learning styles, study habits, animated tutorials, and various experiments all help students grasp complex new ideas that act as the foundation to their biology education. Analogies are a commonly misunderstood resource for students and teachers. In this presentation the two worlds of creativity and science will collide to provide the audience with a fresh outlook on analogies. Audience participation will be centered on a discussion of the misconceptions we have about analogies. The audience will gain insight about how to effectively use analogies in their studies or in classrooms to help create a mental model of abstract concepts.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session five: 1:45 PM

Margaret Smith, Shelly Gordon, Brian Dewitt, Olivia Young, Staci Smith, Denise Lea, Kathy Stevens & Gracia Wolfe—Agassiz
Peter and The Wolf

This is a collaborative project including American Sign Language (ASL) students from all levels of ASL and interpreting classes, as well as deaf students and faculty members. The goals of this honors project are to promote ASL second language acquisition in the hearing students and enhance the English skills of the deaf students involved. Theatre has been the most successful medium for building a sense of community between the hearing and deaf students at Cochise College. Additionally, through performing *Peter and the Wolf* with no voice interpretation and only a recorded piano accompaniment, the hearing audience will experience ASL as a deaf person would, without an English translation. We plan to present *Peter and the Wolf* live at the conference.

Lynn Gardner, Lori Brooks, Elizabeth Cook, Nora Donovan, Eric Harrison, Donald Linder, Margo Nelson, C.J. Penning, Meghan Potash, Nicholas Roberson, Julie Toma & Reid Watkins—Humphreys
This I Believe

The "This I Believe" program has been a successful radio program broadcast by National Public Radio for quite some time. Students in Dr. Lynn Gardner's HON 340 course, "East Meets West," at Northern Arizona University have been encouraged, for two semesters, now, to write their own "This I Believe" pieces. The first of these drew a packed audience at NAU's Honors Program annual symposium. Some of these former students and now current students of Dr. Gardner will present several more "This I Believe" essays at the WRHC conference. They reflect the students' personal and philosophical observations about the events, ideas, and passions in their lives that mean the most to them.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session five: 1:45 PM

Anicka Kratina-Hathaway—Aspen
Peak Predators at Risk: Mercury Levels in Western Montana Ospreys

Missoula area residents are blessed with some of nature's most amazing wonders: the large and powerful osprey. The recent discovery of shockingly high levels of mercury in a number of ospreys' blood presents many important questions not only for the contaminated birds but also for local residents. Mercury (Hg) causes severe deformities and even death in humans. The information they provide will lead to a discovery of the source of mercury contaminants and insight on how to protect the osprey and local residents. This information, along with systematic nest monitoring is the beginning of a long-term osprey monitoring project that will discover the effect that extremely elevated levels of mercury have on local osprey and their reproductive success. This project will involve a number of scientists, students, and members of the general public working together to protect the environment, the public, and an important species.

Kelly Lintecum—Aspen
Avian Influenza HPA1 H5N1

The focus of my presentation is to educate others on how the avian influenza strain H5N1 is evolving from a virus that is primarily found in birds into a virus that has the potential capability to mutate and to spread to the human population. My presentation will examine the specific strain H5N1 and the influenza A type virus: high vs. low pathogenicity, the key proteins hemagglutinin and neuraminidase, transmission of the virus, intermediate species, genetic re-assortment in a cell (including a change in binding preferences from an alpha 2-3 sialic acids found in birds to alpha 2-6 sialic acids found in humans), dispersal of the virus, intercontinental virus transfer, and vaccines vs. antiviral drugs. I will briefly discuss human aspects of the virus: the number of human cases reported, effects of an outbreak, prevention, and containing an outbreak if one should occur.



FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session five: 1:45 PM

Rondald Evans—Doyle

Gangs in Arizona Prisons

"Gangs in Arizona Prisons" examines the history and impact of gangs in the Arizona prison system. The study provides a history of the migration of several California prison gangs, including Aryan Brotherhood, Mexican Mafia, New Mexican Mafia and Skin Heads, into the Arizona prison system and offers an analysis of the impact these gangs have had on the Arizona Department of Corrections. In addition, based on this research, a training tool for officers in the Arizona Department of Corrections is discussed.

Margo Chavez-Charles—Rees

The Magic and the "Reel:" Literature and History in Latin American Cinema

The revered Latin American writer, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, suggests that cinema is a "more complete means of expression than literature." Two Honors colleagues chose to explore Latin American literature and history through the medium of film created in Latin America. Our class analyzed how the images and messages in our films reveal Latin America's past and present. We read fictional and historical accounts that inspired filmmakers. We investigated issues of gender, repression, politics, and revolution. Because this was a class about Latin American cinema, we developed a model for analysis of films. We will talk about the model we developed as well as various activities we created. "Honors at its Peak" is the conference theme. Teachers as well as students achieve their peaks with preparation and with challenges. Our challenge was to prepare ourselves and our students to learn new ways of analyzing film as a "text."

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session five: 1:45 PM

Bryan Schroeder, Daniel Abeyta, Halee Baird, Robby Ortiz, Krista Edwards, Christina Vehar, Anya Kurennaya, Jana Morehouse, Susan Mirabal, Danny Wells, Arielle Nylander & Jennifer Olson—Ponderosa Boardroom

Scribendi Publishing

Following the Friday evening debut of the twenty-second edition of *Scribendi*, WRHC's literary and visual arts magazine, staff members (all students) will briefly explain the history and process of producing the magazine through a multimedia presentation. We will be updating participants about new parts of our process and obstacles that had to be overcome. *Scribendi* would like to highlight the fact that although the magazine is a way for all WRHC Honors students to be featured at his or her "peak", only 40 of the 220 universities and colleges in the council had students submit works for the last issue. We will leave the second part of the presentation to hold an open conversation with the audience in which we invite discussion on this issue and others, questions, and ideas *Scribendi's* growth and advancement.

Ben Deeb, Derek Porcella, Tim Sauer, Graham Towers & Matthew Simonson—Walnut

Going Against the Flow: Belief vs. Science in American Society

In current American society, many believe that science should be the basis for truth. Others, however, see faith as the ultimate authority. Debates continue over the causes and extent of global climate change, evolutionism, and even if the Earth is round. The stance of most scientists is clear on these issues, yet many Americans choose to disagree with scientific consensus, using the Bible or another sacred text as their basis for truth. In this project, we examine the clash between the religious and the scientific: what makes them different, what do their proponents believe, and why looking at both sides matters.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL



FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
session six: 2:45 PM

Nora Donovan—Aspen
Stuck at the Crossroads

This research paper addresses the social, political, and environmental effects of the US military's nuclear experimentation in the South Pacific. A main focus is Operation Crossroads, which involved a series of explosion tests on the islands of the Bikini atoll. In addition to relating the events and historical context of these nuclear experiments, the paper explores lasting consequences for the people involved, the international political realm, and the natural environment of the test islands. Finally, conclusions are drawn about the adverse effects of nuclear experimentation and parallels are made to current events involving the proliferation of nuclear technology. The presentation will involve a reading of the paper accompanied by Power Point slides to provide visuals of the topics discussed.

Stephanie Nyman—Aspen
Give Me Some Space

Maintaining freedom of action in space is as necessary to the United States as is air and sea power. Whether it is the completion of the International Space Station, the safety and performance of hundreds of satellites orbiting the earth's atmosphere, or the strong desire to be the leading superpower in space, the economic debate of whether or not the United States should expend enormous amounts of money on these programs shows no sign of abating. During uncertain times of war and an on-going race to be the leaders of the free world, it is vital that the United States maintain its dominance in space technology. Additionally, continued investment in space related technology and exploration ensures increased knowledge and awareness, new discoveries, economic affluence, and above all enhanced national security.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
session six: 2:45 PM

Kira Birkett—Fremont
The Darker Pigments of War: The Art and Environment of Francisco Goya

Spanish artist Francisco Goya lived during one of the most tumultuous periods in Spanish history. Spain was deeply influenced by the Enlightenment and the excitement such a movement provided, but was also deeply troubled by the instability caused by numerous wars with various invading countries. By analyzing key visual elements within four of Goya's more prominent works, after looking at his historical and biographical context, this presentation explores the national volatility that is mirrored in Goya's work and career. I discuss why Goya's work undergoes many dramatic changes and dark evolutions throughout his career, from his light optimism to his later cynical disillusionment, and how it is directly correlated to the political, social, and philosophical state of his country. Finally, I discuss his use of art as a means of public and private expression in order to give light to the depravities and immoralities of humankind he witnessed.

Kim Andersen—Fremont
Art & Theory – for Critical Engagements

What makes me 'tick' as an Honors College professor? What causes me to strive for 'peak performance' in the classroom? To me, it is those light bulb moments when students discover the practical benefits of theory! In my University Honors 440 course: Domain of the Arts, we seek enlightenment on the nature of art. We investigate theories of art from Plato onwards which shows us what different individuals at different times thought about art. From cave paintings and pottery to jewelry, music, and medieval cathedrals, people have expressed and understood themselves in creating and appreciating art. In this PowerPoint presentation I present some crucial ideas and models for understanding this basic human activity, and invite the audience to a discussion of the importance of art, theory, and humanistic endeavors, as corner stones of a critically engaging Honors education.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session six: 2:45 PM

Fiona Flaherty—Agassiz

Lady Macbeth: Downfall Through Devotion

Shakespeare's *Macbeth* depicts a man driven to betray his king and his own moral sensibilities. Macbeth rises to the exalted position of king with the vital support of his wife, Lady Macbeth. She never seeks power on her own behalf; instead she facilitates her husband's fulfillment of his own desires. Lady Macbeth encourages and enables her husband to commit horrific acts of violence in pursuit of power. In the process, however, she sacrifices her own sanity, and ultimately, her life. Although Lady Macbeth places herself in the unconventional role as alpha female, she attempts to remain devoted to her main cause as a supportive force to her husband. The two roles are contradictory in nature and cannot coexist. Thus, Lady Macbeth unintentionally acts as the catalyst that ultimately destroys herself and the very husband she seeks to help.

Heather Tonnemaker—Agassiz

The Manipulation of Language

A number of literary works blur the line between truth and falsehood in order to serve a political agenda. Different rhetorical strategies are used to manipulate the reader into believing that the position is justified. This paper explores the use of rhetoric toward political ends through a series of examples: equivocation in *Macbeth*, the use of absolutes in *The Declaration of Independence*, and doublespeak in *1984*. The historical setting of these three works is important to examine as well because there is a different function of the speaker to reflect truth in each time period. The authors of these works were able to justify and make true almost anything through their exploitation of language. The employment of such diction in the various worlds of literature has great power to sway and impact its audience.

Ashley Remkes, Meghan Froerer & Clayton Gerrard—Rees

A Field Guide to an Honors Student Advisory Board

This presentation will address the following topics: a definition of an Honors Student Advisory Board, the purpose of an Honors Student Advisory Board, the organization an Honors Student Advisory Board, the challenges facing an Honors Student Advisory Board, and How Honors Student Advisory Boards can serve its purpose. This presentation aims to help Honors students at every university to better serve their purpose.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session six: 2:45 PM

Sarah Contreras—Walnut

Gene Therapy vs. Genetic Doping: Saving Lives or Creating a New Generation of Cheaters?

Gene therapy is the new frontier of medical science and the promise that it holds for mankind is being overshadowed by its potential for abuse in the form of "genetic doping." Gene therapy holds tremendous amounts of promise for so many people suffering from diseases such as muscular dystrophy and severe anemia. Altering the dystrophin and erythropoietin genes in a lab mouse can cause extensive gains in muscle mass, significantly reduced body fat and higher O₂ levels in the bloodstream. These changes in the human body would either cure these diseases in the sick, or create a super athlete in the healthy. There is a huge interest in gene therapies as the new way to gain an undetectable edge in athletic competition.

Mariah Thompson—Walnut

Genotypic Variation at the Prion Protein Gene Among Suffolk, Rambouillet, and Targhee Sheep

Scrapie, a disease in sheep, is a member of the family of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. Infected animals accumulate abnormal prion proteins in nervous tissues. Polymorphisms of the prion protein gene influence susceptibility to scrapie. Arginine residues (R) at codon 171, and alanine residues at codon 136 increase resistance to scrapie. The Suffolk breed has been found to have the highest incidence of scrapie in the United States. Genotypes were compared between Suffolk, Rambouillet, and Targhee ewes from the SUU flock. Gene and genotypic frequencies for codon 171 of the prion protein gene varied among the three breeds ($P < 0.01$). Frequency of R was 50%, 21.4%, and 3.3% in the Suffolk, Targhee, and Rambouillet ewes, respectively. No differences were detected at codon 136. Genetic resistance to scrapie was greatest in the Suffolk ewes. Increased incidence of scrapie in Suffolk sheep may be due to exposure rather than genetic susceptibility.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session six: 2:45 PM

Liz Kosearas & Daniel Bulone—Humphreys

Comic Books: A Catharsis of Cultural Commentaries

There's more than meets the eye in comic books and graphic novels. This presentation will focus on selected works to explore what social and political commentaries. Examined pieces will include Alan Moore's "Watchmen" for its assertions on Cold War politics and morality, as well as his work "V for Vendetta" and its commentary on the threat of fascism in the 1980s conservative England; the "X-Men" series for its representation of the civil rights movement and racism at large; and Art Spiegelman's "Maus" for its exploration of the Holocaust through the eyes of survivors and their children.

Lyndee Michelle Goetz—Humphreys

Astronaut vs. Superman: A Comparative Journey in Space Travel

To conceptualize the difficulties, limitations, and extremities of space travel, I have created two scenarios varying in distance (represented in light-years) from planet Earth. The research uses two hypothetical persons as representations of space technology; the astronaut as current human technology, and Superman as the most advanced future technology only limited by mathematical and physics based theories—such as the theory of special relativity. Scenarios included the distance and time required to reach the nearest star (Proxima Centauri) and nearest galaxy outside the Milky Way (Andromeda, excluding any dwarf galaxies) using the two forms of technology.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008

session six: 2:45 PM

Stacey Sinclair, Megan Burks, Teresa Martel & Jordan Silacci—Doyle

Panel Presentation: *Scaling the Summit: Study Abroad as a Peak Experience*

Stacey Sinclair Ph.D., Megan Burks, Teresa Martel, & Jordan Silacci In our increasingly globalized world, grooming honors students for their futures must go beyond the traditional classroom and encompass cultural understandings and diverse experiences. While many honors programs encourage studying abroad, SDSU's Honors Program is unique in that it requires an international experience. This panel will outline how SDSU developed a successful study abroad requirement for the University Honors Program, and will include a discussion on the variety of honored international experiences that SDSU faculty has developed. Students will share their study abroad experiences and the panel will discuss how an international experience inspires peak performance, including applying for Fulbright grants to further enhance cultural competence and integrating knowledge gained from study abroad into undergraduate research. The forum will then provide discussion on how to create a feasible requirement that may fit your program.



FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
session seven: 3:50 PM

Julie Meigs—Agassiz

Sex Re-education

Media images of sex flood our senses on a daily basis. Teenage boys brag about how far they got on the first date, but they don't know how to share their feelings and insecurities. Young women have one night stands to feel they are loved, but then feel shameful of their sexual needs. How can we as a society deal with sex in a way that teaches young people how to make smart decisions that protect them both medically and emotionally? By reviewing the empirical literature regarding effectiveness of sex education programs and issues faced in sex therapy, I intend to develop an innovative and complete sex education curriculum that addresses both psychological and physical sexual health. My sexuality education curriculum, the focus of my senior thesis, addresses these problems.

Laurie Bachand—Agassiz

"The Bully Blocker's Club": Uniting students against violence and prejudice

Within Palomino II Elementary school there is a large problem with discrimination and bullying among students. Every Friday morning, the teachers sit down with their students to discuss the conflicts that had happened over the week. As I listened to the kids I noticed a trend; each one of them was confronted with the same issues of bullying, loneliness, and peer pressure, and they were all trying to fight these problems single handedly. I wanted to find some way to bring them together and show them that it is a lot easier to get through life with the help of others. The answer came from a little raccoon named Lotty in the story *The Bully Blockers Club* by Teresa Bateman. As a class we formed our own club and each of the twenty-seven Bully Blockers began to work together for peace and friendship.

Savannah Carroll—Aspen

From the Outside Looking in: Manifestations of Double Consciousness in America

Double-consciousness is the internal struggle within African-Americans between identifying with African culture versus American culture. The struggle is also heightened by external factors which can influence one's decision. Double-consciousness is also a contradiction that explains the love hate relationship African-Americans have with whites. For example the majority of blacks will agree that black is beautiful, yet many relax their hair and do other things to their appearance that are essentially adhering to the European aesthetic of beauty.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
session seven: 3:50 PM

Nicholas Roberson—Humphreys

Comparative Systems of Political Justification

My presentation will cover the content of my senior honors thesis project which is an analysis and critique for the most common methods of political justification. The argument of this paper is that consent-based models of political justification are insufficient and deeply flawed despite the popular influence of consent theories associated with the American founding. I will sketch out an alternative model of political justification which draws heavily on teleological methods.

Ian Scott—Humphreys

The Moral Dilemma Surrounding the Use of Torture in the United States Post 9/11

President George W. Bush proclaimed that the resolve of the United States is facing a great test following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. However, this test goes beyond fighting terrorists and encompasses the treatment of detainees once in American custody. The United States is then confronted with one fundamental moral question: is the alleged torture of terrorist suspects a morally acceptable practice? The goal of my research is to engage in a debate to explore the strengths and weaknesses of the primarily utilitarian and rights based ethical arguments surrounding the issue. The debate pertaining to the use of torture in the United States is an important one to establish the moral base of the country. When dealing with such an intricate issue, the underlying arguments on both sides must be illuminated in order for the citizens of a democracy to make an educated decision regarding the actions to be performed by their government.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008 session seven: 3:50 PM

Richard Effland, Kastle Olsen & Chad Trim—Walnut
An Enterprise Model and Student Achievement

The enterprise model for learning is based on a sense of student research and creative presentation of what was learned. The operative word is “creative.” The model focused on having honors students in six classes all research their own individual interests on a single theme. The theme was sustainability. This paper will present the model and share the results of several end products. The power of the message and the impact on students will be highlighted. Digital video, automated keynote presentations, blogs and wikis all will illustrate the success of this model. How this helped students get involved in other programs and altered their perceptions of where they wanted their education to go will be discussed. The power of the messages that could be used to impact the learning of other students is underscored.

Parker Mangum, Daniel Garcia & Nigel Reuel—Rees
Panel Presentation: *Breaking the Mold: Athletes as Honors Students*

Athletes are often caricatured as “jocks;” Honors students are often stereotyped as “nerds.” While numerous examples exist of non-academic athletes and non-athletic academics, the goal for any Honors Program should be to break these molds. We should encourage motivated college athletes to pursue an Honors education, and we should foster a healthy participation in sports among out Honors students. The ancient Romans taught this goal in a maxim: *mens sana in corpore sano* (a healthy mind in a healthy body). Three sports-minded Honors Students at Brigham Young University will present their perspectives on how to achieve this goal. They will address the following topics: What athletics can offer the Honors Student, What Honors can Offer the Athlete, and How to Balance Sports and Academics.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008 session seven: 3:50 PM

Hesham Elnagar & Lauren Smerlinski—Fremont
Active Peer Leadership in Honors Education: HON100

Hon 100 is designed to engage first time Honors students with their various new home communities and with one another. By attending to time management and study skills, as well as connections with faculty and peers, this course will further address what it takes to be a successful Honors student and ultimately NAU student. Finally, HON 100 lays the foundation for future Honors opportunities such as study abroad and community service partnerships through the Honors Seminar Speaker Series, and presentations by local community members and by continuing Honors students. Piloted this fall, peer facilitators will give their first hand experience regarding this program. They will discuss active learning, pedagogy, student development, facilitator training, and teaching experiences.

Irma Pena, Adriana Padilla, Jessica Fuentes & David Pettes—Doyle
The Unending Cycle of Prejudice and Discrimination

The Unending Cycle of Prejudice and Discrimination details a unique honors project dedicated to lessening prejudice, discrimination, and intolerance within future generations. Upon returning from the College’s annual El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center trip, three students came forward and said, “We will do our part to make a difference in our generation and those to follow.” Profoundly alarmed by survey results, the team created a Power Point -based presentation that has been given over 20 times to middle and high school students throughout southeastern Arizona. The session will feature a discussion of the project’s background, intended outcomes, and suggestions for implementation by other students and institutions. This is an ongoing project: “Our work is not finished. We must change as many lives as possible.”



SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

table of presentations

	time	Aspen	Walnut	Ponderosa Boardroom	Agassiz	Fremont	Doyle	Rees	Humphreys	
	8:00-9:00	poster session and continental breakfast-Pre-function Hallway								
	9:00-10:30	wrhc business meeting-board room								
session eight										
	10:00-10:50	Felony Disenfranchisement	Rewriting the History of Cowboy High Style		Panel: The Epic Tradition	Fall Ball	An Honors Book Club	Building Community Beyond the Classroom	Chronic Homelessness	Discursive Representations of "Security" on the US-Mexico Border
session nine										
	11:00-11:50	Power of Perception An Analysis into the Conflict Between Israel and Palestine	Engineers and Globalization	China Study Abroad 2007	Helping Students Reach the Summit of Honors Graduation	Exploring a New Frontier	The Nature of the Mind	With Their Hands and Their Minds		
	12:00-2:00	luncheon with keynote speaker and closing-Humphreys								

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

poster session: 8:00 AM

Jacob DeWall

Metal-Ligand Bonds and Their Color Changes

My honors chemistry project took a close look at metal ligand bonds and the colors they changed to. I performed an experiment on Cobalt II and Ammonium and examined the color change. I then researched what was happening when a ligand bonds to a metal ion. The reaction splits the d-orbitals of the compound and this split alters the absorbance of light, this shift is perceived as a color change.

Emma Dunlap

ED's Bakery: A Small Business Plan

I am creating a business plan for a small bakery that will be located in downtown Tucson, AZ. The business plan will include everything – from target marketing to a five year financial plan – needed to acquire a small business loan from the bank. A small model structure of a floor layout will accompany the business plan.

Sharon Huang & Deanne Huang

BearBear Creative: An Interdisciplinary Venture in Business and Art

As the ultimate example of synergy, two sisters take honors to the next level with the start-up of their company BearBear Creative. BearBear Creative represents an integration of several fields of study: graphic design, illustration, advertising, accounting, finance, and entrepreneurship. This joint project has resulted in the founding of their company and the publishing of a graphic novel. The practical application, collaboration, and lifelong implications inherent in this project demonstrate honors at its peak.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
poster session: 8:00 AM

Sarah Ree

The Thirteenth Astrological Sign

I plan to present my project on Ophiuchus, the 13th astrological sign in which I explored whether knowledge of a thirteenth astrological sign modifies how people view the accuracy of horoscopes. My project involves research on the history of the 13th astrological sign and a test that I created to measure the accuracy of self-identification of the astrological signs.

Amanda Frary

Exploring Alzheimers Disease Using Stem Cells as a Possible Cure

This honors project concerns the possibility that stem cell therapy may slow down or stop the development of Alzheimers Disease. Studies are being conducted in research centers to test whether this is possible. The project also includes some research into genetic testing for genes which predisposition a person to develop Alzheimers Disease, including a study of mice which appears successful.

Dannah G. Raz

Figure/Ground Segregation and Infant Visual Development

There has been much research performed regarding an adult's ability to distinguish figure regions from their background. Convexity is found to be associated with figure regions. No research has been found, however, that looks at the development of this ability. The current work will identify between at what age to infants learn to distinguish figure from ground using convexity as a cue for figure.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
poster session: 8:00 AM

Triet Nguyen, Viranga Perera & Gregorio Villar III

Understanding Stellar Structure

Traveling at the speed-of-light, it would take over four years to reach the nearest star from our Sun. However, with our knowledge of physics we are able to study the nature of these very distant objects. Most of the visible matter in our universe is composed of stars, so understanding their structure is fundamental to studying the universe. There are five time-independent differential equations of stellar structure which, together with the equation of state, allow us to study the internal structure of stars. Using a computer program called StatStar, we numerically solved these equations and obtained sample models for stars of four different masses, constrained by observable parameters such as surface temperature. With the data obtained from the program, different plots were made in order to interpret the internal structure of each star, as well as overall trends of the central pressure, density, and pressure with stellar mass.

Kelly Lintecum

Tubes in the Desert, Reusable Fuel

The Tubes in the Desert initiative is a project that researchers are working on at the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University. This initiative uses cyanobacterium, a tiny microorganism commonly referred to as blue - green algae to create a biodiesel fuel which can be further refined and used in internal combustion engines. The cyanobacterium are photosynthetic and will be placed in clear tubes in order to absorb sunlight while also consuming carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Another benefit of using cyanobacterium to produce biofuel is that it is cheap to process and yields more product than corn or switch grass. Also, the tubes in the desert will not compete with farm land and our food production industry which gives it a lot of potential in replacing fossil fuels.

Trevor DeJong

Re-engineering Performance on Automotive Engines

This project is the reverse engineering of an automotive component on an engine, the under-drive pulley, the re-engineering the component, and the machining of the component out of a light-weight alloy. Testing of the component is also planned. The presentation will include a discussion of these processes.



SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
poster session: 8:00 AM

Nicole Stadnick

Social Support and Coping: Predictors of Posttraumatic Stress Reactions and Youth Survivors of Hurricane Katrina

This study evaluated the influence of social support and coping behaviors (i.e., active and avoidant coping) on children's posttraumatic stress reactions (i.e., symptoms of PTSD, anxiety, and depression) in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Data corresponding to 46 youth (M = 11.43 yrs.; 39% girls; 67% European American; 33% African American) revealed that greater helpfulness from extra-familial sources of support predicted less severe child-rated symptoms of PTSD, anxiety, and depression. Helpfulness from professional support sources was rated highest by parents whose youth reported the most severe PTSD, anxiety, and depression symptoms. Avoidant coping predicted PTSD and anxiety but active coping and familial support did not predict youths' reactions. The findings' potential implications for mitigating the impact of disaster exposure on youth are discussed.

Sarah Booher

Serpents: Satanic or Simply Misunderstood

Serpents, those slippery creatures that repel most of us, are found throughout religious myths and texts. Not surprisingly, these religious depictions have played a role in our rather hostile view toward snakes. From the serpentine tempter in the Bible's Genesis, to the lesser known ancient Gilgamesh epic, to the forbidding monsters of Greek mythology, this poster will trace the reoccurring representations of snakes, focusing on how these images and negative interpretations have colored our view of serpents.

Michael Evertsen

A History of Progressive Rock

Progressive rock, the pretentious, tenacious cousin of rock and roll, has endured a long and varied history. A comprehensive history of the genre will be given, beginning with its birth in the mid-1960s, succeeded by its mercurial rise to the top of music charts in the 1970s as well as the trifling period thereafter, and ending with its current status. There is much more to this musical genre than one may think, from its oft-tenebrous artists, to its unique conventions, to who and what made it what it is today.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
poster session: 8:00 AM

Sarah Contreras

Gene Therapy vs. Gene doping: Saving Lives or Creating a New Generation of Cheaters

Gene therapy is the new frontier of medical science and the promise that it holds for mankind is being overshadowed by its potential for abuse in the form of "genetic doping". Gene therapy holds tremendous amounts of promise for so many people suffering from diseases such as muscular dystrophy and severe anemia. Altering the dystrophin and erythropoietin genes in a lab mouse can cause extensive gains in muscle mass, significantly reduced body fat and higher O₂ levels in the bloodstream. These changes in the human body would either cure these diseases in the sick, or create a super athlete in the healthy. There is a huge interest in gene therapies as the new way to gain an undetectable edge in athletic competition.

Garth Baughman

Institutionalizing Sustainability: The Arizona State University Approach

The most important issue for this twenty-first century is sustainability. To achieve sustainability, every organization from the smallest business to the largest universities must embrace sustainability principles and incorporate them into their institution. We term this process "institutionalizing sustainability". In an endeavor to explore "institutionalizing sustainability" both as a process and as a goal, we evaluate relevant theoretical aspects involved in building sustainability into the core of an institution. We also present ASU as a case study in establishing principles of sustainability from three important perspectives: introducing requirements for sustainability in policies, establishing it in traditions, and developing an institutional culture of sustainability. We conclude with views on how various institutions can collaborate in the transformation towards a sustainable world.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
poster session: 8:00 AM

Dana Quadri
Faces of War

War and its effects extend far beyond the obvious areas of confrontation and combat. It permeates just about every fabric of life—and becomes often painfully clear in individual faces. Those faces are represented in a compilation of photographs that have been sorted to show images depicting the soldiers of war, the leaders of war, the children of war, the victims of war and the families of war. Each piece uses digital art techniques to compile multiple photographs into a single image that encompasses a message and idea behind the concept of war and the individuals involved in it. The series is meant to put faces and meaning to the people of war that are often disregarded; it is meant to bring to light the dynamic and complex impact that war has upon the human race; it is meant to unveil the often overlooked and forgotten truths of war. Come see the photographs and discuss the presenter's opinions about what the images portray.

Allyn Knox
Peer influence on Water Conservaton by Dorm Residents

Because college students are our future leaders, their environmental values and the context in which they develop are key factors in determining the future course of ecological health and environmental policy, both of which greatly impact our daily lives. For this reason, this research evaluates how the following three factors jointly influence a student's water use practices: 1) each individual's own environmental and water conservation values and beliefs, 2) his/her perception of cohorts' values and beliefs and 3) the cohorts' actual values and beliefs. This research could be used as a way of assessing student knowledge, find the gaps, and fill those gaps to help create better-informed future leaders.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
poster session: 8:00 AM

Katrina Parks & Dawn Datte
LSD!!!

Have you ever wondered about psychedelic drugs? This poster will focus on lysergic acid diethylamide, known more commonly as LSD – its origins, why it is used, and why it is illegal in the United States. Additionally, the pros and cons of taking this psychedelic drug will also be discussed and a recent surge in the use of LSD by those hoping to “find themselves” will also be examined. Stop by to find out more about the creation and creator of LSD, its uses, physical properties, psychological outcomes, spiritual effects, and potential risks.

Lyndee Michelle Goetz
Women of Power: The Voice of Our Political Leaders

Many people believe the struggle for women's equality has been victorious—and the need to continue the feminist movement is unnecessary. However, women today are still a social minority. Interviews were done in this study in an effort to better articulate the major concepts of gender inequality. The focus of the project is centered on issues of covert and overt discrimination and feminine consciousness. Interviewees are female political leaders/public servants including Governor Janet Napolitano, Senators Amanda Aguirre, Karen Johnson, Rebecca Rios, and Pinal County Treasurer Dolores Doolittle and County Supervisor Sandie Smith. The interviews provide original research for study in this rather esoteric population of women.

AnaEliza Alvarez
Emotional and Behavioral Disorders

This research project on Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (E/BD) in students K-12 was a very serious and important experience for my early teaching career. Working on this project for my education course introduced the process of creating a structured lesson plan along with the act of teaching. My goal was to create and implement a pedagogically sound lesson by outlining the characteristics of E/BD along with informing the class on different types of instructional strategies and teaching techniques. The knowledge I have gained by participating in this honors project will influence my career path as an educator by bringing my attention to students of emotional poverty. From my research I now know that educators can dramatically influence the direction of a child's education.



SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

poster session: 8:00 AM

Stevee Asch & Amy Buchmann

The History of Disneyland: An Insider's Perspective

Have you every wondered why Walt Disney built the most famous theme park on earth? What does Disneyland have to do with myth and folklore? These are some of the questions we will answer. As a former cast member and as an annual pass holder respectively, we will present a detailed history of the "happiest place on earth," as well as little-known facts about the beginnings of some of the most famous attractions. We will also explore the connection between Disneyland and its myth and folklore, and present our hypothesis that this connection is what draw many people to the park, year after year.

Amber Anderson

Poison Prevention: Protecting Missoula's Youth

According to the American Association of Poison Control Center's 2005 report, over 50 percent of the poisonings in the United States occur in children under the age of 5. A more proactive and preventive approach must be taken to insure the safety of the children around us. For many years the Academy of Student Pharmacists (ASP) Poison Prevention Team at the University of Montana has been going into Missoula's first-grade classrooms to educate students on the dangers of eating medicine. In order to assess the needs of our community and identify areas to increase awareness, a countywide survey was conducted so that a more effective presentation could be developed, parents' awareness could be heightened, teachers could see that parents embrace poison prevention education, and more of Missoula's first-grade students and their siblings could be protected. The poster presentation will encompass the results of the questionnaire and subsequent plans to improve poison prevention in Missoula County.

Matt Nickerson

No Showers! Week Long Adventures in the National Parks

Honors students from all over the United States came together at Bryce Canyon National Park to participate in an outstanding experiential learning program. They attended seminars and assisted rangers with research as the program offered unprecedented access to the park and its staff. Their experiences and adventures set the stage for a nation-wide project beginning Spring 2008 to take Honors students/faculty to 7 more national parks. Learn how you can be a part of this great experience.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

poster session: 8:00 AM

Sarah Cretcher

Argentina: Pico a Pico

My year in Argentina, August 2006 to July 2007, allowed me to peak as a person. Living outside the United States gave me a chance to meet and come to love generations of families that have occupied the land of Argentina for centuries. During the struggle to grasp a new language, new friends and family, and a new way of life, I discovered, within myself, the person I want to be. My poster presentation represents a variety of things I learned from living in and becoming a part of the Argentine culture. The title of my presentation means both "peak to peak" as well as slang for "mouth to mouth" which corresponds to the fact that everything I learned about Argentina was told to me. With photos of the beautiful mountain scenery I visited, and poems from native Argentine people, I illustrate this important peak in my life.

Lisa Michelle Briggs

The Effect of Employment Assistance Programs on Parolee Recidivism

A recidivism rate of over 50% in the 1990's led California to institute a comprehensive program aimed at preventing recidivism amongst California's parolees. Program elements included job training and employment assistance, drug rehabilitation, basic skill development (reading and math) and housing assistance. A close examination of statistical information from the program indicates that programs that emphasize employment training and assistance to parolees seem to produce the best results. This indication seems to back up the claims of sociologists and criminologists who have concluded that having a job can positively affect the chances that a particular parolee will not re-offend.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
poster session: 8:00 AM

Allen Shepard

Revealing the Factors Affecting a Medical Student's Choice of Speciality

Medical students must face the important task of selecting a specialty that will determine their future career in medicine. The project centers on gathering results from published research regarding the various influences which affect this decision; from these studies, the overall patterns and significance of factors can be put into perspective. At present, there are very few articles or publications which attempt to synthesize published research. My aim is to systematize the results from past studies by way of synthesis to gain a higher perspective to what is happening throughout a student's journey towards specialty selection. The gathered data consists of conclusions from previous studies. These conclusions could be made known to medical students in hope that they would be aware of the factors which may be influencing them as they select a specialty. Better information could lead to better decisions and more fulfilling careers.

Amy Buchmann & Stevee Asch

Myth as Sacred Speech

When most people think of myth, they think of a tall tale, or a made-up story. But is this a misconception? The word "myth" comes from the Greek "Mu Thos" which actually means "sacred speck". We will discuss the different elements of a myth and present a hypothesis that these stories may be the basis for cultural realities. We will also present an examination of a few creation myths from different cultures across the globe, namely Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. We will also touch on the book of Genesis and the mythic elements it contains.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
poster session: 8:00 AM

Theresa N. Williams

Identity and Madness: Defining Insanity in the South, 1790-1860*

In 1839, Amos Stayton approached the Sussex County, Delaware court petitioning to have a slaveholder named Nathaniel Pointer, who had been deaf and dumb since birth according to Stayton, declared legally insane. To verify the truthfulness of Stayton's claim, the Sussex County Court subpoenaed witnesses, read affidavits, deliberated and ultimately approved the petition, naming Charles Argoe as Pointer's trustee. Nine years later, however, Nathaniel Pointer approached the same county court petitioning to have his rights to control his property reinstated claiming to be of sound mind. His petition was also granted. In this work, I am focusing on how raced, classed and gendered personal and public identities intersect with the cultural and legal definitions of insanity.

Tim Deisler

The Scoop on Igloos

We've seen them in cartoons. We've tried to make one when it snowed. But did you know that almost no one in Alaska lives in an igloo today except for maybe a recluse of two. But that doesn't mean it is a dying art. Many Alaskans who live in small towns learn at school to construct igloos in case of extreme emergencies. Stop by and take a look at the history of, and how to build, and how to use, an igloo.



SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
session eight: 10:00 AM

Judy Elsley & Ashley Remkes—Fremont

An Honors Book Club

The Honors Program Book Club was a \$1,000 experiment designed to create greater community among Weber State University Honors students. In September 2007, we gave each student taking an Honors class a free copy the Book Club choice—*Freedom Writers' Diary* this year—and invited the teacher, who was also given the book, to incorporate it into their courses. Towards the end of the semester in November, we invited the 100 or so students and faculty to a lunch discussion of the book. This presentation will examine what worked, what didn't, and what we'll change for next year's Honors Book Club.

Joy Buchanan & Sasha Anderson—Fremont

Fall Ball: The Benefits of Hosting Social Events for an Honors Program

Students in the Honors Program at Chapman University hosted their first Fall Ball this year and it was a smashing success. The success of the Fall Ball, however, extended further than that night of fun. The students have found that social events are essential to building a sense of community and, in turn, have a direct effect on their academic life. Honors classes at Chapman are discussion-based, and they work because students feel safe saying what they really feel and think. Because they interact socially, they are more comfortable with discussions in an academic setting. Come hear how students put together Fall Ball and other activities that strengthen their academic community. Some of their ideas may be just right for your university.

Mitzi Cowell—Aspen

Felony Disenfranchisement: A Crisis in Democratic Potential

An estimated 5.4 million Americans have lost their right to vote due to felony convictions. In a nation whose very identity is defined by its democratic foundations, this loss of a fundamental political right by members of our most politically vulnerable populations is an issue that must come to light if we are to retain that identity. This presentation of my Honors thesis research will familiarize the audience with the issue itself and its democratic implications. Most pertinently to the theme of this conference – that of the effort to “reach our peak” – I take as an essential part of my definition of democracy the ability to “affect the boundaries of the field of the possible,” from Clarissa Hayward’s *De-Facing Power*, and draw on the spirit of the “deliberative” democratic theorists who emphasize the potential of democratic participation to transform its practitioners.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
session eight: 10:00 AM

John Faubion—Walnut

Rewriting the History of Cowboy High Style

Attendees of this conference may bear witness to the rewriting of a portion of American Western art history. Cody, Wyoming is considered the birthplace of a style of art known as Cowboy High Style in American Western art history. Furniture designer Thomas Molesworth is credited with being the catalyst of this style, but presenter John Faubion examines why it may be more accurate to give this distinction to American sculptor Lawrence Tenney Stevens (1896-1972). Recently discovered material in the Stevens archives may show that by the time Molesworth settled in Cody in 1931, Stevens had already sown the seeds there for the emergence of the new style.

Lisa Holthausen, Jessica Snavlin, Brandon Pearce, Steve Eggleston & Kristofer Adam Speirs—Agassiz

Panel Presentation: *The Epic Tradition: from Gilgamesh to the Kalevala*

Panel Presenters participated in the Honors seminar HON 3901: The Epic Tradition, Fall semester 2007. The course focused on the development and characteristics of the epic genre. The epics discussed ranged across space and time, from the Near Eastern 3rd millennium BCE *Gilgamesh* to the 19th century CE publication of the Finnish *Kalevala*. During the semester students composed their own epics and researched a related topic that was of particular interest to them.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
session eight: 10:00 AM

Alaa Milbes—Rees

Prison Inmate Complex and How it Relates to Social Conflict Rtheory as a Means of Inmate Exploitation

For years now, California and other states in this country have built and expanded prisons. At one time prisons were believed to be places where drug offenders for example can improve their lives. By the late 80's however only 20% of the governments drug spending went towards treatment of criminals. The essay will focus on two issues, firstly, the idea that the prison industrial complex was formed to benefit companies with the cheap labor providing inmates as slave laborers. The second is that the prison industrial complex is a race-based business targeting minorities. The social conflict theory was chosen to further explain the issue of prisons, corporations, and inmates being affected by this.

Stacey Overholt—Rees

Chronic Homelessness

Chronic homelessness is a rampant problem across the United States. Accounting for ten percent of the homeless population, chronically homeless people are those who are homeless for more than one year at a time. As a result, they place a large strain on already insufficient State and Federal programs, cost taxpayers millions of dollars annually, and require long-term assistance. Non-profit organizations that take a housing-first approach would be a much more economical solution to the problem of chronic homelessness because they would provide permanent housing, physical and mental care, and vocational training to those in need, thus paving the way for a permanent exit from the streets. I will be discussing the situation of the chronically homeless population in the United States and alternative methods for helping the people leave the streets.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008
session eight: 10:00 AM

Funmilayo Akinmulero, Teresa Martel & Megan Burks—Doyle

Building Community Beyond the Classroom: Advancing Multiculturalism Through Honors

This presentation will focus on the University's role in furthering the multicultural principles that bridge liberty and equality. We will analyze specific initiatives on our campus, including the University Honors Program, and look through a wider lens at higher education itself. By *peaking* the interest of today's students in multicultural principles, the University can prime tomorrow's world citizens to represent and unify diverse groups as a community.

Annette Wilson—Humphreys

Rape: Myths vs. Realities

My goal for this project is to educate our students concerning how myths about rape affect all of us. These myths influence almost all aspects of how rape victims are treated, from the police officer to the hospital staff right on through to the attorney and the juries in the courtroom. I want to make students aware of the myths that are prevalent and how they are false, in order to start changing opinions about rape myths.

Elizabeth Berthold—Humphreys

Discursive Representations of "Security" on the US-Mexico Border: A Study in Race and Citizenship

Illegal immigration has recently risen to prominence as a political issue. Despite the contentious nature of immigration, there is one area from which debate is conspicuously absent: border security. While comprehensive reform remains elusive, border security measures pass by comfortable margins. Legislators from both parties declare that a "secure border" is a precursor to immigration reform. This paper analyzes both the rhetorical climate which justifies border security proposals and the effects of those proposals. The paper analyzes discursive artifacts to deconstruct the forces behind border security measures and address their place in a "boundary producing performance." It considers the deployment of National Guard troops, the construction of fencing, and the creation of citizen groups like the Minutemen. The paper concludes that as rhetoric around the border has intensified, proposals which do not lead to actual physical security but may serve to pacify an angry public become more acceptable.



SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

session nine: 11:00 AM

Jessica Linder—Aspen

Power of Perception

Circumstances outside of the individual's control often impact how a person perceives the world. Nevertheless, just as often these circumstances are overlooked and individuals are held entirely responsible for their perceptions. In *The Moor's Last Sigh*, Salman Rushdie explores this concept through two characters and how they perceive members of their family.

Sasha Solomonov—Aspen

An Analysis into the Conflict between Israel and Palestine

Jews and Palestinians have been struggling over ownership of the Holy Land of Jerusalem for centuries. The battle is based in religion, with both sides following the uncompromising doctrines of the *Torah* or the *Koran*, respectively. Each religion claims rightful property of Israel, with certain dogmas ordering violence for ownership. As such, negotiations have proven impossible and peace treaties have been ignored. Instead of abiding by the treaties, violent reactions have sparked whenever there has been an exchange of lands. No amount of war or bloodshed has proven worthy of a serious stagnation and every time the neighbors come close to a compromise a terrorist group takes it upon themselves to rekindle the candle of hatred. Because ancient religions do not evolve and logic cannot overcome faith in the Jews or Palestinians, Israel may forever be in a war torn state.

Brian Carlton & Andrew Whitaker—Walnut

Engineers and Globalization: Bridging the Gap

This presentation provides a look at the challenges and benefits of combining language and study-abroad elements with an engineering education. As pointed out by Thomas Friedman, *The World is Flat* and therefore requires an increasingly global perspective. This presentation will explore the first-hand experiences and observations of two Honors engineering students from Washington State University who studied abroad in China and Chile. Topics to be discussed include student attitudes, the relationship between language and engineering study, and societal challenges to a nontraditional engineering education. These topics will be expanded through personal stories of growth abroad. The talk will conclude with a look at future opportunities for the open-minded engineer and thoughts on how universities can encourage more cross-disciplinary study of language/culture and engineering.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

session nine: 11:00 AM

Matthew Conway—Pondersosa Boardroom

China Study Abroad 2007—Life in a Radically Changing Country

I traveled with a group of twenty students from Mesa Community College to China, taking two anthropology classes and community service projects for five weeks. The main intentions of this trip were to join in conversational English with Chinese students at multiple universities throughout China, exchanging different ideas and lifestyles with each other. We conducted surveys about each person's lifestyle and discussed important thoughts and beliefs with each other. The trip provided wonders for my life and my future as I continue to discover where I fit in the world. In the end, we saw how similar our nations are, and how fast and remarkable the Chinese people and its government are changing. A slideshow of our experiences will more than likely be included with the presentation.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

session nine: 11:00 AM

Siobhan Stuart & Briana Bashaw—Fremont

Exploring a New Frontier: The Educational Uses and Possibilities of Virtual Realities

This project discusses the educational uses and possibilities of utilizing a virtual environment such as Second Life to enhance learning and to promote cross-cultural interaction. It is important for the Honor's community to be aware of how virtual environments enhance student performance. Virtual environments represent an innovative direction in educational instruction and learning, and Honors students should be exploring this new frontier.

Katie McNey & Shauna Barrick—Agassiz

Helping Students Reach the Summit of Honors Graduation

The Honors Advisement Center at Brigham Young University is committed to motivating and encouraging Honors students as they make the climb towards graduation with University Honors. The way can be challenging, and many students fall off the trail. A recent survey of Honors Students revealed four major obstacles to reaching this pinnacle of achievement. These potential impediments relate to (1) The WHAT: An incomplete understanding of program requirements; (2) The WHY: Failure to see the benefits of participating in Honors; (3) The HOW: Lack of planning; (4) The WHO: Not enough support for, and among, individual Honors students. Our presentation will discuss the Honors Advisement Center's development of an Honors Major Academic Plan (MAP) and other resources to help meet identified needs of students as they strive for the peak performance that will enable them to scale successfully the summit of Honors graduation.



SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

session nine: 11:00 AM

Janna Sanford—Doyle

The Nature of the Mind

In *The Awakening of Faith*, one of the most important aspects of Mahayana Buddhism is the idea of "One Mind and Its Two Aspects" (31). It states that the mind is made up of two interrelated ideas, the Absolute, and the Phenomenal, which exist together to "embrace all states of existence" (31). In further defining these two aspects of the mind, the ultimate conclusion is that in order to reach enlightenment, one must follow the paradox set forth in the text; one must be both empty and nonempty, with the essence of the mind to be "free from thoughts" (37), for without this achievement, one cannot reach enlightenment. However, it is simply impossible for a person to adhere to these requirements. Through examining humankind's innate curiosity, the inability of the mind to ever be fully empty, and the impossibility of guiding a group of disciples towards that goal, it is evident that enlightenment in Mahayana Buddhism is truly unobtainable.

Felicia Vargo-Johnson—Doyle

Dyscalculia and Acalculia: Adding up the Research on Mathematics Disorders

Despite the frequency and varying degrees of difficulty adults experience with mathematical concepts, procedures, and applications, comparatively little research exists about mathematical disorders, and even less has been done to remedy those affected. What advanced research has been done leaves a great number of unanswered questions, though Broca's area of the brain (where language is processed) appears to be involved in Dyscalculia and Acalculia – two of the most frequently diagnosed math disorders. Awareness and education are the first steps needed in order to motivate researchers to explore these conditions. Numerical cognition studies should be expanded to include more investigations into questions about how we understand numbers, processes, linguistic symbols, calculations and concepts so that solutions can be developed for mathematics disorders.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

session nine: 11:00 AM

Lauren Carter—Rees

Coral, Culture, and Conservation in Zanzibar: Perspectives from a Semester Abroad

During a semester abroad in Zanzibar, off the East Coast of Tanzania, I designed and executed a survey of the coral reef community structure on Misali Island. Data on hard coral colony size, genus acropora or non-acropora, growth forms and general reef composition were taken along belt transects along the reef at three depth strata. These data were used to analyze the complexity of the reef structure, a critical factor in health, future vitality, and biodiversity. It was concluded that backbone of the community structure is currently a mixture of rocky substrate left from the mass bleaching event of 1998, but many new colonies are repopulating the reef with live coral. These live corals are structurally diverse in their growth forms, and if allowed to recover completely the reef will be able to continue supporting high biodiversity on Misali, an area with cultural and economic importance to the local people.

Troy R. Lovata—Rees

With Their Hands and Their Minds: The Peaks and Pitfalls of Teaching Honors Students via Manual Labor

This presentation explores the use of manual labor and physical activity in teaching Honors students about culture, the past, and technology. Archaeologists and scholars of material culture—including this speaker—are especially interested in ubiquitous objects and people's everyday lives. Although there is a vibrant literature about ancient artifacts and primitive technologies, tactile experiences also have significant impacts on those studying the past. Yet, Honors students—who have often make their way through verbal aptitude, reading ability, and writing skill—warrant unique approaches from those teaching via manual labor and physical activity. This presentation outlines examples of students measuring and using both authentic and replica artifacts, students manufacturing their own tools and architectural features, and creators disposing of their creations post-use.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The NAU Honors Program would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their assistance, feedback, and good will:

Dr. Karen Pugliesi, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, for her financial assistance;

Dr. John Haeger, President, Northern Arizona University, for his opening remarks and commitment to undergraduate education at NAU;

Janis Hunt, Marketing Agent for the High Country Conference Center, for her ongoing helpfulness;

Nora Donovan, Michelle Gardner and Katie Patten for their invaluable assistance in planning for the conference;

The volunteers from NAU's Honors Program, for their willingness to devote time out of their days to reach out to conference participants;

The staff at the High Country Conference Center for readying the center for its first big event; and finally,

The students, faculty members, and mentors at all of the colleges and universities represented at this conference, for their dedication to make an honors education relevant and meaningful both now and in the future.



APRIL 2008 | 35th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
WESTERN REGIONAL HONORS COUNCIL

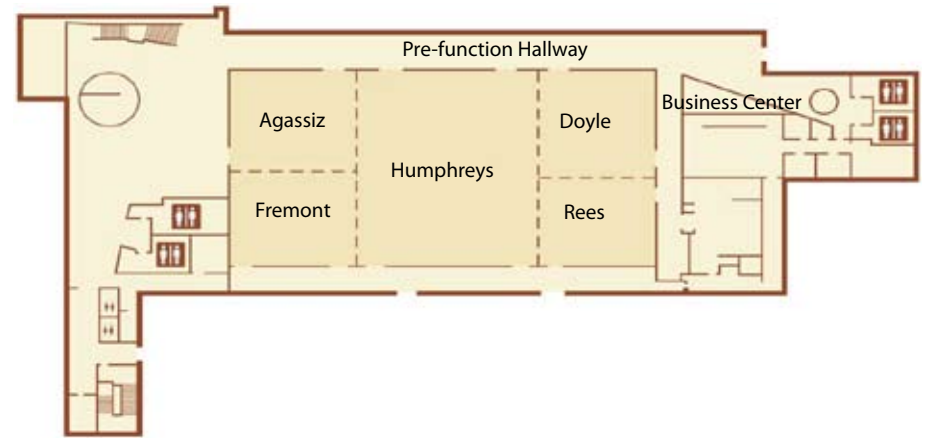


ATTENDING COLLEGES

- Arizona State University
- Arizona Western College
- Azusa Pacific University
- Boise State University
- Brigham Young University
- California State Polytechnic University
- California State University, Fullerton
- Central Arizona College
- Central Washington University
- Chaffey College
- Chandler Gilbert Community College
- Chapman University
- Cochise College
- Colorado State University, Boulder
- Eastern Washington University
- Estrella Mountain Community College
- Fullerton College
- Gateway Community College
- Golden West College
- Laramie County Community College
- Mesa Community College
- Mesa State College
- Metro State College Denver
- New Mexico State University
- Northern Arizona University
- Orange Coast College
- Paradise Valley Community College
- Sacramento City College
- San Diego State University
- San Juan College
- Scottsdale Community College
- Southern Utah University
- South Mountain Community College
- State College Denver
- University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- University of Arizona
- University of Colorado, Boulder
- University of Montana
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of New Mexico
- University of Wyoming
- Washington State University
- Weber State University
- Western State College of Colorado
- Westminster College

MAP

first floor conference rooms



second floor conference rooms

