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V A L D O S T A   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y

**NINTH ANNUAL**

**Graduate Student Research  
& Scholarship Symposium**

**APRIL 21, 2017**



**Valdosta State University's Graduate School presents  
the Ninth Annual Graduate Student Research  
and Scholarship Symposium**

**April 21, 2017**

**4:00 - 6:00 p.m. • UC Magnolia Room**

- Welcome:** Dr. James LaPlant, Assistant Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School
- Opening Remarks:** Dr. Brian Gerber, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Special Recognitions:** Dr. James LaPlant
- Enjoy the Posters!**

*Refreshments provided by the Office of University Advancement.*



## **College of the Arts**

### **Music**

#### **CHILDREN OF SACRIFICE: THE ORGIN AND INFLUENCES OF THE CASTRATI**

**Elizabeth DiGiammarino**

**Dr. Susan Eischeid, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Music**

In the early 1600s opera began to flourish in Italy. New developments ignited demands for singers who demonstrated advanced vocal techniques. Women were prohibited from the stage and from singing in church and so, the castrato was created. One boy from almost every Italian family was sacrificed. The boy would be rendered unconscious, lowered into a bath of fine oils and perfumes, and then crudely castrated. This resulted in young men whose voices never deepened during puberty. The castrati were given female roles in opera and performed higher parts in sacred music. Although thousands of castrati were created behind closed doors, few rose to fame. Because of the castrati, Italian opera spread throughout Europe and without their sacrifice, opera would not be what it is today.

## **College of Arts and Sciences**

### **Biology**

#### **ANALYSIS OF SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS OF TYPE I CD PROTEINS USING MULTIVARIATE STATISTICS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THEIR FUNCTIONAL CLASS**

**Pramir K.C.**

**Dr. Jonghoon Kang, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Biology**

Cluster of Differentiation (CD) proteins are membrane proteins found in the cell membranes of leucocytes. We used principle component analysis and k-means clustering to classify type I CD proteins as enzyme or non-enzyme. We selected 125 different protein parameters and used bioinformatics tools to extract them for all 244 type I CD proteins. Our analysis showed a cluster of type I CD proteins with enzymatic activity separated by PC2. The total Shannon entropy of clusters from k-means clustering was lower than the total Shannon entropy of clusters obtained from Clustal Omega. This signifies k-means clustering is more effective than Clustal Omega in separating enzymes and non-enzymes. Also, by plotting the probability density function, we predicted the occurrences of enzyme and non-enzyme.

## **EFFECTS OF VINE PRESENCE ON SPANISH MOSS OCCURENCE AND COVERAGE IN A SECONDARY FOREST**

**Brandi Griffin**

**Dr. Corey Anderson, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Biology**

Potential interactions among vascular epiphytes and other structurally dependent autotrophs, such as vines, have rarely been examined. The purpose of the present study was to examine whether the presence of vines indirectly affected the occurrence and coverage of an epiphyte (Spanish moss) on host trees in mixed pine-hardwood secondary forest at the Lake Louise Research Center in Lowndes Co., Georgia. Of the 348 trees sampled to date, 248 contained both Spanish moss and vines [169 (= 68%) had Spanish moss on the tree and the vine, 46 (= 19%) had Spanish moss only on the tree, and 33 (= 13%) had Spanish moss only on the vine]. Preliminary logistic and ordinal logistic regression analyses suggested that vine presence did not have a significant effect on Spanish moss occurrence, but did have a significant effect on Spanish moss coverage. Ongoing work is focused on further resolving these patterns.

### **English**

## **TEACHING TO TRANSFER: METACOGNITIVELY RESPONDING TO GENRE IN FIRST-YEAR COMPOSITION COURSES**

**Sera Gard**

**Dr. Donna Sewell, Faculty Mentor  
Department of English**

As the topics and expected outcomes for first-year composition courses grow it is becoming increasingly evident that the structuring of the course is completely arbitrary and dynamic depending on both the institution and the instructor. Therefore, it is vital that we look into what it is we ultimately want students to achieve by the end of the course: a set of writing skills that they can take with them to both the collegiate and professional levels. The transferring of knowledge and skills from one setting to another is called transfer and I plan to propose a course embedded in transfer research that requires students to think metacognitively about rhetorical situations they write in. This presentation will display the design as well as the concepts enclosed in the proposed course.

## **A STUDY OF TABOO LANGUAGE AS A SOCIAL MARKER IN MEN AND WOMEN OF VARIOUS AGE GROUPS**

**Eric Wildes**

**Dr. Li-Mei Chen, Faculty Mentor  
Department of English**

Exploring the diverse ways that age, gender, and identity affect language choices can promote a better understanding of a broad spectrum of social concerns. This study tracks the use of four types of taboo language in a men and women of various age groups. Subjects were interviewed about their relationships to perceived identity markers, the types of taboo language they used, and how and why different social contexts and their personal perceptions of the listener affected specific language choices. The results suggest that women use some types of taboo language to assimilate with other women and, to a lesser extent, men. Additionally, men perceive taboo language as a socially acceptable way to express anger or frustration. This information provides contexts for a deeper understanding of students' social motivations, which may benefit teachers working in the field of Emotional-Behavioral Disorders, ultimately facilitating the construction of more efficacious behavioral intervention plans.

### **Modern and Classical Languages**

## **UNDERSTANDING IMPLICATIONS OF OUTPUT IN TESOL: THREE MAJOR FUNCTIONS OF OUTPUT IN THE PATH OF LANGUAGE ACQUISITION**

**Reagan Bennett**

**Dr. Victoria Russell, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Modern and Classical Languages**

This study's purpose is understanding the three functions of output by examining prominent works on the hypothesis testing function, metalinguistic function, and the noticing function. By understanding the implications of output in the classroom, educators are more aware of the studies that support different pedagogical techniques and are provided sufficient background knowledge of Swain and Krashen's theories of acquisition in order to adjust classroom materials or teaching methods.

## Political Science

### **COMPROMISED JUSTICE: A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF QUASI-JUDICIAL OFFICERS IN GEORGIA'S STATE-LEVEL COURTS**

**Elizabeth Taylor**

**Dr. James T. LaPlant, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Political Science**

This study examines the behavioral and perception differences of judges and quasi-judicial officers to discern if these individuals provide equitable and fair treatment to each citizen who appears in a courtroom. From the eight hypotheses, differences in the use and satisfaction of reference materials, as well as the perceived level of autonomy and discretion in completing daily activities help to reveal any differences that might exist. Understanding these aspects can help the lower-level state judiciary system ultimately reduce both human and fiscal costs. Reductions in costs are important given the continually constrained budgets these entities face. It is critical to ensure that administering second-rate justice does not become the norm for the judicial system. This study examines only a small portion of the potential research in this area. From this study, a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of judges and quasi-judicial officers is attainable.

## College of Education and Human Services

### Adult and Career Education

### **IDENTIFYING RESEARCH-BASED PARAMETERS FOR DEVELOPING PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION OUTCOMES-BASED FUNDING MODELS**

**Richard N. Knepp**

**Dr. Reynaldo Martinez Jr., Faculty Mentor  
Department of Adult and Career Education**

The purpose and outcome of this study was to provide insight into clearly articulated parameters that might serve as a basis for the development of a generalizable outcomes-based funding model that any higher education system could use. Funding models were analyzed and telephone interviews were conducted from the ten states that were identified by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS.Org) as having fully implemented funding models for the 2010 - 2015 fiscal years. The analysis of the funding models and research participant responses from these ten states provided the parameters that might serve as a basis for the development of a generalizable outcomes-based funding model that any higher education system could use.

## **Communication Sciences and Disorders**

### **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AN EXPERIMENTAL AUDITORY PROCESSING DISORDER ASSESSMENT TASK AND PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS**

**Morgan W. Cutts**

**Dr. Matthew Carter, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

Over the past half century, there has been an increased awareness regarding Central Auditory Processing Disorders (CAPD). To date, there is still no clear consensus on how CAPD should be universally defined, diagnosed, or treated. The purpose of this study was to examine the feasibility of an experimental competing phonemes-directed ear task, and investigate the relationship between directed-ear dichotic listening tasks and phonological awareness abilities. Two directed-ear dichotic listening tasks, along with phonological awareness subtests from the PAT-2, were administered to three typically developing children; an experimental competing phonemes-directed ear task and a Competing Words-Directed Ear subtest from the SCAN-3. A correlation analysis was performed to examine associations between all subtests. Results showed that left-ear raw scores from the experimental directed right-ear task predicted the results from the PAT-2 with 100% accuracy. This task could serve as a potential predictor of phonological awareness abilities. Performance on the SCAN-3 subtest was not related to phonological awareness abilities.

### **THE EFFECTS OF PRESENTATION MODALITY AND RATE ON WORD RECALL ABILITIES IN CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS**

**Melanie M. Hyde**

**Dr. Matthew Carter, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

Modifications of presentation modality and presentation rate have the potential to impact word recall abilities in children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. The present study focused on word recall abilities in a 10 year-old male with a confirmed diagnosis of autism. A series of four-controlled word lists, each consisting of 12 words, were utilized to measure recall. The presentation of word lists were administered across four individual conditions: auditory + visual at decreased rate, auditory at increased rate, auditory + visual at increased rate, and auditory at decreased rate. A summary of the recall abilities resulted in equal word recall performance with auditory and auditory + visual trials; additionally, results indicated an improved performance when utilizing the increased presentation rate over decreased presentation rate. Consequently, the diverse needs of this population require effective and accommodating administration of simple learning tasks for the facilitation of complex learning.



## **THE INFLUENCES OF MATERNAL CAREER AND EDUCATION ON STUDENTS' DECISION TO PURSUE THE PROFESSION OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY**

**Carlee D. Kelley**

**Dr. Mary M. Gorham-Rowan, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Science and Disorders**

In the field of speech-language pathology (SLP), specific factors have a primary influence on students that will or will not choose the career. This study was proposed to determine the influence of maternal career and/or education on a student's decision to pursue a career SLP. Sixty-one VSU communication science and disorders graduate students completed a survey to assess the influence of maternal career and/or education on their decision to pursue SLP. The majority of students replied yes to a maternal career in education or SLP, and/or a maternal education of a master's degree. However, after fully analyzing the data, it was concluded that both maternal career and education have no significant influence on the students' decision to pursue a career in SLP.

## **THE EFFECT OF DEHYDRATION ON COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS IN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYERS**

**Victoria R. Lovett**

**Dr. Mary Gorham-Rowan, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

High school football season extends from August through December, while the summer training season is scheduled from May through July. The summer heat increases the risk of dehydration. Given that dehydration may affect cognition, the purpose of this study was to examine the performance of high school football players on several cognitive tasks after a day of summer practice. Using a word search test, visual-spatial task, and body mass changes. Forty-five male football players completed a word search test and a visuospatial task before and after practice. The players were weighed before and after practice to determine body mass changes. The results of the study showed that the players were dehydrated after practice as indicated by a change in body mass and performed significantly worse on the word search test. No significant effect was found for the visuospatial task.

**THE EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE MINIMAL OPPOSITIONS APPROACH TO  
ARTICULATION THERAPY COUPLED WITH FLIP THERAPY TO INCREASE  
CORRECT /r/ PRODUCTION AT THE ISOLATION, INITIAL POSITION OF  
SYLLABLES, AND IN THE INITIAL POSITION OF WORDS**

**Charles Dylan McLean**

**Dr. Matthew Carter, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

This study was designed to explore the effects of implementing the minimal oppositions approach coupled with client-centered or flip therapy, in order to increase the correct production of the /r/ sound in the syllable /rah/, alternating syllables, and in the initial position of words. Flip therapy was incorporated to facilitate the client's ability to self-monitor erroneous productions. The client was given the opportunity to flip roles and act as the clinician to score the clinician's productions. The client was required to state why each erroneous production was erroneous and what should be done to produce the sound correctly. The participant scored 0% accuracy on /r/ production in isolation, syllables, and in all position of words at baseline. After six therapy sessions in which the minimal oppositions approach and flip therapy were utilized, the client's percentage of accuracy increased to 80% or above in isolation, syllable initial, and word initial positions.

**KINESIO TAPE IN THE TREATMENT OF DYSPHAGIA**

**Katherine B. Stone**

**Katherine Walden, Melissa Carter,  
Drs. Mary Gorham-Rowan and Renee Hannibal, Faculty Mentors  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

Dysphagia is a well-known complication of anterior cervical spinal (ACF) surgery and may be present for nearly 3 years post-operatively. Traditional dysphagia treatment may include diet modification, changes in posture, and/or specific exercises to improve strength and function of the musculature involved in swallowing. One novel approach to treating dysphagia is through the application of kinesio tape. The patient was a 74-year-old male who had undergone ACF surgery approximately 1 year prior to initiation of Kinesio Tape. The results of the initial evaluation indicated mild-moderate pharyngeal dysphagia. A follow-up examination approximately 1 month later revealed reduced epiglottic inversion with persistent residue in the piriform sinuses. Approximately 4 months after the initiation of therapy, KT was introduced under FEES examination to determine its potential applicability. KT was applied to the suprahyoid area. Initial examination of the data indicated elimination of residue with pureed consistency.

## **A COMPARISON OF HEALTHCARE AND NON-HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS' PERFORMANCE ON THE SHORT TEST OF FUNCTIONAL HEALTH LITERACY IN ADULTS**

**April E. Ward**

**Dr. Ruth Renee Hannibal, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**

The health literacy of patients has become a growing concern for healthcare providers. Physicians and other professionals want to understand the health literacy of their patients in order to effectively communicate important health and medical information to them. Many studies have identified populations at risk of low health literacy, but none have investigated if a patient's career influences their health literacy. The purpose of this study was to investigate if there was a difference in the functional health literacy of healthcare professionals and non-healthcare professionals. Participants were assessed using the Short Test of Functional Health Literacy (STOFHLA). The data revealed no significant difference in the scores of healthcare professionals and non-healthcare professionals. While the relationship between STOFHLA scores and age/education of the participant were consistent with previous studies, the data from this investigation did not support the hypothesis that healthcare professionals would perform better than non-healthcare professionals on the STOFHLA.

### **Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

## **CHRISTIAN WOMEN IN COLLEGE: AN ANALYSIS OF FAITH, SPIRITUAL, AND RELIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT THEORIES THROUGH STUDENT STORIES**

**Caroline C. Davis and Katie E. Rowland**

**Dr. Jamie Workman, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

The development of spirituality, religion, and faith in regards to students has sparked a discussion among higher education professionals for many years. The continuous change of institutional climates and student populations leads to many branches of faith development under which students can be compared. Regardless of the faith-based theory used to assess students, there are undeniable opportunities for higher education and student affairs professionals to challenge themselves and learn more. This study of student stories explores the relationship between six different college-attending women and their connection to faith and spirituality. The assessment of three theories related the topic provides this study with depth on the student stories discussed. Those theories include Parks' Theory of Faith Development, Astin, Astin, and Lindholm's Spiritual and Religious Measures, and Josselson's Theory of Women's Development.

## **ENGAGING AND RETAINING STUDENTS: A PILOT PROJECT DEVELOPING FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS THROUGH THE INTEGRATION OF MENTORSHIP, SOCIAL RECREATION, AND ACADEMICS**

**Megan Pugh, Mackenzie Sirmans, and Hannah Hopson**

**Drs. Karla Hull and Jamie Workman, Faculty Mentors  
Department of Curriculum, Leadership, and Technology**

Student engagement in social and academic activities during their first year at college has been shown to increase the likelihood of academic success and graduation. A pilot study was conducted in Fall 2016 to identify the types of supports and activities that would increase the engagement and persistence of first year students at the university. A mentorship program, an academic support program, and a social/recreational program were developed and implemented by graduate students for 39 first year students participating in an emerging leaders freshman learning community. Throughout the semester, the freshmen participated in surveys, reflections, and discussions about the impact of the programs on their success and satisfaction with their first semester at the university. The results indicated that training in how to conduct small study groups, use of social media to remind students about upcoming events, and mentorship contributed to a successful first semester for the freshmen.

### **Early Childhood and Special Education**

## **THE EFFECTS OF DISTRIBUTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUSIC AND MOVEMENT ON INAPPROPRIATE SITTING IN THE CLASSROOM**

**Candace Coggins**

**Kelly Heckaman, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Early Childhood and Special Education**

The purpose of this study was to examine the effect of incorporating distribution of opportunities for music and movement in the classroom on the inappropriate sitting behaviors of a pre-k student. The intervention included adjustment of the antecedent conditions so that the music and movement period was more effectively distributed across the morning class schedule and included a variety of activities. Positive reinforcement was provided for appropriate sitting in the form of verbal praise and provision of individual and separate (but limited) opportunities for breaks throughout the day. Lastly, withholding of the consequence that reinforced the target behavior was implemented by removing one of the individual break opportunities per occurrence of the target behavior and making it mandatory that the student completes all assigned table-work activities before there is opportunity to engage in any extra-curricular activities. Results indicated a decrease in the percentage of intervals involving inappropriate sitting.

## **Library and Information Studies**

### **YOU CAN VIEW THE TWEETS!: CONTENT ANALYSIS OF TWEETS MENTIONING WORKS IN AN INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY**

**Ashley D. Lowery**

**Dr. Linda Most, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Library and Information Science**

Academic libraries provide resources scholars can use to measure their scholarly output, including altmetrics products. Altmetrics recently emerged to accommodate the sharing and dissemination of scholarship on the social web. The scholarly community is grappling with understanding and utilizing altmetrics tracked by these products. This study uses altmetrics provided by Plum Analytics products to analyze the content of tweets mentioning works from a Digital Commons institutional repository. Plum Analytics provides quantitative (number of tweets and retweets) and qualitative (content of the tweets) data from Twitter. In this study qualitative data is collected and coded to determine the tone of the tweets (negative, neutral, or positive) and other information including the tweet's author, the intended audience, and hashtags. Results from the study will help better understand the meaning behind Twitter data and consequently guide scholars on effectively using tweets as scholarship measures.

## **Kinesiology and Physical Education**

### **DOES SOUTH GEORGIA'S TOLERANCE TOWARDS TRANSGENDER MEASURE UP TO OTHER REGIONS IN THE STATE?**

**Patricia Sumner**

**Dr. Sonya Sanderson, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education**

Tolerance of transgender people varies vastly between the five geographic regions in Georgia (Coastal Plain, Piedmont, Blue Ridge, Ridge and Valley, and Plateau). Justice for transgender people is linked to the validation of self-identity. Georgia's transgender population of 55,650 ranks fourth-highest in the country behind Hawaii, California, and New Mexico. Despite this high population density, Georgia LGBT residents are arguably some of the most vulnerable in the nation – lacking explicit protections from discrimination that are commonplace in many other states in the nation.

## **Psychology, Counseling, and Family Therapy**

### **THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE ON ATTENTION, MOTIVATION AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

**Bianca A. Barton**

**Dr. Katharine Adams, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Family Therapy**

Accessing social media is common among college students and concerns have risen regarding the impact of social media on academic success, but current research in this area is sparse and inconsistent. This survey research project was designed to determine the relationship between social media usage and overall academic performance (GPA) in undergraduate and graduate students and determine whether this relationship is moderated by regulation of time/study environment and effort regulation. Results revealed that social media usage did not significantly influence students' GPA, nor did the regulation of time/study environment or effort regulation significantly influence the relationship between social media usage and GPA. However, regulation of effort and/or time/study environment was significantly associated with higher student GPAs.

### **WHO PAYS FOR WHAT: A QUALITATIVE STUDY OF RECENTLY MARRIED COUPLES' EXPERIENCES WITH FINANCES**

**Kristen Carney, Courtney Chaney and Sam Holly**

**Dr. Samira Garcia, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Family Therapy**

When a couple gets married, each partner brings their own unique ideas and experiences with money to the marriage. Finances can have various meanings for each person in a relationship. As couples settle into their marriage, they may be navigating many different aspects of their relationship and finances are no exception. Through a qualitative study and in-depth interviews with three recently married couples we found that money talk may not be as taboo as it once was. Participants reported having conversations about their values and expectations for their family. Recently married couples' conversations include discussions about different money management systems, financial decision making, financial ownership, financial contribution, and financial responsibility. Couples also indicated that they are having conversations about their family's financial future.

## **HOW ARE PERCEPTIONS OF INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS CREATED AND REIFIED BY SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Abriel Blake Farrow, Redonno Carmon, Eveny Griffin, Beverley Joseph**

**Dr. Jennifer Lambert-Shute, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Family Therapy**

Social media has a substantial amount of influence on several aspects of life. This qualitative research focuses on how social media creates and reifies perceptions of intimate relationships. Our goal is to explore the relational connection between social media and intimate relationships by conducting interviews with individuals who have been in an intimate relationship, while engaging in social media activities. We found several themes to help better understand our research questions: "Past Experience, Trust, Strategies to Maintain Relationships and Keeping up with the Joneses."

## **BRIEF MEASURE OF EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION SCALE: PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION**

**Samantha D. Hartman**

**Dr. David Wasieleski, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Family Therapy**

Emotional dysregulation is an integral underlying component of many psychiatric disorders that influences symptom presentation and an individual's overall ability to cope with emotional situations. Given the emphasis on emotional dysregulation, there is need for a brief scale to sufficiently measure symptoms. The proposed scale is efficient and may quickly assess symptoms in clinical practice and research. The present study used an exploratory factor analysis to determine the underlying structure of the items and explore initial psychometric properties of a new measure, the Brief Measure of Emotional Dysregulation Scale (BMEDS). Results indicate that the proposed scale measures a unidimensional construct with high internal consistency and validity. Preliminary findings suggest that the proposed multidimensional model was not supported and may be because the various components are highly interrelated. The results have comparable validity to other scales, and at 15 items, is significantly shorter.

**Middle, Secondary, Reading and Deaf Education****EFFECTS OF ENHANCED ALPHABET KNOWLEDGE STRATEGY ON ALPHABET KNOWLEDGE ACHIEVEMENT FOR PRE-K STUDENTS****Susan B. Esra****Dr. Ellice Martin, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading, and Deaf Education**

The purpose of this study was to determine whether use of the Enhanced Alphabet Knowledge strategy would improve achievement, attitudes, and engagement of 20 pre-k students in an inclusive classroom. The study examined student growth during a 4-week period of traditional alphabet instruction focused around name charts and a 4-week period of instruction using the Enhanced Alphabet Knowledge strategy. Achievement data were collected using an alphabet knowledge pretest and posttest, attitudinal data were gathered using a survey, engagement data were collected using a checklist, and fieldnotes were collected. Students showed significantly greater gains in alphabet knowledge achievement during the intervention period. Gains in letter naming were more significant than in letter sound production. No change was noted in student attitudes. Students showed significantly higher levels of engagement during the intervention period than during traditional instruction. The intervention was found to have a significant impact on achievement and engagement.

**EFFECTS OF USING INCREMENTAL REHEARSAL WITH PERCENTAGES OF 60/40 OR 85/15 KNOWN AND UNKNOWN FACTS ON MATHEMATICS FLUENCY ACHIEVEMENT FOR THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS****Catrina L. White****Dr. Ellice Martin, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Middle, Secondary, Reading and Deaf Education**

The purpose of this study was to determine whether using incremental rehearsal with a ratio of 60% known and 40% unknown or a ratio 85% known and 15% unknown mathematics multiplication facts would produce higher gains in achievement, improved attitudes toward practice, and increased student engagement for third-grade students. Academic achievement was measured by pretest and posttest for each ratio group and gains were compared. Both groups made significant gains in achievement; however, the mean differences were not statistically significant ( $t(10) = .88, p = .20$ ). Of the two groups, the 60/40 Group had a medium effect on achievement ( $d = 0.51$ ). Student attitude was measured using a Likert-survey and results showed improved attitude using the 60/40 ratio of known and unknown facts. Student engagement was measured using a Behavioral Checklist and engagement was higher for the 85/15 Group in the areas of focused practice and completed practice sessions.



**Social Work****EFFECTIVENESS OF VISION BOARD INTERVENTION ON  
PROBLEMATIC BEHAVIOR AT A SCHOOL SYSTEM****Brandi Abbott****Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

The purpose of this study is to decrease and manage problematic behavior in a single subject adolescent who is having behavioral issues at the group home where they reside. This Single Subject Research Design (SSRD) is designed to decrease problematic behavior, teach clients how to think about and weigh possible consequences of problematic behavior, and to help the client to establish incentives for maintaining appropriate, non-problematic behavior. This Single Subject Research Design, implements an intervention that uses a form of art therapy to create a vision board, following the format of an A (pre-intervention) B (intervention) research design. The operational measures for this study included a weekly self-report of how many times the client felt they had problematic behavior, and a weekly report from the house staff, highlighting how many times that week the client exhibited problematic behavior. In conclusion of this study, I have found that using Vision Board Intervention was effective in the reduction of my client's problematic behavior.

**A MENTAL HEALTH AND GUN CONTROL: A FOUR STATE POLICY  
COMPARATIVE APPROACH TO GUN ACCESSIBILITY****Stacy Benbrooks****Dr. Phillip Dybicz, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

Some of the States' current policies on gun control have gaps that allow many individuals with serious mental health disorders the ability to possess weapons that are often used to commit gun violence. Mental Health and Gun Control: A Four State Policy Comparative Approach to Gun Accessibility takes a social justice look at four states: Georgia, Texas, Arizona, and Idaho and their gun control and mental health policy. These four states take on different stances in determining those with mental health and their ability to possess weapons. This postmodern comparative analysis also examines the States' duty to warn to determine if these states are being proactive in protecting their citizens from those with serious mental health disorders who could be a danger to themselves or others while at the same time respecting the rights of individuals with mental illness.

## **RISK, RESILIENCE, AND PRACTICE CONSIDERATIONS IN SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTHCARE: THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN SETTINGS**

**Hannah Davidson**

**Dr. Michael Sanger, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

Sexuality and gender identity are vital aspects of holistic wellness in human beings. However, they are often significantly impacted when they differ from dominant cultural beliefs and social norms. This research examines the intersectional challenges that sexual and gender minorities experience in the South. Employing a combination of existing literature and community stakeholder interviews, this research explores the unique needs and strengths of the LGBTQIA+ population in Southern settings. While this region is often characterized by a general lack of resources, the lack of adequate professional resources competent with LGBTQIA+ issues disproportionately affects this population, as many of these individuals already lack appropriate family and community support due to social harassment, rejection, stigma, misinformation, and fear. The policy and practice implications of the research findings are discussed, including strategies to eliminate cultural barriers through positive visibility and reframing discourse on the needs, benefits, and experiences of the LGBTQIA+ population.

## **THE IMPACT OF CASE MANAGEMENT AND THERAPY ON EMERGENCY SHELTER DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS**

**Brandy Dykes**

**Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

The purpose of this study single subject research design (AB) is to determine the efficacy of case management and therapeutic services with a 48-year-old Hispanic female who is residing at the local domestic violence emergency shelter. This study sought to determine whether case management and therapeutic services would result in a decrease in self-reported depressive and anxiety symptoms. This study employed two operationalized measures, including the Beck's Depression Inventory and the Beck's Anxiety Inventory. Both are self-reported inventories and widely utilized by mental health care professionals to gauge the effectiveness of treatment interventions. The outcome of this study shows a decrease in the client's report of symptoms, resulting in lower scoring on both inventories. The findings may be useful in effective policy development for emergency shelters and the collection of grants and funding for needed services.

**EFFECTIVENESS OF A TOKEN ECONOMY FOR DECREASING DISRUPTIVE  
BEHAVIORS AND SYMPTOMS OF ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY  
DISORDER (ADHD) AND ANXIETY IN A CHILD**

**Jasmine Gilmore**

**Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Member  
Department of Social Work**

The purpose of this study is to decrease disruptive behavior and anxiety in a child diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). This Single Subject Research Designs (SSRD) is designed to decrease the number of disruptive behaviors and the level of anxiety at home and in school experienced by my client at Lanier County Department of Family and Child Services (DFCS). An A (pre-intervention) and B (intervention) research design was used for this SSRD. This study uses a Token Economy to effectively decrease symptoms of ADHD based on the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and emphasizes the use of positive reinforcement to target behavior change. The operational measures for this study included behavior reports from his teacher and grandmother, client self-report on his behavior and anxiety in school. The results of this SSRD showed that using a token economy was effective and has helped change some of the client's resistant behavior.

**REDUCING DEPRESSION AND HYPERSOMNIA IN  
A HOSPICE PATIENT'S PRIMARY CAREGIVER**

**Frank E. Hines**

**Drs. Mizanur Miah and Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentors  
Department of Social Work**

The purpose of this single-subject research is to study the effectiveness of Solution Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) in reducing depression and excessive sleeping (hypersomnia) in a hospice patient's primary caregiver. The goal of this study is to change perceptions of inability to cope and to restore confidence in problem solving. The research design used was A-B and operational measures included change in self-reported symptoms of depression and hypersomnia. Outcomes show a reduction in level of depression from mid-range severely depressed to moderately depressed, and reduction in excessive sleeping from an average of 13.67 hours to a low of 8 hours per week. The results of this study indicate findings that may help reduce depression and excessive sleeping in the primary caregivers of hospice patients.

## **VETERAN HOMELESSNESS: A COMPARATIVE POLICY ANALYSIS**

**Sandra H. Lowe**

**Dr. Phillip Dybicz, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

Utilizing a social justice framework, a comparative analysis is employed to determine which social justice values and philosophies best address the social problem of veteran homelessness. The first part of the comparison explores the United States' historical approach to veterans living in homelessness while incorporating the relevant legislation, policies, and social mores of the period. This is followed by an international comparison examining utilizing the policies of Australia, the United Kingdom and Italy in addressing homelessness among veterans. It was found that the United States' current value set guiding policy of expressed need with formal equality using an oligarchical method of distribution is proving to be the most effective in addressing this social problem and thus can serve as a model for other countries.

## **EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL SKILLS TRAINING ON DECREASING AGGRESSIVE OUTBURSTS AND SUICIDAL IDEATIONS IN A FIFTH GRADE CLIENT**

**Jorden L. Milne**

**Dr. Hanae Kanno, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

The purpose of this study is to examine the effectiveness of Social Skills Training on aggressive outburst and suicidal ideations in a fifth grade client at Lanier County Elementary School. This Single Subject Research Design (SSRD) focused on facilitating healthier coping mechanisms for the client when he encounters upsetting stimuli. This study uses AB design with Social Skills Training, focusing on his improving coping mechanisms and managing aggression. The operational measures for this student included frequency of suicidal ideations during sessions with a social work intern and frequency of aggressive outbursts between the sessions. The outcome of this study shows a decrease in suicidal ideations and aggressive outbursts. The findings may be useful in addressing suicidal ideations and aggressive outbursts in children.

## RELATIVE CARE ASSISTANCE FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

**Samantha V. Whisler**

**Dr. Phillip Dybicz, Faculty Mentor  
Department of Social Work**

Utilizing a comparative analysis, social justice frameworks were analyzed and compared to determine which framework best addresses the issue of relative care assistance for children in the State's custody. A historical approach further explores the United State's present and past legislation and policies in regards to assistance for relative caretakers. An international comparison further examines the current policies and legislation utilized in the United Kingdom: England, Canada, and Australia. The Australian's current value set guiding policy of need with presumptive equality using a liberalistic method of distribution is proving to be the best social justice framework in addressing this social issue, with 46.7% of foster children placed in relative homes. Thus, this social justice framework can and should be used as a model for other countries in addressing the need for children to remain with relatives.





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