Scholars Day

PROGRAM
&
ABSTRACTS

Wesley College
Dover, Delaware

* April 22, 2021 *
About Scholars Day at Wesley College

Scholars Day is a signature annual event at Wesley College in Dover Delaware during which students present their research works and other creative activities from all disciplines to the entire campus community. Past attendees included friends, and family, as well as faculty, fellow students, staff, industry leaders, members of government, and grant agencies. The first Scholars Day took place on April 11, 2007. Following the approval of the then Dean of Academic Affairs (Dr. Paul DeGategno), the Faculty Scholars Day Task Force was formed. It included were Dr. Jessica James, Dr. Karen Panunto and Dr. H. Earl Roberts, and was co-chaired by Dr. Bruce Allison and Dr. Jeffrey Gibson (then a new faculty member). The first Scholars Day began with an opening address at exactly 1:00 pm on that day by the then President of Wesley College, Dr. Scott D. Miller. Thirty-five students mentored by sixteen faculty members made both oral and poster presentations on that occasion.

Subsequent events included musical performances, poetry readings, and art displays. Around the year 2010, Scholars Day was approved by the full faculty as a standing faculty committee whose members were no longer appointed but elected by the entire faculty.

Over the years and with the help of grant support from various grant efforts led by Dr. Malcolm D’Souza, and under the leadership of the committee Scholars Day has blossomed into a magnificent event, celebrating undergraduate research. Various initiatives for Scholars Day were made possible by the resources provided by the grant money such as guest speakers. The introduction of Scholars Day T-shirts was a big milestone in the life of Scholars. It served both as incentive (to the students, faculty mentors, moderators, etc.) and advertisement of Scholars Day to the entire community. As the Scholars Day festivities continued to grow, so did the participation and support from the surrounding community. Prior to the onset of COVID-19 Scholars Day was a venue to disseminate research findings of students from other colleges and organizations such as Delaware Technical College, Rutgers University, and Christiana Care Health Systems.

Furthermore, Scholars Day would not be a success without the countless volunteers of students, faculty and staff that step up to help on Scholars Day. Students help with the set up and registration, while faculty serve as moderators, assessors and most importantly, mentors. But most importantly, Scholars Day would not be a success without the dedication and countless sacrifices made by the members of the Scholars Day Committee that plan and put together the Scholars Day celebration each year. They solicit and review applications and often go extra miles to organize a befitting Scholars Day event. For the Scholars Days of the following years, the Scholars Day Committee has been chaired by the following people: 2007 (Dr. Jeffrey Gibson & Dr. Bruce Allison), 2008 (Dr. Jeffrey Gibson), 2009 & 2010 (Dr. Jack Barnhardt), 2011 & 2012 (Dr. Frank Fiedler), 2013 (Dr. Alban Urbanas), 2014 (Dr. Valerie Perez & Prof. Elizabeth Marchioni), 2015 (Dr. Kraiwinee “Nok” Bunyaratavej & Dr. Derald Wentzien), 2016 (Dr. Brantley Craig), and 2017 & 2018 (Dr. Agashi Nwogbaga), 2019 (Professor Darla Davidson) and 2020 & 2021 (Dr. Kathleen Curran). All the Scholars Day Committee members for all these years are listed in the special “Thank You” section towards the end of this program booklet. Special thanks are due to Robert E. Clark II (President of Wesley College), Dr. Alban Urbanus (Acting Provost/VPAA), Dr. Malcolm D’Souza (Professor of Chemistry and Dean of Sponsored Research) and Ms. Christine McDermott (Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs & Director of Student Success & Retention) for their unwavering support of the Scholars Day.

Finally, although Wesley College is a small liberal arts college, over one hundred students from various disciplines have been making presentations at Scholars Days each year in recent years. It is noteworthy that a number of the undergraduate research activities are sponsored (in part) with grants from State of Delaware, the NIH-NIGMS-INBRE, the NSF-EPSCoR, the Project WICCED, and the NSF S-STEM programs. Funding for Scholars Day was also provided by the Wesley College SGA.
Schedule of Events

Welcome & Opening Remarks
12:45 – 1:15 p.m.

Robert E. Clark II
President of Wesley College

Dr. Jeff Gibson, PhD.
Former Provost, and Chair, First Scholars Day Committee

Scholars Day: A Retrospective

Session I
1:30-2:10 p.m.
Oral Presentations
Poster Presentations

Session II
2:20-3:00 p.m.
Art Exhibit
Oral Presentations
Poster Presentations

Session III
3:10-3:50 p.m.
Oral Presentations
Poster Presentations

Award Ceremony (Outdoor Amphitheater)
4:00-5:00 p.m.

Remarks from Dr. Curran
Professor of Biology and Chair of Scholars Day Committee

Departmental Awards
Dr. Alban Urbanas and Department Chairs

Oral Presentations in
Cannon Hall 7, College Center 206

Poster Presentations in Cannon 110 and 213

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Scholars Day 2021 Committee

Rachael Crowe  
Mary Jenson  
Soeun You  
Kathleen Curran  
Katherine King

Session I: Oral Presentations
1:30-2:10 p.m.

Panel 1: Cannon Hall 7
Moderator: Paul Olsen

*The Endangered Rusty Patch Bumblebee and the Importance of Pollinators*
  
  Kasey Pooler  
  Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Curran

*Small Liberal Arts College Students and Eating Habits: No Impact on Student's BMI*
  
  Mikaela Miesbauer  
  Mentors: Drs. Yu Tian and Kathleen Curran

Panel 2: College Center 206
Moderator: Brantley Craig

*The Efficacy of Prison Labor in the United States and Other Alternative Methods of Rehabilitation*
  
  Hope Aiken  
  Mentor: Dr. Elizabeth Marchioni

Session I: Poster Presentations
1:30-2:10 p.m

Panel 1: Cannon Hall 213
Moderator: Stephanie Stotts

*Analysis & Modeling of Covid-19 in Delaware: Who is Catching and Spreading Covid More but Dying Less?*
  
  Joshua Windsor and Julianna Neel  
  Mentor: Dr. Agashi Nwogbaga

*An Elevation Comparison of Eastern Red Cedar (Juniperus virginiana) at the St. Jones Reserve, Dover, DE*
  
  Sydney Hall  
  Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

*Occupancy of Whitetail Deer in Relation to Moon Phases in New Castle County, Delaware*
  
  Neil Keller  
  Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

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Tree Rings and Recruitment Timing in a Retreating Coastal Forest, Monie Bay, Maryland
Anthony Baker
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

Rising Sea-Level Drives Inland Migration of the Salt Marsh-Forest Boundary.
Lyndsey Koyanagi
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

Spatial Analysis of the Relationship Between Oral Cancer Mortality and Income of Residents in Delaware Counties
Maryssa Roberts, Kassandra Dieter and Victor Cahoon
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

GIS: Identifying the Differences in Species Occupancy in Relation to Pandemic Changes in Human Activity
Cassandra Miller
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

Panel 2: Cannon Hall 110
Moderator: Katherine King

COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women
Keshia Crowley, Ashli Cahoon, Alexa Douglas, Kyle Reason, and Cassandra Ferrell
Mentor: Dr. Rachael Crowe

Benefits of Kangaroo Care on Premature Infants
Keshia Crowley
Mentor: Dr. Rachael Crowe

Faye G. Abdellah: A Pioneer in Holistic Nursing
Ariel Mason, Shakeia Kellam, and Adrian Dixon
Mentor: Professor Rachael Crowe

Lung Cancer
Deonika White
Mentor Dr. Rebecca Benson

Nurse Theorist: Dorothea Orem
Ny'Asia Yates, Duane Armstrong, Taylor Benton, and Chantelle Rhoades
Mentor: Professor Darla Davidson

Madeleine Leininger
Chloe McBride, Marcus Green, Eva Serwinski and Markia Iplenski
Mentor: Professor Darla Davidson
Session II: Art Exhibit
College Center 206
2:20-3:00

Collaboration, Connection, and Community Engagement Through Art:
A Partnership Between Wesley College and the John S. Charlton School

Students in the Department of Psychology and the John S. Charlton School
Mentor: Dr. Albee Mendoza

Session II: Oral Presentations
2:20 – 3:00 p.m.

Panel 1: Cannon Hall 7
Moderator: Gwen Pursell

Health Fitness Empowerment of College Students Especially During Covid – A Statistical Analysis
Caitlyn Bauer & Kayla Parham
Mentor: Dr. Agashi Nwogbaga

Romantic Relationships in Young Adulthood: The Impact of Single Parenting and Attachment on Perceptions of Trust, Intimacy, and Love
Ameerah Cannon
Mentor: Dr. Gwen Pursell

Panel 2: College Center 206
Moderator: Albee Mendoza

Student Engagement, Parental Expectations, and Parental Criticism: Research, Reporting, and Reflection
Samantha Conti
Mentor: Dr. Albee Mendoza

Medical Professionals and Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities: Who is Abusing Who?
Sadie Rodgers
Mentor: Dr. Albee Mendoza

Session II: Poster Presentations
2:20 – 3:00 p.m.

Panel 1: Cannon Hall 213
Moderator: Erin Perchiniak

CD81 Regulation of Cell Surface Proteome and its Effect on Chemosensitivity
Skyler Brand
Mentor: Dr. Sonali Barwe
Observed Sea Level Rise in the St. Jones River
Neil Keller
Mentor: Dr William Kroen

Determining if the Elongation of the Growing Season has an Effect on Algal Blooms
Cassandra Miller
Mentor: Dr. William Kroen

Assessing the Outcomes of a CURE Incorporated into Cell Biology at Wesley College
Kassandra Dieter
Mentor: Dr. Erin Perchiniak

Impact of Carbon Length on War Gasses
Victoir Cahoon
Mentor: Dr. Malcolm D'Souza

Using an Institutional Survey to Measure the Impact of COVID-19 on Student Success
Eryn Cahoon
Mentor: Amy Kellen

Panel 2: Cannon Hall 110
Moderator: Marjorie Ramsey

Language Barriers and its Effect on Health Care Disparities
Nahlah Alsogaih and Cindy Guevara
Mentor: Dr. Robert Contino

Hybrid Learning Effect on Student Satisfaction for Wesley College
Teaghen Vogelsang, Lauren Kesecker, Ashley Girard, and Megan Jerome
Mentor: Dawn Nielsen, OTD, OTR/L

OTs’ Perspectives on Telehealth in School-based Settings
Atavia Hammond, Lauren Ebling, Russita Buchanan, and Jackie Pierson
Mentor: Dawn Nielsen OTD, OTR/

Mental Health Resources for Caregivers and Their School Aged Children
Lauren Esser, Jenna Lipinski, Danielle DeFeo, Paige Grosso and Jessica Felton
Mentor: Dr. Amanda Wiles

The Effectiveness of the Modalities of Ultrasound, Electrical Stimulation, and Thermotherapy on the Treatment of Upper Extremity Disorders/Disabilities
Dana Mowbray, Michael Nelson, Sawyer Berrie, and Joseph Gundel
Mentor: Dr. Amanda Wiles

What is the Perceived Effectiveness of Neurocognitive Assessments and Functional Assessments Used via Telehealth Among Occupational Therapists?
Alexis Shallcross, Frank D’Alessandro, Christian Fernandez and Jonathan Shellem
Mentor: Dr. Amanda Wiles
Session III: Oral Presentations
3:10 - 3:50 p.m.

Panel 1: College Center 206
Moderator: Amy Kellen

Making a Research Project Work in the Era of COVID-19
Drs. Cynthia Newton and Jessica James
Political Science

Learning to from Homebrew
Dr. Jack Barnhardt
Psychology

Session III: Poster Presentations
3:10-3:50 p.m.

Panel 1: Cannon Hall 213
Moderator: Erin Perchiniak

Gender, Race, and First-Generation Status on Student Engagement, Parental Expectations, and Parental Criticism in College Students
Samantha Conti
Dr. Albee Mendoza

Color and Learning in Honey Bees
Mercy Ariyo, Minelly Cruz, and Sabryna Nosher
Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Curran

Oviposition and the Spotted Bean Beetle
Kristen Fuhr, Jordan Spagnolo, and Justice Tilley
Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Curran

The Rare Male Effect in the Fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster
Jordan Vossberg, Madison Hazen, Destiny Suits, Kayla Williams, and Jacob Mitchell
Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Curran

Predation on Artificial Nests
Anthony Baker, Michael Brewer, Kaylee Colantano, Kayla Effen, and David Pierre
Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Curran

Color Perception in Honey Bees, (Apis melifera)
Brianna Demanczyk, Amir Holly, James Jackson, and Neil Keller
Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Curran

Impact of Sea Level Rise on the Mispillion River in Milford, Delaware
Sabryna Nosher
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts
Panel 2: Cannon Hall 110  
Moderator: William Kroen

Changes in Gender Equity According to Female College Students  
Alexis Jones  
Mentor: Dr. Barbara Abbott

Resilience, Burn Out, & Stress in the Time of COVID-19 for Providers  
Ashley Priante, Alyssa Sherr, Elena Brown, Andrea Zlinsky, and Joseph McCool  
Mentor: Professor Marcella Legath

Partnering a Virtual Experience with Health and Wellness – Partnership with Ability Boxing and Fitness  
Dominique Carpio, Gabrielle Ferrara, Andrew Schmeusser, and Justin Sorrell  
Mentor: Professor Marcella Legath

Therapist Comfort and Satisfaction Levels with Providing Occupational Therapy Services through Telehealth.  
Kelsey Ryan, Kelly Szczecinski, Talia Baderian, and Sarah Bowers  
Mentor: Professor Marcella Legath

Environmental Aspects Affecting Study Efforts and Motivation in College Students  
Jessica Apana, and Jenna Gruwell and Mariah Payne,  
Mentor: Danielle Archambault

The Relationship Between Student Athlete Study Hall Hours and Their GPAs  
Joshua T. Short  
Mentor: Dr. Danielle Archambault

Does Simulation Practice Improve Student Nurses’ Perception of Stressful Acute Care Scenarios?  
Cassie Rocha  
Mentor: Dr. Karen Panunto

Reception in Honor of All Scholars Day Participants  
Departmental Awards  
Faculty Recognition  
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Outdoor Amphitheater
ABSTRACTS

The Endangered Rusty Patch Bumblebee and the Importance of Pollinators
Kasey Pooler
Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Curran

The Rusty Patched Bumblebee was the first bumblebee to be listed in the Continental US under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2017. Scientists have estimated a decline of 87% in their population over the past 20 years. The Rusty Patch Bumblebee is an important, once prevalent pollinator, and this presentation will address what society can do to reduce their dramatic decline. Pollinators of all types play an important role in maintaining our ecosystems and agriculture. In addition to the Rusty Patched Bumblebee, information about the pollinators that can be found in our own backyard here in Delaware will be provided. This will include the few simple steps we can take to protect them.

Small Liberal Arts College Students and Eating Habits: No impact on Student's BMI
Mikaela Miesbauer
Mentors: Drs. Yu Tian and Kathleen Curran

In 2013, a study was conducted to assess student health and determine variables that may affect students’ BMI. Over 50% of students who responded were overweight or obese, and 55% of students ate in the on-campus dining hall Monday-Friday. In response, Wesley College dining services made changes to their offerings. Portion sizes were decreased, and more fresh fruits and vegetables offered. In 2020 the study was repeated to determine if the factors relevant to BMI remain the same or have changed. The same 25-question survey was distributed to 172 Wesley undergraduates. A Chi-square test of independence ($\chi^2$) and 2-sample proportion test was performed between variables and percentages of variables between 2013 and 2020 studies. Preliminary analysis indicates that the BMI of Wesley students has increased, with a greater proportion of obese students. More overweight students are selecting food in an attempt to get healthier while more obese students select food based on cost and taste.

The Efficacy of Prison Labor in the United States and Other Alternative Methods of Rehabilitation
Hope Aiken
Mentor: Dr. E. Marchioni

The criminal justice system in the United States has the largest prison population in the world, holding 2.3 million people combined in 2020. As studies have shown, two out of every three prisoners released from the system will reoffend again. This fact leads many to question the efficacy of prison and the methods of rehabilitation that are used. This presentation will describe the most popular method of rehabilitation used in United States prisons, prison labor. The conditions of labor, wages, opinions of prisoners, and studies on recidivism rates will be discussed to examine how effective prison labor is for the rehabilitation of prisoners so that they may be introduced back into society. Additionally, other options for rehabilitation will be identified, as well as where the United States is headed towards changes in the prison system.

Analysis & Modeling of COVID-19 in Delaware: Who is Catching and Spreading Covid More but Dying Less?
Joshua Windsor and Julianna Neel
Mentor: Dr. Agashi Nwogbaga

The Covid-19 pandemic has been with us for awhile now and has had devastating impacts on various segments of our society. It is therefore important to study it and understand it. In this work, we examine this pandemic in this region with emphasis in Delaware. How has Covid spread in Delaware? Who is testing positive more? Who is dying more? Where is Covid headed in Delaware? What can all of us do to really say good bye to Covid-19?
Using easy-to-understand quantitative reasoning and graphical capabilities, we discuss strategies for fighting and defeating Covid-19.

An Elevation Comparison of Eastern Red Cedar (Juniperus virginiana) at the St. Jones Reserve, Dover, DE
Sydney Hall
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

Salinization from sea level rise can have detrimental impacts on estuarine coastal forests like those at the St. Jones Reserve in Dover, Delaware. These areas face potential forest loss through retreat and inland marsh migration. This study uses dendrochronology, the study of environmental conditions through the analysis of annual tree rings, to explore growth relationships and gain a better understanding of salt intrusion impacts on tree growth and mortality along the St. Jones River. Tree core chronologies were developed from Eastern red cedar at two elevation levels, low (<4ft) and high (>4ft). The low elevation chronology was then subtracted from the high elevation chronology to create a difference chronology representing the impact of salt stress. In future research, this difference chronology will be compared to water level, water quality, and climatic data to further understand the relationship between growth conditions and the dynamic environment of coastal forests.

Occupancy of Whitetail Deer in Relation to Moon Phases in New Castle County, Delaware
Neil Keller
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

Whitetail deer is the predominant nocturnal herbivore in Delaware. These herbivores rely on the moon light to help spot predators as they travel at night. However, natural predators of deer, including mountain lions, wolves, and coyotes are rare or absent in Delaware. The Brandywine Zoo in Wilmington, Delaware uses a series of camera traps in a transect ranging from Bear to Wilmington to Greenville to monitor wildlife for the Urban Wildlife Monitoring Project (UWMP). This project uses deer occupancy data from the UWMP and moon phase data from NOAA to determine if deer activity is dependent on moon phase in the absence of predators. ArcGIS Pro was used to create whitetail deer occupancy maps for the various moon phases and paired t-tests were used to compare occupancy between the various moon stages.

Tree Rings and Recruitment Timing in a Retreating Coastal Forest, Monie Bay, Maryland
Anthony Baker
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

Rising sea-level drives inland migration of the salt marsh-forest boundary. The loss of tree recruitment, or the germination of new trees, is typically the first step in forest die back. The goal of this project is to identify the time frame in which tree recruitment ceased in a coastal forest undergoing active conversion to salt marsh. Increment cores were collected from 45 Loblolly pine within the marsh-forest transition zone at Monie Bay in Princess Anne, Maryland. After sample preparation, cores were scanned and measured using the automated WinDENDRO tree ring analysis system. All tree rings were measured and cross dated for accuracy, allowing for the identification of each tree and its germination year. The results of this study were then compared to those obtained with the traditional manual method. Eventually, this study will be expanded to 100 trees at three different sites on the Delmarva peninsula.

Rising Sea-Level Drives Inland Migration of the Salt Marsh-Forest Boundary.
Lyndsey Koyanagi
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

Rising sea-level drives inland migration of the salt marsh-forest boundary. The loss of tree recruitment, or the germination of new trees, is typically the first step in forest die back. The goal of this project is to identify the
time frame in which tree recruitment ceased in a coastal forest undergoing active conversion to salt marsh and to compare measurement techniques. Increment cores were collected from 45 Loblolly pine within the marsh-forest transition zone at Monie Bay in Princess Anne, Maryland. After sample preparation, annual rings of the cores were measured with a microscope and linear encoder. The cores were then cross dated for accuracy with tree ring analysis software. The results of this study were then compared to those obtained with an automated scanning system. Eventually, this study will be expanded to 100 trees at three different sites on the Delmarva peninsula.

**Spatial Analysis of the Relationship Between Oral Cancer Mortality and Income of Residents in Delaware Counties**

Maryssa Roberts, Kassandra Dieter and Victoir Cahoon
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

Oral cancer develops in any area of the mouth including lips, gums, tongue, and inner lining of the cheeks, and is one of the 10 most common cancers in the world. In the US, the projected number of new cases of oral and oropharyngeal cancer will exceed 31,000 per year with 8,000 patients dying annually. An evaluation of the oral health workforce suggests that Delaware may not have enough dental providers. Coupling this evaluation with the high cost of treatment could have devastating effects. This study compares Delaware’s Counties’ oral cancer mortality rate from the CDC and income from the US Census Bureau for 2013-2017, visualizing the results with ArcGIS Pro to investigate correlations among income and mortality rate due to oral cancer. Results showing a correlation between oral cancer mortality rate and income threshold will support making oral cancer treatment more affordable at all income levels.

**GIS: Identifying the Differences in Species Occupancy in Relation to Pandemic Changes in Human Activity**

Cassandra Miller
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

The Brandywine Zoo, located on the Brandywine River banks in Wilmington, Delaware, participates in the Urban Wildlife Monitoring Program (UWMP). This program uses a transect of camera traps to monitor wildlife occupancy in northern New Castle, Delaware. The Covid-19 pandemic shut down much of the world in spring 2020, substantially changing the level of human activity which reduced the human footprint and improved water and air quality. This project compares animal occupancy from the Brandywine Zoo in 2020 to that in 2019 to identify any significant differences that may be related to changes in human activity due to the pandemic. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) were used to generate animal occupancy difference maps. The results of this study may provide insights related to ecological restoration.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women**

Keshia Crowley, Ashli Cahoon, Alexa Douglas, Kyle Reason, Nancy Eastman and Cassandra Ferrell
Mentor: Professor Rachael Crowe

After more than 2,000,000 deaths worldwide, a vaccine developed to combat COVID-19 is slowly becoming publicly available. While many are taking the opportunity to be vaccinated, the vaccine is a controversial topic among women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Some women argue the vaccine has not existed long enough to understand the long-term effects, while others argue that the antibodies received from the COVID-19 vaccine could benefit the child while in utero or pass through their breastmilk. By exploring social media platforms and existing nursing research, we will examine the opposing viewpoints of pregnant and breastfeeding women and the current evidence regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. The aim of this project is to guide the general public through the confusing and conflicting information surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine and prepare nurses with talking points for discussing the vaccine with their pregnant and breastfeeding patients.
Benefits of Kangaroo Care on Premature Infants
Keshia Crowley
Mentor: Professor Rachael Crowe

Each year approximately one million babies die as a result of complications from premature birth. Due to the high fatality rate of preterm infants, Kangaroo Care (KC) was developed to try to increase the survival rate of preterm babies. KC is an act that involves skin to skin contact with frequent monitoring and providing comfort to premature infants. KC has provided many benefits to premature infants such as decreasing infection and hypothermia, increasing success with breastfeeding, and overall improvement in cardiorespiratory condition. This presentation will explain the physiological and psychological effects of KC and why it should be implemented following birth. The therapeutic outcomes of KC were analyzed using ten nursing research articles, including primary and secondary resources. The aim of this project is to increase understanding of the benefits of implementing KC versus traditional premature infant care in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Faye G. Abdellah: A Pioneer in Holistic Nursing
Ariel Mason, Shakeia Kellam, and Adrian Dixon
Mentor: Professor Rachael Crowe

Faye Abdellah is an influential nursing theorist who pioneered a theory that created a shift in nursing care from a disease-centered to a patient-centered model. Beginning from her first patient care experience in the Hindenburg aircraft explosion in 1937, she had a remarkable career, including starting the first coronary intensive care unit, founding and becoming the first Dean of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and being the first woman to serve as US Deputy Surgeon General. Her theory, called the 21 Nursing Problem Theory, included learning to know and understand the patient, then developing and discussing a comprehensive nursing plan with them. She created a platform that considered patients having more than physical needs, but also sociological and emotional needs. Our project will show that Faye Abdellah left us with more than just a theory, but a new way to effectively and holistically care for our patients.

Lung Cancer
Deonika White
Mentor: Dr. Rebecca Benson

This research project describes cluster symptoms that lung cancer patients experience postoperatively and how their daily lives are affected. This poster summarizes five studies that explore quality of life that survivors experience while dealing with psychological symptoms, such as fatigue and depression. Multiple studies have been conducted to explain the importance of interventions to improve symptoms in lung cancer survivors to better their lives. Overall, preventing some of the cluster systems before lung cancer treatments are completed can promote improved quality of life for patients.

Nurse Theorist: Dorothea Orem
Ny'Asia Yates, Duane Armstrong, Taylor Benton, and Chantelle Rhoades
Mentor: Darla Davidson

One of the responsibilities of a nurse is to encourage independence and self-care with their patients. Two goals nurses set for patients are for the patient to reach optimal health and maintain homeostasis. Dorothea Orem’s Self-Care Theory promotes patient independence. Orem’s Self-Care Theory is comprised of three components, theory of self-care, theory of self-care deficit, and theory of nursing systems. This project highlights Orem’s Self-Care Theory and its contribution the profession of nursing. The purpose of our research was to exemplify how Orem’s theory can be used in the modern day practice of nursing.
Madeleine Leininger’s Theory of Transcultural Nursing had a tremendous impact on modern day nursing practice. Transcultural nursing involves adapting nursing care to respect specific cultural values of the patient. This project explores Leininger’s Theory of Transcultural Nursing and its contribution to the nursing profession and patient care. The purpose of this project was to learn how Leininger’s Transcultural Theory can be applied to nursing practice to guide nursing care and improve patient outcomes.

Collaboration, Connection, and Community Engagement Through Art: A Partnership Between Wesley College and the John S. Charlton School

Students in the Department of Psychology and the John S. Charlton School
Mentor: Dr. Albee Mendoza

Opportunities for collaboration, connection, and community engagement teach students multiple hard skills and soft skills to boost academic rigor and foster professional development. Notably, service-learning projects in psychology courses have encouraged students to practice patience, compassion, and accountability (soft skills) as they interact extensively with college-aged students with special needs. As such, For Wesley College students, concepts such as diversity, inclusion, and reinforcement (hard skills) become more meaningful and can be retained more effectively. For Charlton students, working alongside neurotypical peers provides social exchange and shared experience. As such, students in the Department of Psychology and the John S. Charlton School’s Roads to Success Program present works of art extending Wesley College’s mission to demonstrate "...justice, compassion, inclusion, and social responsibility that enhance community life..."

Health Fitness Empowerment of College Students Especially During Covid – A Statistical Analysis
Caitlyn Bauer & Kayla Parham
Mentor: Dr. Agashi Nwogbaga

It is well known that students often come to college much skinnier than when they graduate. Everyone knows it is good to exercise but it can be seemingly impossible to exercise when the world around you is literally falling apart. Students are extremely busy and stressed, they barely and rarely have time to eat and sleep, and they are always tired and overwhelmed with responsibilities (both personal and professional). Young adults with the fast pace responsibilities of a new job, or students who always have an assignment that was due yesterday and whose college classes appear to be the most difficult in this world rarely seem to find the time for exercise. In this work, we examine how active college students are. Furthermore, in order to stave off cardiovascular complications and other health maladies associated with sedentary lifestyles, we seek to empower college students by providing practical tips and strategies for developing a lifelong habit of exercising regularly despite any and all challenges.

Romantic Relationships in Young Adulthood: The Impact of Single Parenting and Attachment on Perceptions of Trust, Intimacy, and Love
Ameerah Cannon
Mentor: Dr. Gwen Pursell

Many studies have explored the importance of romantic relationships in young adults. Research has found that whether children grow up in traditional (married parents) or non-traditional (divorced) households may influence their romantic relationships in adolescence and adulthood (Valle & Tillman, 2012). Although many studies have considered the impact of divorced families on later romantic relationships, few studies have examined the influence of single parent families on later romantic relationships. This study will investigate the
role of early family status on young adults’ romantic relationships. It is hypothesized that young adults who grew up in single-parent households will be more likely to have insecure attachments, negative perceptions of love and lower quality romantic relationships (e.g., trust, intimacy) than young adults who grew up in traditional households. The sample will consist of approximately 75 college students. Data will be collected through the use of self-report questionnaires. Results and implications will be discussed.

**Student Engagement, Parental Expectations, and Parental Criticism: Research, Reporting, and Reflection**
Samantha Conti
Mentor: Dr. Albee Mendoza

College has many hurdles, which is why only 66.2% of high school graduates are enrolled in college classes (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). There are even more hurdles for those who are first-generation (1G) college students (Galina, 2018). Factors that may contribute to overcoming these hurdles include these students’ levels of student engagement, parental expectations, and parental criticism. Wesley College provides the opportunity for students, including 1G students, to learn hard skills (e.g., analyzing data sets) and soft skills (e.g., building student-teacher relationships) with its course offerings and academic support programs. As such, this presentation describes a research project investigating the effects of gender, race, and 1G status on student engagement, parental expectations, and parental criticism and shares the process in which the project is being prepared for presentation and publication.

**Medical Professionals and Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities: Who is Abusing Who?**
Sadie Rodgers
Mentor: Dr. Albee Mendoza

Archetypes are a way to analyze a character from film or literature. The term “character archetypes” was coined by Carl Jung, and has since evolved to encompass many different types of analysis; one of these areas being the goddess archetype. Using specifically the goddesses archetypes one can analyze women in literature in order to better understand their characters and character development. By using the goddesses Artemis, Aphrodite, and Persephone, one can psychoanalyze Katniss Everdeen, Blanche Deveraux, and Sansa Stark, respectively.

**CD81 Regulation of Cell Surface Proteome and its Effect on Chemosensitivity**
Skyler Brand
Mentor: Dr. Sonali Barwe

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) is the most common pediatric cancer. Most patients achieve remission; however, the foremost obstacle faced by patients with ALL is relapse. Relapse is mainly caused by chemoresistance of ALL cells mediated by the bone marrow microenvironment. CD81 is known to regulate surface expression of other proteins such as CD19, which in turn affects cell signaling and adhesion. CD81 has previously been shown to mediate BM microenvironment-induced chemoresistance in other cancers, making the protein a target for study in ALL. Nalm6 CD81KO cells created using CRISPR/Cas9 mutagenesis were subjected to a Lyoplate assay and then analyzed by flow cytometry and compared to wild-type cells to identify proteins affected by CD81. Out of 252 proteins, six proteins with similar and opposite expression patterns of CD81 were further analyzed. This study investigates CD81’s role in surface expression of affected proteins and suggests their role in chemoprotection of ALL cells.
**Observed Sea Level Rise in the St. Jones River**

Neil Keller  
Mentor: Dr William Kroen

The objective of this project was to find if sea level rise was occurring the St. Jones River. We examined historical data from the St. Jones portion of the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve. Data from the two tidally-influenced sites, the more upstream Lebanon Landing and the downstream Scotton Landing, were analyzed. Mean water level for the year was calculated using only the middle 50% of all the observed water levels to eliminate the effect of spring tides and storm surge. We found approximately a 0.20-meter increase in mean sea level at Scotton Landing from 2001-2019, and around 0.14-meter increase at Lebanon Landing from 2004-2019. Despite the rise in sea level, there was no observed change in salinity. There was a slight decrease in turbidity during this period.

**Determining if the Elongation of the Growing Season has an Effect on Algal Blooms**

Cassandra Miller  
Mentor: Dr. William Kroen

Blackbird Creek in southern New Castle County is a part of the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve. Their goal is to establish, protect, and manage natural estuarine habitats for research, education, and coastal stewardship, so long-term water quality data are available. The objective of this project was to determine if there was an elongation in the growing season. An elongated growing season means farming can happen for an extended period, possibly increasing nitrogen and phosphorus levels from runoff, leading to an increase in chlorophyll indicating an algal bloom. There was an elongation of about six weeks in the growing season from 1996 to 2019. Chlorophyll levels and phosphorus levels were high during the growing season, but there was no increase over the years. Nitrogen levels are low in growing season and had no relationship with chlorophyll levels. Nitrogen levels did not increase over the years.

**Assessing the Outcomes of a CURE Incorporated into Cell Biology at Wesley College**

Kassandra Dieter  
Mentor: Dr. Erin Perchiniak

Students enrolled in Cell Biology at Wesley College participated in a course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE) that focused on the molecular pathways that regulate proper AchR signaling in C. elegans. The focus of this internship was to develop course assessment tools to gauge the interest in STEM futures and the achievement of course outcomes. A pre and post-test survey was designed to ask students questions that were categorized in demographics, STEM-related career interest, and experience with subject-based skills. Compiling survey data allowed for a quantitative way to assess the effect that exposing students to novel research experiences increase knowledge base, but also on their general interest in pursuing a STEM-related career. Gaining insight into how exposure to novel research experiences affects student interest in pursuing STEM-related careers as well as their comprehension of advanced cell biology concepts will provide invaluable information for future course design of STEM courses.
With chemical kinetics, it is important to understand the rate of chemical reactions. Chloroformates (ROC(O)Cl) are a group of organic compounds that are esters of chloroformic acid and have significant pharmaceutical applications. By studying the rates of chloroformates, one can easily determine their half life. The esters studied in this project are: ethyl chloroformate (C3H5ClO2), propyl chloroformate (C4H7ClO2), butyl chloroformate (C5H9ClO2), nonyl chloroformate (C10H19ClO2), decyl chloroformate (C11H21ClO2), in differing organic mixtures.

Using an Institutional Survey to Measure the Impact of COVID-19 on Student Success
Eryn Cahoon
Mentor: Amy Kellen

This poster will display the results from the Student Impact Survey sent out during the Fall 2020 semester. The Student Impact Survey was designed to measure the impact of students’ mental health and student success.

Language Barriers and its Effect on Health Care Disparities
Nahlah Alsogaih and Cindy Guevara
Mentor: Dr. Robert Contino

The existence of language barriers between patients and healthcare providers can negatively affect the level of care these patients may receive. As immigration trends increases, more patients who do not speak the language of health care providers, are accessing health care. Language barriers can result in challenges for the health care provider to provide optimum health care to these patients. It may also result in patients delaying or not seeking needed health care. The purpose of this research project was to identify the difficulties health care providers face, explore possible interventions used to improve communication, and evaluate the effectiveness of these interventions. Findings indicate that poor communication between patients and healthcare providers might cause more complicated issues and threats to patients’ safety. It was also identified that professional interpreters are not always available or easy to access in-person. Therefore, most of the time, healthcare providers depend on remote or informal interpreters, which is contrary to national recommendations.

Hybrid Learning Effect on Student Satisfaction for Wesley College
Teaghen Vogelsang, Lauren Kesecker, Ashley Girard, and Megan Jerome
Mentor: Dawn Nielsen, OTD, OTR/L

On March 13th, 2020, Wesley College announced the cessation of all in-person classes and implemented a transition plan to all online learning as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. As a response, Wesley College has developed a hybrid learning model for the Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) program. The aim of this proposal is to evaluate the complexities of student satisfaction amid the transition to a hybrid learning model as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. Through a quantitative Google survey distributed to the current MOT student body (class of 2021 and 2022), we hypothesize that student satisfaction will increase as a result of transitioning to a hybrid learning model.
OTs’ Perspectives on Telehealth in School-based Settings
Atavia Hammond, Lauren Ebling, Russita Buchanan, and Jackie Pierson
Mentor: Dawn Nielsen OTD, OTR/L

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered the way school-based occupational therapy (OT) practitioners deliver therapy services. Prior to the pandemic, little evidence was available regarding successes of telehealth and many companies did not allow this delivery method. Minimal research identified several factors such as: technology literacy, practitioners’ knowledge, and level of parental involvement, that influence individuals’ perceptions on telehealth success. The limited number of research could not meet the amount of knowledge needed to successfully transition to remote learning when the pandemic and switch-in service delivery methods occurred. This study aims to identify which personal and environmental factors are the most influential in providing successful teletherapy services from school-based OT practitioners’ perspectives. Researchers distributed a survey on Google Forms to school-based OT practitioners using telehealth services via multiple private and OT specific Facebook groups. They anticipate participants will report personal factors as the most influential in successful school-based teletherapy implementation.

Mental Health Resources for Caregivers and Their School Aged Children
Lauren Esser, Jenna Lipinski, Danielle DeFeo, Paige Grosso and Jessica Felton
Mentor: Dr. Amanda Wiles

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the daily routines for many caregivers and school-aged children. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been decreased engagement in daily occupations, such as social participation, education, sleep, play, and work. Occupational therapists can assist in improving mental health and engagement in these daily occupations through interventions such as yoga and physical activity. This project, called Mental Health Resources for Caregivers and Their School Aged Children, is an Instagram page and website that provides access to current synthesized literature on interventions to improve mental health. The goal of this resource is to provide strategies for caregivers and their children to improve their mental health. Through polls and interactions on Instagram posts, data will be collected about the perceived usefulness of the resources, which will then be integrated into a final product for dissemination.

The Effectiveness of the Modalities of Ultrasound, Electrical Stimulation, and Thermotherapy on the Treatment of Upper Extremity Disorders/Disabilities
Dana Mowbray, Michael Nelson, Sawyer Berrie, and Joseph Gundel
Mentor: Dr. Amanda Wiles

There are many different applications for the use of physical agent modalities in occupational therapy (OT) practice. Given the variety of modalities available, practitioners often struggle to find time to search for the evidence supporting each modality. To address this, the aim is to provide occupational therapists with a comprehensive resource about modalities including information about the purpose, specific populations, process considerations, and contraindications when treating individuals with upper extremity disorders/disabilities. This synthesis of research articles strives to examine and analyze the effectiveness of three commonly used modalities: ultrasound, electrical stimulation, and thermotherapy. The resource will be disseminated to an OT forum with an attached survey focused on the usefulness and convenience of the resource. The feedback we received from the survey will be integrated into the final product of the resource, which will then be disseminated to occupational therapists who work with upper extremity disorders and disabilities.
What is the Perceived Effectiveness of Neurocognitive Assessments and Functional Assessments Used via Telehealth Among Occupational Therapists?
Alexis Shallcross, Frank D'Alessandro, Christian Fernandez and Jonathan Shellem
Mentor: Dr. Amanda Wiles

Telehealth is a mode of occupational therapy (OT) delivery that has experienced exponential growth since the start of the coronavirus pandemic with nearly one third of OT practitioners adopting a form of Telehealth (AOTA, 2020b). Due to new healthcare guidelines altering or prohibiting traditional in-person client care, many OT practitioners are using Telehealth to continue delivery of services despite limited prior use (Burgoyne & Cohn, 2020). Assessment is an important part of the OT process; however, there has been little research conducted to examine the effectiveness of assessments administered via Telehealth. This research study aims to determine the perceived effectiveness of neurocognitive and functional assessments through an anonymous cross-sectional survey given to OT practitioners who have or currently are administering assessments using Telehealth. Moving forward, this research can guide OT practitioners on selection of neurocognitive and functional assessments based on therapist perceived effectiveness and/or accuracy of commonly used assessments through Telehealth.

Making a Research Project Work in the Era of COVID-19
Drs. Cynthia Newton and Jessica James
Political Science

This is the story of how our MCURE (course-embedded) grant experience transformed and evolved through Covid-19 and turned into something else. We went from an in-class process that would have led to work and interaction with the Community through the Food Bank of Delaware, and once Covid-19 shut everything down and the Food Bank was focused on the pandemic, we shifted focus to the Wesley College Food Pantry and food insecurity on the Wesley Campus. It is an interesting and cautionary tale about research and its processes.

Learning to from Homebrew
Dr. Jack Barnhardt
Psychology

Homebrewing refers to the creation of fermented beverages such as beer, wine, mead, and cider, at home. There are several steps in the process and at each one a vast array of elements are available for the hobbyist to dive into. Homebrewers also have the opportunity to learn and apply knowledge from many areas such as chemistry, microbiology, math, physics, and psychology. This presentation will use as its framework the steps required to brew beer at home but will focus along the way on various aspects of the process that have led to new knowledge or to the application of, or new viewpoint on, previously learned knowledge. Attendees will hopefully be encouraged to pursue a hobby or go deeper into an existing one and use it as a springboard to a deeper understanding of the world, thus enriching their lives.

Gender, Race, and First-Generation Status on Student Engagement, Parental Expectations, and Parental Criticism in College Students
Samantha Conti
Mentor: Dr. Albee Mendoza

Previous research (e.g., Pascarella et al., 2004) has found that first-generation (1G) students face different challenges than continuing education (CE) students. It is important to study these challenges, as they can influence student scholastic success. Some personal characteristics that can affect this success include gender identity, racial identity, engagement, and perfectionism. This poster presentation describes a study that investigated the effects of race, gender, and 1G status on engagement and perfectionism, which includes the
variables of parental criticisms and parental expectations. Data were collected from two small liberal arts colleges (SLACs) in the Northeastern United States, Utica College and Wesley College. In terms of an interaction effect, results showed that White 1G male students had the highest score in total engagement compared to other groups. However, non-White students scored higher in parental expectations compared to White students, and 1G students scored higher in parental criticism compared to CE students.

Oviposition and the Spotted Bean Beetle
Kristen Fuhr, Jordan Spagnolo, and Justice Tilley
Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Curran

For some animals the only parental care provided is laying their eggs on a suitable food so larvae have quality nutrition during development. The spotted bean beetle (Callosobrucus maculatus) usually lays its eggs on mung beans. The type of bean the female chooses, as well as the number of eggs she lays on each, will affect the survival rate of her offspring. In a series of experiments, we will demonstrate that she will lay her eggs in a pattern that will maximize her offspring’s survival. In the first experiment we will provide the females with different numbers of mung beans. We predict that when possible she will only lay a single egg per bean. In a second experiment we will provide the females with different species of beans, and we predict that she will choose the mung beans over the others.

Color and Learning in Honey Bees
Mercy Ariyo, Minelly Cruz, and Sabryna Nosher
Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Curran

Bees are remarkable foragers. They recognize color and can learn to come to artificial feeding stations. In this experiment we will use artificial flowers to see if honey bees can learn to associate food with the color blue.

The Rare Male Effect in the Fruit fly, Drosophila melanogaster
Jordan Vossberg, Madison Hazen, Destiny Suitt, Kayla Williams, and Jacob Mitchell
Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Curran

Female fruit flies in several species will choose to mate with males that have unusual traits. This phenomenon has been called the rare male effect, and the reason for this behavior is not clear. In this experiment we will examine whether wild type fruit flies will prefer to mate with other male wild type flies or mutant flies from the ebony strain. We hypothesize that even though the rare male effect may exist, the wild type females will choose to mate with their own type since they do not have the mutation.

Predation on Artificial Nests
Anthony Baker, Michael Brewer, Kaylee Colantano, Kayla Effen, and David Pierre
Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Curran

Birds’ nests are extremely vulnerable to predation. The location of the nest, the proximity to other nests, and the shape of the nest are some of the factors that may affect the survival of the eggs. In this experiment we will use artificial nests and eggs to examine the effect of location on survival of the eggs in a wooded suburban neighborhood.
**Color Perception in Honey Bees, (Apis melifera)**
Brianna Demanczyk, Amir Holly, James Jackson, and Neil Keller
Mentor: Dr. Kathleen Curran

Bees see in color, but not exactly the same range of colors that we see. In this experiment we will determine if honey bees (Apis melifera) can learn to associate food with a particular color. Bees will be provided with a nectar solution in blue artificial flowers made from petri dishes and colored paper. If we are correct they will continue to forage at the blue "flower" even when other colors are provided.

**Impact of Sea Level Rise on the Mispillion River in Milford, Delaware**
Sabryna Nosher
Mentor: Dr. Stephanie Stotts

The sea level in Delaware is rising at a rate of 3.54 mm/year, twice the global average, causing flooding issues in many coastal areas. Low-income areas are often disproportionately affected by inundation. The Mispillion River is 15 miles long and runs through the center of Milford, Delaware before reaching the Delaware Bay. During heavy rains and storms, the river has a history of flooding. This project uses a bathtub elevation model to identify areas within the Milford city limits likely to be inundated with 1.5m of sea level rise. Then, using census and land use data, the land use and average income for these areas was characterized using Geographic Information Software. The results of this study will help Milford city planners to better prepare for future sea-level rise.

**Changes in Gender Equity According to Female College Students**
Alexis Jones
Mentor: Dr. Barbara Abbott

This research studies female college students at a small liberal arts school on their perspective of genders in the workforce. Survey Monkey will be used to distribute an anonymous survey to willing participants. Through the Dean of Students Office, female students attending Wesley College will be sent a request to participate in the study via email. The questions exhibit perceptions of the workforce according to females and ask relevant views on wage-gaps and discrimination. This research has been proven by other studies to show that there is a considerable difference between men and women in the workforce, no matter the career. The completion of this research will depict female college students and their perspectives of the gender inequities of the workforce that they will be entering.

**Resilience, Burn Out, & Stress in the Time of COVID-19 for Providers**
Ashley Priante, Alyssa Sherr, Elena Brown, Andrea Zlinsky, and Joseph McCool
Mentor: Professor Marcella Legath

With the recent uprising of the novel Coronavirus pandemic, frontline workers have been faced with increased levels of stress and frustration. They have been working under undesirable circumstances and completing longer than normal shifts, all while wearing restrictive, uncomfortable personal protective equipment (PPE). Some have been able to cope with these changes by developing higher levels of resilience, while others have been experiencing higher levels of stress and burnout. Our study aims to gauge why particular healthcare professionals (HCPs) are experiencing resilience in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, while other HCPs or non-HCPs are not. We will be using existing literature to focus on how our program can address the problem surrounding resilience, burnout, and stress for HCPs in the time of COVID-19. A program development approach will deliver pertinent information surrounding mindfulness and coping strategies to increase resilience for HCPs and non-HCPs through a podcast platform. Currently, our project is still ongoing. No formal results have been achieved.
Partnering a Virtual Experience with Health and Wellness – Partnership with Ability Boxing and Fitness  
Dominique Carpio, Gabrielle Ferrara, Andrew Schmeusser, and Justin Sorrell  
Mentor: Professor Marcella Legath

Parkinson’s Disease (PD) poses difficulty in sustaining traditional exercise over a long period of time. Nontraditional exercises such as boxing can improve quality of life as physical activity is shown to promote neural plasticity in PD patients. As occupational therapy (OT) students, we are looking to gather quantitative data regarding improvements on quality of life for these individuals and participants of Ability Boxing. Literature review was done to gather information about components of standardized assessments such as balance, mobility, endurance, and quality of life. These components were combined to create a unique assessment that creates a holistic view of the client and their progress. The assessment we create will be used to track progress and measurable outcomes for the Ability Boxing participants.

Therapist Comfort and Satisfaction Levels with Providing Occupational Therapy Services through Telehealth.  
Kelsey Ryan, Kelly Szczecinski, Talia Baderian, and Sarah Bowers  
Mentor: Marcella Legath

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, many therapists have had to change the way they typically would provide therapy. Many occupational therapists have transitioned from a traditional practice of in-person therapy to virtual therapy, formally known as teletherapy. With the pandemic being a recent occurrence, there is limited research when it comes to therapists and teletherapy. This study aims to gather a better understanding of what occupational therapy practitioners in New York City public, private, and/or charter schools are experiencing. To obtain a better understanding, we are distributing a 16 question qualitative survey using a Likert Scale via email to the occupational therapists working in New York City schools. Our goals and objectives are to produce research on this limited topic, better understand what occupational therapists are experiencing, and understand occupational therapy practitioners’ comfort levels when it comes to implementing telehealth services when treating children in school-based settings.

Environmental Aspects Affecting Study Efforts and Motivation in College Students  
Jessica Apana, and Jenna Gruwell and Mariah Payne,  
Mentor: Danielle Archambault

Environmental stimuli impacts occupational performance (Chan & Pang, 2018). For students, various stimuli in the learning and study environments influence engagement in the occupation of education. Support drawn from Ayres Sensory Integration and Person-Environment-Occupation-Performance (PEOP) models connect the ability to engage in executive functioning tasks to the surrounding sensory information being processed (Baum, Christiansen, & Bass, 2015; Schaal, Schoen, Roley, Lane, Koomar, & May-Benson, 2010). In this study, factors that impact occupational engagement in education including distractibility, use of resources, and intrinsic motivation of college students who utilize the Academic Success Center (ASC) were evaluated using a pre-renovation self-reporting survey. After improving the sensory stimuli within the environment, a post-survey assessed the impact of the altered sensory stimuli on student distractibility, use of resources, and intrinsic motivation. The purpose of this project is to determine if modifying the educational environment will positively impact student attention, motivation, and academic performance.
What is the relationship between study hall hours in the Academic Success Center (ASC) and GPA amongst Wesley College Student Athletes? In this study we seek to find how study hours in the ASC translate to student athletes’ overall GPAs. The data for this project was gathered through Student Success & Retention, (SSRs) TutorTrac study hall sign-in system, which has all student athletes assigned to their proper teams. Through this collection of data, we will be looking to see the relationship between the amount of study hall hours our athletes accumulate and their GPA during the Fall 2020 semester. Gender, major, sport type, study hour requirements, team average GPA, and average team GPA during the Fall 2020 semester will be the primary forms of data collected during this study.

**Does Simulation Practice Improve Student Nurses’ Perception of Stressful Acute Care Scenarios?**

Cassie Rocha  
Mentor: Dr. Karen Panunto

The country is in the midst of a nursing shortage, greatly due to the aging population of a large percentage of nurses who will be leaving the workforce. To complicate this issue, a large percentage of new nurses leave their position within three years of hire due to frustration, lack of sufficient mentoring, and inadequate institutional support. This high nurse turnover results in unhappy nurses, increased expenses for health care facilities to hire and train new nurses, as well as poor patient outcomes. This qualitative research study explores the perceptions of senior level baccalaureate-prepared nursing students on what they feel about their future positions as new graduate nurses working in acute care settings. Through the use of simulation and debriefing exercises, this researcher will attempt to educate new nurses with strategies to better prepare them for nursing practice.

### Special Mentor Recognition

Scholars Day would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the faculty and staff mentors who volunteer their time and expertise in guiding our students. There have been 12 Scholars Days. The following individuals are considered five-star mentors, who have mentored students in undergraduate research for five or more Scholars Days. The number in brackets following their names indicates their years of service. One individual, Dr. Malcolm D’Souza, has mentored at least one student each Scholars Day.

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**Mentors, Presenters, Moderators, Assessors, Committee Members, ETC.**

**Mentors**

*Mentors with asterisks * beside their names are five-star mentors.*

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Moderators

Brantley Craig  Albee Mendoza  Marjorie Ramsey
Amy Kellen  Erin Perchiniak  Stephanie Stotts
Katherine King  Gwen Pursell
William Kroen  Paul Olsen

Volunteers

Alexa McCracken  Cieara Ross  Ariel Mason
Destiny Holmes  Julianna Tompkins  Kimalina Pladeck
Kaitlyn Miller

Departmental Awards

Every year each department selects a student to recognize for their accomplishments. These individuals exemplify the values of our programs. While overall g.p.a. is considered, service and experience are also important. Those marked with an asterisk are presenting today.

Accounting  History
Logan Wilson  Morgan Carey

Biology  Law and Justice Studies
Maryssa Roberts*  Kiara M. Perez

Business Administration  Liberal Studies
Sarah Fryer  Nubian Mohammed

Biological Chemistry  Mathematics
Victoir Cahoon*  Kayla Parham*

Education  Music
Jessica McGee  Nathan Williamson

English  Nursing Undergraduate
Abbey Mayse  Savannah Smallwood-Corcoran
Faculty Recognition
The following individuals were awarded either tenure or promotion in 2020 or 2021.

2019-2020

Promotion to Full Professor
Dr. James Wilson

Promotion to Associate Professor
Dawnn Thomas

Tenure
Dr. Brantley Craig
Ron Douglas
Dr. Gwen Pursell

Years of Service

5 Years
Albee Mendoza
Dianitza Runser
Jenna Gruwell
Kelley G. Bauer
Latoya Anderson
Mary Jenson
Richard Barker
Shari Tenner

10 Years
Amy L. Strickland
Doyne Harris
Jerry K. Mench
Peggy J. Spence
William J. Gorrow

2020-2021

Promotion to Associate Professor
Dr. Darla Davidson
Dr. Ryan Hubble
Dr. Robert B. Marsteller
Dr. Tina Mitchell

Tenure
Dr. Albee Therese Ongsuco Mendoza
Dr. Mary E. Jenson
Dr. Soeun You

Years of Service

5 Years
Daniel Laguerre
Erin Perchiniak
Jillian R. Lontz
Kevin E. Shuman
Laura J. Mayse
Michael Sabino
Robert Clark
Soeun You

10 Years
April M. Mahoney
Edward B. Seibert
Laurie A. Roth
Shelby J. Everline

Danielle Archambault
Gwen Pursell
Justin Blank
Kristopher Roeske
Mariah Payne
Patricia J. Seunarine
Ronald Douglas
Tracey L. Harris

Charles B. Craig
James E. Wilson
Margaret O. McElligott
Vilma Lazo-Butera
15 Years
Christopher D. Jester
John R. Scott

20 Years
Agashi P. Nwogbaga
Mary Ellen M. Harmon
Christine M. McDermott
Tracey Lee Lundblad
Malcolm J. D'Souza

25 Years
Edward W. Muntz
Karen L. Panunto
Tracey Short

30 Years
Alban W. Urbanas
JoMae L. Boney
Steven D. Clark

Special Thanks

Charlton School Students for Their Contributions to the Art Exhibit:

Philip Arkoh
Kyra Carr
Nathaly Luciano Diaz
Tyree Dye
Christian Kennedy
Noel Rios
Tyler Tylman

Jarrett Butler
Gia Cousins
Zhykese Johnson Duffy
Keith Gwanmesia
Kaylee Neil
Muhammadou Seck

Matthew Buzzuto
Danielle Czyzewski
Luke Durham
Daniel Hall
Miguel Rios
Patrick Shorts

President Bob Clark II
Dr. Alban Urbanus (Interim VPAA/Provost)
Dr. Malcolm D’Souza
April Mahoney
Theresa Wilson
Ed Muntz
Emily Wood
Christine McDermott

Wesley College SGA

Information Technology Department
Facility Management Department
Department of Public Safety (Security)
Special Thanks to Past Years’ Members of Scholars Day Committee who blazed the trail for us.

**Scholars Day 2007** (April 11, 2007).
This was the first Scholars Day. It was in the academic Year 2006-2007.
**Scholars Day Task Force Members:**
Dr. Bruce Allison (Co-Chair)
Dr. Jeffrey Gibson (Co-Chair)
Dr. Jessica James
Dr. Karen Panunto
Dr. H. Earl Roberts

**Scholars Day 2008** (April 2, 2008).
Dr. Jeffrey Gibson (Chair)
Dr. Jack Barnhardt
Dr. Frank Fiedler
Dr. Jessica James
Dr. Karen Panunto
Dr. H. Earl Roberts
Dr. Jamie Whitman-Smithe

**Scholars Day 2009** (April 15, 2009).
Dr. Jack Barnhardt (Chair)
Dr. Keka Biswas
Dr. Frank Fiedler
Dr. Jessica James
Dr. Karen Panunto

**Scholars Day 2010** (April 14, 2010).
Dr. Jack Barnhardt (Chair)
Dr. Keka Biswas
Dr. Kraiwinee (Nok) Bunyaratavej
Dr. Linda De Roche
Dr. Frank Fiedler
Dr. Tery Griffin

**Scholars Day 2011** (April 13, 2011).
Prof. Susan Bobby
Dr. Angela D’Antonio
Dr. Lynn Everett
Dr. Frank Fiedler (Chair)
Dr. Tery Griffin
Dr. Ying Zhang

**Scholars Day 2012** (April 12, 2012).
Dr. Angela D’Antonio
Dr. Lynn Everett
Dr. Frank Fiedler (Chair)
Dr. Kathleen Jacobs
Dr. Richard Kashmar
Dr. Alban Urbanas

**Scholars Day 2013** (April 18, 2013).
Dr. Kathleen Curran
Dr. Richard Kashmar
Prof. Elizabeth Marchioni
Prof. Jerry Mench
Dr. Valerie Perez
Dr. Alban Urbanas (Chair)

**Scholars Day 2014** (April 15, 2014).
Dr. Valerie Perez (Co-Chair)
Prof. Elizabeth Marchioni (Co-Chair)
Dr. Kraiwinee Bunyaratavej
Dr. Kathleen Curran
Prof. Jerry Mench
Dr. Derald Wentzien

**Scholars Day 2015** (April 16, 2015).
Dr. Kraiwinee (Nok) Bunyaratavej (Co-Chair)
Dr. Derald Wentzien (Co-Chair)
Dr. Brantley Craig
Dr. Stephanie Stotts
Prof. Margie McElligot
Prof. Zachary Adams

**Scholars Day 2016** (April 14, 2016).
Dr. Brantley Craig (Chair)
Prof. Charlisa Edelin
Prof. Sarah Hardesty
Prof. Margie McElligot
Dr. Gwen Pursell
Dr. Stephanie Stotts
Scholars Day 2017 (April 12, 2017).
Dr. Agashi Nwogbaga (Chair)
Dr. Yu Tian
Dr. Albee Mendoza
Prof. Vilma Lazo-Butera
Prof. Charlisa Edelin
Dr. Gwen R. Pursell

Scholars Day 2018 (April 19, 2018).
Dr. Agashi Nwogbaga (Chair)
Dr. Yu Tian
Dr. Albee Mendoza
Prof. Vilma Lazo-Butera
Prof. Darla Davidson
Dr. KellyAnn Miller

Scholars Day 2019 (April 18, 2017).
Dr. KellyAnn Miller
Dr. Dawnn Thomas
Dr. Sharon Wong
Prof. Darla Davidson (Chair)
Dr. Eileen Scanlon
Dr. Oak Pongsree

Scholars Day 2020 (Cancelled).
Dr. Dawnn Thomas
Dr. Oak Pongsree
Dr. Sharon Wong
Dr. Kathleen Curran (Chair)
Dr. Jeremy Wear
Professor Susan Redington Bobby
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