March 19, 2015

Conference Attendees
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference

Dear Conference Attendee:

Welcome to Minnesota State University, Mankato, and to Mankato, MN. We are very excited to have you on our campus for what we hope you will find to be a very energizing and intellectual experience.

The mission of the honors program at Minnesota State Mankato is to create future leaders, researchers, and global citizens. Since 1967, educators at this institution have recognized the value of honors education and sought innovative ways to expose highly capable students to opportunities that will enable them to soar to new heights.

A packed conference agenda awaits you, and I’m confident you will find something here for everyone. From scholarly presentations to poster illustrations, a varied number of activities are available from which you can choose to participate. While we hope you will take full advantage of the educational options the conference has to offer, we also encourage you to take a moment to explore and enjoy our inviting, vibrant campus facilities.

Again, welcome to the university and community, and thank you for participating in this scholarly tradition.

Sincerely,

Richard Davenport
President
Welcome!

Welcome to Minnesota State University, Mankato and the 2015 Conference of the Upper Midwest Regional Honors Council. We are so glad that you have come to share your stories and learn with us. The conference has a full schedule of presentations and forums as well as fun activities and wonderful speakers.

Minnesota State Mankato’s campus includes approximately 13,000 undergraduate and 2,000 graduate students. It has grown from a teaching college into a regional comprehensive university with a variety of majors, minors, certificates, and graduate programs. Our growing diversity on campus creates a rich learning environment and allows for a variety of cultural perspectives. The Greater Mankato Region has a rich history and geography that drew us towards the conference theme of Confluence and Conflict.

We hope that you can leave here with new knowledge, new friends, new ideas, and renewed inspiration for the future. Have a wonderful conference!

Sincerely,

The Honors Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato
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A History of Mankato, MN

Mankato was originally called Mahkato, which means greenish-blue earth in the Dakota language. The Dakota were the original inhabitants of this area, but they were pushed out of the area by a treaty made in 1851, which was then reneged upon by the United States. This led, in 1862, to what has become known as the U.S.-Dakota War. This conflict ended within six weeks, but 38 Dakota men were hanged in Mankato after the fighting was over. It was the largest mass execution in U.S. history and there is now a small park, centered with a bronze buffalo statue that represents the spirit of the Dakota peoples, along Riverfront Drive to commemorate the tragedy.

The region was valuable for natives and settlers alike, in part, because of the confluence of the Le Sueur, Blue Earth and Minnesota Rivers. The city is situated at the bend in the Minnesota River and thus had good access for steamboats, which were used to carry people and goods between Mankato and St. Peter and up to St. Paul. Later Mankato became the railroad hub for the southwest Minnesota as steamboat travel dwindled due to its unreliability during dry years. The Mankato area remains a hub for railroad traffic, and trains can be heard throughout the day.

Today, Mankato is very much a college town. There are four colleges in the area and the students and staff contribute largely to the diversity, vibrancy, and economic vitality of the city. Mankato is a thriving city with great prospects for the future as it continues to grow and change.


Things to do in Mankato

Fun Things to do in Mankato

Dutler’s Bowling
1247 Range St. (Hwy 169 N)
Open Daily 11 a.m. - 2 a.m.
http://jerrydutfersbowl.com/

Minneopa Falls
54497 Gadwall Road
The word Minneopa comes from the Dakota language and is interpreted to mean “water falling twice,” referring to the beautiful waterfalls of the Minneopa Creek.

Monday-Saturday
10:00am-9:00pm
Sunday
11:00am-6:00pm.

River Hills Mall
1850 Adams St

Wow Zone
2030 Adams St.
Open Daily at 11 a.m.
http://wowzonefec.com/

Bowling, Laser Tag,
Mini Golf, Arcade

The park offers recreational opportunities such as a softball field and tennis court, as well as extensive landscape and gardens, a story book farm site, open space and picnicking areas.

Sibley Park
900 Mound Ave.

Places to Eat in Mankato

There are a number of places to eat in Mankato. U-Square Restaurants are within walking distance of campus and include Chipotle, Cold Stone Creamery, Pieology, Noodles & Co., and Caribou Coffee. Notable downtown locations include Number 4, Pub 500, and Olives. You will find coupons to various restaurants around town in your conference packets. We hope you have the opportunity to explore different food venues during your time in Mankato!
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<td>5:00-6:00</td>
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<td>9:00</td>
<td>Faculty Social</td>
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Saturday, March 28, 2015

8:00  Breakfast  CSU Ballroom

9:00-9:50  Presentations

10:00-10:50  Presentations

11:00-11:30  Regional Business Meeting  Ostrander Auditorium

11:30-12:00  End of Conference & Awards Ceremony  Ostrander Auditorium
Our Featured Speakers

Dr. Tony Filipovitch
City as Text Facilitator, Thursday at 1:30 PM

Professor Emeritus at MSU Mankato, where he taught courses in Urban Studies, Nonprofit Management, and Honors. He learned “City as Text” in an extended summer workshop with Bernice Braid in Chicago.

“City as Text” is an exercise in “close reading,” except rather than a written text one is reading the natural, built, and social environment. It is also a way to explore a new place and take its pulse. This afternoon-long workshop will begin with some common instruction, then in small groups participants will spread out around the city, taking notes as you go. Upon returning you will organize your observations and write your reflections on what you saw. Dress for the weather, bring pocket change for the bus, and be prepared to stop someplace for a bite to eat.
Dr. Shannon Fisher  
Featured Speaker, Thursday at 7:45 PM  
CSU Ballroom

Professor and Director of Water Resources at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Dr. Fisher received his B.S. in Biology from Northland College (Ashland, WI), and his M.S. and Ph.D. from South Dakota State University. In his role at Minnesota State Mankato, Dr. Fisher leads a diverse research and outreach team dedicated to restoring impaired waters by understanding the socioeconomic drivers and ecological foundations that shape environmental management. Dr. Fisher also teaches Lake Ecology, Fisheries Biology, Stream Restoration, and Research Methods. Dr. Fisher maintains an active lab of undergraduate and graduate research assistants working on projects ranging from water quality impacts on aquatic biota and large river ecology to impaired waters restoration strategies and agricultural drainage practices. Dr. Fisher is also active in the American Fisheries Society, serving as the Minnesota Chapter President in 2014-2015 and advising the Chapter’s Minnesota State Mankato subunit.

The Dakota people referred to a remnant glacial river stretching across expanses of prairie and rolling hills as "Mnisota wakpa" - or river of “waters so clear they reflect the sky.” The Minnesota River, a basin of more than 16,000 square miles, has a colorful and often contentious history. As a regional feature, the river conjoins First Nations, 4 states, 38 Minnesota Counties, and numerous other jurisdictional entities – all of whom have a stake in the water quality issues that plague the resource. Across the basin, personal values combined with geographic limitations generate a wide spectrum of social and economic conditions that must be collectively addressed to manage a multi-jurisdictional ecological resource. Along the 335-mile river corridor, there exists a broad spectrum of environmental conditions (including numerous water quality impairments), population densities (6 to 3,389 people per square mile), and per capita incomes ($21,161 to $42,379). From seasoned farmers in the west, to young urbanites in the east, there is much diversity in the Minnesota River community. Will these stakeholders share a vision of what the Minnesota River restoration goals should be, how it will get done, and who should pay for it? A foundational challenge is to determine the riverine conditions that we strive to achieve to call the river “restored.” Can the stakeholders agree upon a set of restoration goals based on historic prevailing river conditions? Thus we come full circle and ask “What’s in a name?” Join me as we explore the challenges of bringing people together and the conflicts that arise in association with a Dakota name – “Mnisota”!
A poet, fiber artist, and teacher, Dr. Westerman lives in southern Minnesota, as did her Dakota ancestors. Her roots are deep in the landscape of the tallgrass prairie, and reveal themselves in her art and writing, through the languages and traditions of her family. A full professor in English and Director of the Humanities Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato, she is a 2014 Distinguished Faculty Scholar, a 2012 Presidential Teaching Scholar, and the 2012 Douglas R. Moore Faculty Research Fellow. Her poetry book *Follow the Blackbirds*, written in Dakota and English, was published in 2013 by Michigan State University Press. She is co-author of *Mni Sota Makoce: The Land of the Dakota*, which won the 2013 Minnesota Book Award, a 2013 Leadership in History Award from the American Association of State and Local History, and the 2014 Hognander Minnesota History Award given for the “most outstanding scholarly work related to Minnesota history published during the previous two years.”

Minnesota is a Dakota place. The Dakota people's place in Minnesota. Is there a difference between those two statements? The first is a simple declarative sentence that identifies Minnesota. The second is a dependent phrase that locates the people in the place but is lacking context. This transformation of syntax also transforms the meaning. Word choice is important as it conveys intent and meaning, but the confluence of English and Dakota in the 19th century created a series of conflicts. This presentation will provide some background on the history of literacy in the Dakota language, the Dakota language version of the 1851 Treaty of Traverse des Sioux, and what these words might mean for us today.
Presentation Schedule
Friday, March 27, 2015

8 AM – 8:50 AM

**Session 1** – CSU 201

*Service, Education and Fun: Spring Break in Honors*
Kirstyn Fiala, Hanna Larsen, Lilli Weinkauf, & Kautious Weinkauf
South Dakota State University

*The Convergence of Service and Learning*
Michael Wenzel, Lori Halverson-Wente, Marissa Cummins, & Rachel Brockamp
Rochester Community and Technical College, University of Minnesota - Morris

**Session 2** – CSU 202

*Accelerando: Revival of a Sonic Laboratory*
Cody McKune, Scott Community College

*Bridging the Gap: Yoga as a Treatment Method for Eating Disorder Recovery*
Emily Wood, Union College

**Session 3** – CSU 203

*Mindfulness Therapy: Blending Eastern & Western Medicine to Treat Bipolar Disorder*
Eric Revis, Wartburg College

9 AM – 9:50 AM

**Session 4** – CSU 201

*Changing the Mindset of Arguing: Making the Inclusive Argument a Part of the Honors Classroom*
Nathan Serfling, Christopher Kotschevar, & Kalynn Slabaugh
South Dakota State University

**Session 5** – CSU 202

*The Possibility of a Science of Psychology*
Abbie Fitzgerald, Clarke University

*From Pacifist to Monster: How the Politics of the French Revolution Changed Robespierre*
Corey Ennis, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Session 6 – CSU 253

Honors Handbook & Supplemental Guidebooks for Honor Students Success
Terra Klima, South Dakota State University

Collective Creation: Declaration of Values
Zach Petzel, Julia Hamann, Makenzie Petzel, Ali Oku, & Ashley Kanak
Minnesota State University, Mankato

Session 7 – MH 210

Breaking the Binary
Skyler Quade, Clarke University

Coping with Trauma: The Complex Relationship between the Dakota People and Alcohol
Mariah McCloud, Southwest Minnesota State University

Steampunk: The History, the Art, the Culture
Amanda Bonjour, Wartburg College

10 AM – 10:50 AM

Session 8 – CSU 201

Managing Stress and Achieving Balance in Honors
Jeremiah Atkinson & Terra Klima, South Dakota State University

Letting Go
Gabrielle Lara, Bemidji State University

Session 9 – CSU 203

The “Life Inside” Lab
Sydney Brock, Graceland University

Using Biomaterials to Improve Success of Implanted Biomedical Devices
Catherine Le Denmat, Iowa State University

Session 10 – CSU 253

I Love My Job! Maximizing Profit for the Honors Program Student Worker
Jessica Waldschmidt, Laura Wang, & Shan Xiao, University of Iowa

Effective Methods of Communication in an Honors Program
Rachael Igo, Ashley Kanak, & Kristen Paulsen, Minnesota State University, Mankato
Session 11 – MH 210

*Are the Wings Too Much?*
Crystal Joos, Southwest Minnesota State University

*Islamic Fundamentalism and The Paradox Between Religion and Terrorism*
Ali Tokatli, Graceland University

*Obstacles despite opportunity: refugee employment in Lincoln, Nebraska*
Vernée Norman, Union College

11AM – 11:50 AM

Session 12 – CSU 202

*Mobile Applications for Survey Research in Sociology*
Jinsoo Hwang, Madison College

*Haters Gonna Hate?: Analysis of Honors Students’ Grouphate*
Allyson Helms, South Dakota State University

Session 13 – CSU253

*Reacting to the Past: Learning By Role Playing*
Gabrielle Lara, Spenser Larson, Paris Thomas, & Daniela Maltais
Bemidji State University

Session 14 – MH210

“*Acting*” With Honor: Using Interpretive Literature Within a Multi-Discipline Curriculum
Barb Kleinjan & Jordan Nichols, South Dakota State University

Session 15 - MH213

*Developing Honors Student Leaders*
Hanna Larsen & Terra Klima, South Dakota State University

*Falling in Love With Honors: The Appeal of Peer-Led Honors Programming*
Holly Yoder, Adam Ishola, & Sangwoo Han
University of Iowa
**Session 16 – CSU South Ballroom**

*Poster Judging* - Posters may remain available in the South Ballroom during the entire conference. Poster judging will occur on Friday morning from 11 AM – 11:50 PM, so students must be next to their poster during that time.

**Oxidative effects on muscle protein contractile function**
Tatiana Soboleva, Minnesota State University, Mankato

**The Biological Testing of Estrone-Inspired Cucurbitacin Analogs Against Melanoma Cells**
Jessica Taylor, South Dakota State University

**Honors Educators and Academic Identity**
Rocky Dailey, South Dakota State University

**A Limitation of Pre-Service Teacher Education: The Lack of Preparation for Family-Teacher Relationships**
Megan Vockrodt, Northern State University

**Transcriptional Activity and Regulation during Lysogenic and Lytic Cycles of Mycobacteriophage Caelakin**
Justina Brusacoram, The College of St. Scholastica

**Development of a Tissue Culture Protocol for Rheum rhubarbarum**
Mark Sperry, Northern State University

**Biological activity testing of novel estrone analogs for targeted pancreatic cancer treatment**
Jeremiah Atkinson, South Dakota State University

**Chemosensitization of Drug-Resistant Ovarian Cancer Cells with Hexanor-Cucurbitacin D and Estrone Analogs**
Ranna Nasreldin, South Dakota State University

**Esterification of Acid Chlorides**
Ryan Colakovic, Minnesota State University Mankato

**Systematic Binding Assessment of Paralogs and Homologs**
Stad Zeigler, South Dakota State University

**Country Risk and its Effects on Institutional Investment Fund Flows: Evidence from Mexico**
Pengyu Qian, Minnesota State University, Moorhead

**EDGES: Deep Multi-Wavelength Photometry Analysis for NGC4242 and UGC7301**
Arika Egan, Northern Michigan University
2PM – 2:50 PM

**Session 17 - CSU201**

*A Freshman Honors Retreat for 450, from Start to Finish*
Emily Wilcox, Cody Hancock, & Kyle Miller, Iowa State University

*Creating Confluence Among Students Through a Fall Retreat*
Ashley Kanak, Minnesota State University, Mankato

**Session 18 - CSU203**

*The Danger of a Feminine Political Narrative*
Krista Klocke, Iowa State University

*Today’s Gender is: Error – A Discourse on Gender and Human Freedom*
Christian K. Terry, Wartburg College

**Session 19 - CSU213**

*The Dakota Conflict Through the Perspective of the “Peace Seekers”*
Rocky Dailey & Nels Granholm, South Dakota State University

*Strange Students on a Conservative Campus: Vietnam Protests at South Dakota State University*
Owen Shay, South Dakota State University

**Session 20 - CSU253**

*A White Coat Field Trip: Breast Cancer Through the Eyes of Your Physicians*
Darcy Volz, Graceland University

*A Heart to Heart: Advocacy for the Education and Prevention of Heart Disease in Young Adults*
Becca Ferguson, Graceland University

3PM – 3:50 PM

**Session 21 - CSU201**

*#LoveYourSelfie*
Levi Seefeldt & Samie Ebert, Northern State University

*The Effects of Social Media on Our Identity*
Donjeta Ferati, Graceland University
Session 22 - CSU202

Constructing Meaning Through Engaging and Interactive Class Discussions
Barb Kleinjan, Logan Hunter, Alex Clem, Emily Pederson, & Kaya Borg, South Dakota State University

Session 23 - CSU253

Survival of the Basque Language
Mikyla Denney, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Between Law and Morality: Lessons from Les Miserables
Sara Walski, Southwest Minnesota State University

Confluence in the Midst of Conflict: The Christmas Truce of 1914
Kailey Hanson, Southwest Minnesota State University

Session 24 - MH213

Going Deep in With Honors First Years
Timothy Nichols, Hanna Larsen, Jordan Bartholf, Jacob Gubbrud, Camille Klima, Viraj Patel, Kalynn Slabaugh, Lilli Weinkauf & Amanda Neubauer, South Dakota State University

4PM – 4:50 PM

Session 25 - CSU201

Using History and Philosophy in Honors Calculus
Dan Kemp, South Dakota State University

Using Drama to Create Honor and Advocacy in Our World: The Triangle Factory Fire
Barb Kleinjan & Joshua Westwick, South Dakota State University

Session 26 - CSU202

Community College Round Table
Dr. Nnachi Umennachi (Scott Community College)

Session 27 - CSU253

Changes to the Aquifers of O’ahu Due to Sea Level Rise
Gretchen Chan, Madison College

Energy: Present Realities, Future Possibilities
Timothy Nichols, Jacob Gubbrud, & Benjamin Meyer, South Dakota State University
5 PM – 5:50 PM

**Session 28** – CSU 201

*Honors Directors Roundtable*
Christopher Corley & Ginny Walters, Minnesota State University, Mankato

**Session 29** – CSU 254

*Honors Students Fishbowl*
Lauren Bach, Minnesota State University, Mankato

**Saturday, March 28, 2015**

9 AM – 9:50 AM

**Session 30** – MH 213

*Connecting the Honors Dots: Fundamentals of Speech, Pharmacy, and the Common Read*
Barb Kleinjan, South Dakota State University

*Treatment of Honors Student Speech Anxiety: Using Tutoring to Calm Fears and Increase Public Speaking Competency*
Joshua Westwick, Barb Kleinjan, & Kaya Borg, South Dakota State University

**Session 31** – MH 210

*Living without Free Will*
Caleb Miller, Graceland University

*Creativity*
Maranda Carney, Clarke University

**Session 32** – MH 209

*Clarke University Scholars Program: A Uniquely Flexible “Honors Program”*
Tom Riley & Ann Pelelo, Clarke University

*Perceptions of Honors, Accurate and Not: Building from the Best and the Rest*
Bill Knox, Western Illinois University
Session 33 – MH 211

*Evaluation of Farming Systems to Improve Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa*
Dalton Kampsen, Jacob Kaiser, & Matthew Kunerth, South Dakota State University

*Developing Food Security that is Independent of the Contemporary Food Distribution Network*
Ryan Schlom, Graceland University

*Insects: The Ultimate Superfood*
Kate Ytell, Graceland University

10 AM – 10:50 AM

Session 34 – MH 213

*Continuing in the Classroom: Utilizing Honors Students as Undergraduate TAs*
Hanna Larsen, Tim Nichols, & Kirstyn Fiala, South Dakota State University

*Undergraduate Internships: The Benefits of Professional Experience*
Evan Heer, Clarke University

Session 35 – MH 211

*Honors Publishes Book of Love*
Jordan Nichols & Casey Goodmund, South Dakota State University

*Analyzing the Attraction of the Paranormal Romance in the 21st Century*
Maria Ramos-Garcia, Miranda Boraas, & Christopher Kotschevar
South Dakota State University

Session 36 – CSU 201

*Coming Together: The Conflict between Conformity and Individuality*
Erin Reps, Southwest Minnesota State University

*Shame Resiliency*
Becky Humphrey, Graceland University

Session 37 – MH 210

*Country Risk and its Effects on Institutional Investment Fund Flows: Evidence from Mexico*
Pengyu Qian, Minnesota State University, Moorhead
Conference Abstracts
(Listed by Last Name of First Author)

Atkinson, Jeremiah
South Dakota State University

Biological activity testing of novel estrone analogs for targeted pancreatic cancer treatment
(Session 16)
Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States. Though not the most common cancer, it has a high death rate because only 15-20% of pancreatic tumors are able to be excised. Chemotherapeutic agents are the first line of treatment, where combinatorial therapies of Gemcitabine (2’-deoxy-2’,2’difluorocytidine) with other divergent inhibitors such as nab-Paclitaxel or Cisplatin are used. However, the estimated median survival time of these treatments is 8.5 months, due to the resistance development by tumors. Cucurbitacins are naturally occurring tripterpenoid structures with known cytotoxic activity against different cancer cell lines. Recently, Halaweish group managed to design and synthesize series of estrone analogs defined as Cucurbitacin like structures targeting mitogen activated protein kinase pathway. These estrone analogs have been repurposed for pancreatic adenocarcinoma and tested on three cell lines to determine their cell viability using MTT assay. The binding affinity of the synthesized analogs was analyzed with Omega OpenEye docking software based on their interaction with respective receptors such as EGFR, RAF, and RAS. MSA-8, MSA-7, MSA-10, and MSA-5 had the lowest IC50 values at 7, 8, 10, and 10 μM respectively on the PANC-1 cell line. A western blot was performed on the PANC-1 cell line with MSA-8 to test for apoptotic proteins.

Atkinson, Jeremiah, & Terra Klima
South Dakota State University

Managing Stress and Achieving Balance in Honors (Session 8)
Life in an honors program is exciting and full of opportunities to create a well-rounded individual. Unfortunately, students can also experience buildup from stressful activities, which can lead to imbalance and burn out. Some sources of stress include overwhelming oneself with commitments, unrealistic personal or work-related expectations, and uncontrollable personal events. This roundtable will be a discussion about managing these stressors using various strategies including mindset, physical exercise, counseling, and simple tasks that make the day seem better. In addition, students are expected to be well-rounded, which encompasses activities in academics, social life, and personal life. Thoughts will be shared about opportunities for students to become well-rounded, as well as how to keep oneself in balance.

Bonjour, Amanda
Wartburg College

Steampunk: The History, the Art, the Culture (Session 7)
The Steampunk movement began due to books such as The Time Machine and Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea. Today this movement has expanded beyond literature to fashion, music, and art. In addition to this, mainstream culture has started to pay attention to the ornate and quirky flare that Steampunk offers and are now incorporating it into their products. People that participate in this movement gather in mass to teas, balls, camping, movies and many other events in corsets, bustles, waistcoats and top hats. In this presentation the history and culture of Steampunk will be explored, and the possible reasons why this literary genre has become a true subculture will be outlined.
Brock, Syndey  
Graceland University  
*The "Life Inside" Lab (Session 9)*

From human cells to bacteria to transparent fish, we would be lost without biological research on model organisms. These three model organisms will be examined with original research involving treatment with ethanol. The information that can be gained from each of these treatments will be discussed, as well as the excitement and benefit of involving these transparent fish, zebrafish, in the research process. Zebrafish will be highlighted as a model for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and what we can learn from this model will be discussed.

Brusacoram, Justina  
The College of St. Scholastica  
*Transcriptional Activity and Regulation during Lysogenic and Lytic Cycles of Mycobacteriophage Caelakin (Session 16)*

The bacteriophage population of the biosphere is massive, diverse and genetically rich. In addition to this relatively untapped genetic frontier, bacteriophages continue to hold great promise as a clinical tool for treating bacterial infections. In an era of increasing antibiotic resistance, research on the relationship between the phage and host bacterium is highly relevant. In an effort to understand more about phage-host bacterium interactions, this study observed the changes in mycobacteriophage gene transcription that occur in the transition between the lysogenic and lytic cycles. In these studies, the host bacterium Mycobacteriophage smegmatis was infected with mycobacteriophage Caelakin under lytic and lysogenic infection conditions and phage RNA transcripts were isolated and reverse transcribed into cDNA. The presence of specific transcripts expressed under these conditions were identified through PCR using gene specific primers. This study suggests that there is a difference in phage gene expression between the lytic cycle and lysogenic cycle. By learning more about the transcription of protein-coding genes and their putative functions, we are starting to elucidate the dynamics of phage-host interactions.

Carney, Miranda  
Clarke University  
*Creativity (Session 31)*

In today’s society there is already a preconceived notion of creativity. I will explore the possibility that this concept of creativity is flawed, in which case we should reconsider our view towards creativity. In Götz’s article "On Defining Creativity," he sets forth to rectify a critical flaw in the usage and understanding of the term “creative” by arguing for a stricter definition. I will be evaluating his claim on creativity in relationship to the traditional notion of creativity. I will reassess Götz’s creativity and the possible flaws that could render his notion of creativity valueless to our society.
Chan, Gretchen
Madison College
*Changes to the Aquifers of O‘ahu due to Sea Level Rise (Session 27)*
As sea level rises globally, coastal aquifers and ecosystems will change. This study looks at the potential affects of sea level rise at the Hawai‘ian island of O‘ahu. Where does freshwater on tropical islands come from? How is the quality and the quantity of the groundwater affected by rising seas? How does saline inundation of aquifers exacerbate natural disasters. How does the changing sub-surface geohydrology cause affects above ground? How does saline inundation of aquifers affect the regional ecology and global biodiversity?

Colakovic, Ryan
Minnesota State University, Mankato
*Esterification of Acid Chlorides (Session 16)*
Esters are chemical compounds that are commonly derived from a carboxylic acid and an alcohol. Many are used as fragrances as they give off sweet-smelling aromas such as fruits, caramel, and rum. Esters were synthesized through refluxing a carboxylic acid derivative and an alcohol in an imidazole-buffered environment. The presence of imidazole will maintain the pH by absorbing any acid produced. The carboxylic acid derivative was initially an acid anhydride but later switched to an acid chloride to yield purer esters. The products were purified through acid-base extraction and vapor distillation. The esters produced were analyzed by infrared (IR) spectroscopy, gas chromatography (GC), and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). An esterification procedure was developed to be completed in two hours for use in an organic chemistry lab. Students will choose an unknown combination of an acid chloride and an alcohol to produce an ester. After obtaining spectroscopic data to determine the structure of the ester, students will determine their unknowns.

Dailey, Rocky
South Dakota State University
*Honors Educators and Academic Identity (Session 16)*
Those who teach in collegiate honors programs were surveyed on aspects of their academic identity, which combines professional, teaching, and personal identity criteria. Two hundred and sixty nine honors faculty working in programs belonging to the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) participated in this study by answering questions related to professional identity aspects. The honors faculty surveyed saw themselves as mentors in their academic positions and found their work meaningful. They indicated that honors students present both the greatest challenge and reward for them. They believe the expectations of their position are realistic yet often feel stressed about their work. While opportunities to move up in the institution are available, they are very content in their positions within their institutions with no real desire to move on or out of academia. While they believe they are in a position to implement change, they feel they lack influence over policy issues. The results indicate that the relationship between teacher and student is at the heart of the academic identity of honors educators and the more superficial aspects hold less importance when compared to this relationship.

Keywords: collegiate honors, professional identity, teaching identity, higher education administration, academic identity
Dailey, Rocky & Nels Granholm
South Dakota State University
*The Dakota Conflict through the Perspective of “The Peace Seekers” (Session 19)*
This fall, the Honors First Lady's Literary Circle at SDSU read *The Peace Seekers -- Indian Christians and the Dakota Conflict*, by Elden Lawrence. Dr. Lawrence was a SDSU alumnus, a tribal college president, and member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate. Our presentation will include a discussion of the role of the “peace seekers” in the Dakota Conflict, provide some biographical information and insights on Dr. Lawrence's life, and include an examination of some of the foundational tribal philosophies that guided his writing and work. Our discussion will compare and contrast this indigenous world-view with the dominant mainstream perspective.

Denney, Mikyla
Minnesota State University, Mankato
*Survival of the Basque Language (Session 23)*
This research examines the Basque language of northern Spain. It is a lesser-known language and is often overlooked. Despite being a marginalized language, Basque community members are working to preserve and share their language with new generations of speakers. This research is a portion of my larger project on the Basque language. In this portion, I examine the history and contemporary status of the language. I explore the nationalist ideologies connected to its revitalization, which is providing motivation, but also creating some political tension with fellow Spaniards. The creation of language offerings for school age children is also playing an important role in the preservation of this language. Exploring the history and present day struggles of the preservation of Basque reveals shared processes that other groups around the world experience with language survival.

Egan, Arika
Northern Michigan University
*EDGES: Deep Multi-Wavelenth Photometry Analysis for NGC4242 and UGC7301 (Session 16)*
New deep ugri imaging was obtained on the Wyoming Infrared Observatory 2.3 meter telescope for NGC4202 and UGC7301, two galaxies in the Extended Disk Galaxy Exploration Science survey. These data are coupled with deep GALEX ultraviolet and Spitzer/WISE infrared imaging to study the radial variations in the spectral energy distributions. Results from the CIGALE SED modeling software will be presented, including trends in the galaxy star formation histories. This work is supported by the National Science Foundation under REU grant AST 1063146.
Ennis, Corey  
*Minnesota State University, Mankato*  
**From Pacifist to Monster: How the Politics of the French Revolution Changed Robespierre**  
*(Session 5)*

Maximilien Robespierre (1758-1794) was one of the most polarizing figures throughout French Revolution. His actions and decisions sparked the Reign of Terror, one of the most violent periods in European political history. For much of his career, however, Robespierre did not advocate state-sponsored violence. Transformations in his political and moral philosophy have been the topic of much discussion since the Revolution. Some historians have argued that the Terror was simply a product of the Revolution, and that it would have happened regardless of Robespierre. Others have strongly asserted that the Terror was born out of the circumstances created by political factionalism in the early stages of the Revolution. In this paper, I argue that Robespierre observed the changing circumstances of the Revolution and believed that he could achieve his goals by shifting his political strategies toward the side that he believed would gain power. He then used the Terror to remove his political enemies. Ultimately, this paper argues that Robespierre was a pragmatist who took advantage of available circumstances at the time. This research might raise questions about the use of violence as a tool, even in more recent political and revolutionary events that we see around the globe today. While the ideals of the French Revolution—Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity—are still carried forward in modern movements, the pragmatism that Robespierre demonstrated is still used by contemporary political leaders.

Ferati, Donjeta  
*Graceland University*  
**The Effects of Social Media on Our Identity**  
*(Session 21)*

This presentation will outline how social media shapes people’s lives (in general) and how it affects their self-esteem and self-identity (in particular). The speed with which information travels today from one corner of the world to another, and our ability to share messages within a matter of seconds, are new social phenomena. In many ways, social media has become a symbol of the globalization of media, of a new form of communication, and one of the most commonly used tools to express who we are, what we do, and what kind of problems preoccupy our minds and hearts.

Fergusan, Becca  
*Graceland University*  
**A Heart to Heart: Advocacy for the Education and Prevention of Heart Disease in Young People**  
*(Session 20)*

Studies have shown that women do not begin to worry about their risk of cardiovascular disease until they are over forty-five-years old. Young adult women are unaware of their risk of developing cardiovascular disease, and this lack of knowledge leads to early unhealthy lifestyle development, putting them at risk for developing cardiovascular disease. Primary health care professionals need to begin looking closely at the lifestyles and behaviors of their young adult patients to catch, educate, and correct high-risk behavior through a holistic approach.
Fiala, Kirstyn, Hanna Larsen, Lilli Weinkauf, & Kautious Weinkauf.  
South Dakota State University  
*Service, Education, and Fun: Spring Break in Honors (Session 1)* 
Last spring, South Dakota State University created an alternative spring break trip for honors students. Our aim was to integrate service, education, and fun into an opportunity for honors students and faculty to have a new and unique experience involving service learning, opportunities for growth, community building, and civic engagement. This project benefited our program in several ways including community development, faculty-student engagement, and leadership opportunities. We also had the chance for in-depth exploration of topics important to honors and exposure to diversity, all while challenging our students to work toward becoming well-rounded leaders that have excellence with integrity, leadership, and service. Join us for information and discussion on the planning process, the actual trip, what we learned, what we would do differently, what we have in store for next year, and how other honors programs can adopt this plan to fit their needs.

Fitzgerald, Abbie  
Clarke University  
*The Possibility of a Science of Psychology (Session 5)* 
Following the breakthrough of psychology into the realm of science, R.G. Collingwood published *The Idea of History* in which he questioned the functionality of a science of psychology. It is within the organization and subject matter of this field that Collingwood believed to highlight a fundamental mistake. His argument holds that psychology claims to be a science of the mind, but it is in turn a false analogy because the subject of psychology is not of a natural essence but rather of a historical one. History, as Collingwood shared, should be studied by looking at both the outside and the inside of any particular event. On the outside there are objective statements and facts – things that happened and descriptions of time, place, people involved, and so on. Within an event, which he saw to be of the utmost importance, are the psychological motives, aims, and desires of the people involved. He held that this is not only the most effective way to study history, but also that, when applied, it is the most successful way to study the mind. This belief renders science inadequate in terms of studying the human psyche, and Collingwood’s proposal of an alternative method will be explored and analyzed.

Hanson, Kailey  
Southwest Minnesota State University  
*Confluence in the Midst of Conflict: The Christmas Truce of 1914 (Session 23)* 
A little over one hundred years ago the world faced a scenario it had never experienced before: world war. Yet, somehow amidst this dark and desolate time, humanity showed its face in ‘no man’s land.’ For one day, British and German soldiers did the impossible and put their guns down and celebrated Christmas together. In this paper I will examine the complex factors that made this truce possible: these include the fighting strategies, the technology, and the values of that time period. All of these are aspects that differ from generation to generation. With these components in mind, one can reflect on how much our society has changed and question if this event could happen again in this day and age.
Heer, Evan
Clarke University
Undergraduate Internships: The Benefits of Professional Experience (Session 34)
With the population of college graduates outpacing the general population, competition for employment and/or postgraduate education has increased. As a result, during the last decade, internships have become more prevalent than ever for undergraduate students. These internships not only improve one’s ability to score a job, but also present the opportunity for interns to team up with respected professionals to gain knowledge of the world beyond the classroom so that they can be career and life-ready upon graduation. In this presentation, I will discuss how my internship experience as a Conference Coordinator Assistant in the fall of 2014 has improved my networking and professional etiquette skills. Furthermore, I will discuss how working in a collaborative environment has enhanced my abilities to negotiate with both personal and professional responsibilities. Lastly, I will examine the ways in which these valuable experiences can apply to my life following graduation.

Helms, Allyson
South Dakota State University
Haters Gonna Hate? Analysis of Honors Students’ Grouphate (Session 12)
This study employs repeated measures to examine college students’ attitudes toward group projects and their potential impact on learning and course outcomes. Excessive negative attitudes toward group work (i.e., “grouphate”) may inhibit cohesion, consensus, relational satisfaction, attitudes toward behaviors recommended in a course, likelihood of developing appreciation for course content, and cognitive learning scores. To address these concerns, this two-pronged study will measure baseline grouphate and trace its longitudinal development in a control group of students sampled from honors students (n=125) at a midsized midwestern university. Additionally, a pilot study will measure outcomes of a three-pronged grouphate mitigation treatment (cognitive modification/inoculation, exposure therapy, and skills training) in a subset of communications students from a small group communication class (n=24). At the beginning of a semester, all participants will be given Keyton’s Grouphate Scale (1996). The control group will receive the same survey at midterm and as a post-test, along with demographic measures; while the treatment group will add Rosenfeld and Gilbert’s Classroom Cohesion Scale (1989), DeStephen and Hirokawa’s Consensus scale (1988), Anderson’s Relational Satisfaction Scale (2001), McCroskey’s Instructional Affect Assessment Instrument (1994), and Richmond’s Cognitive Learning Loss Measure (1987). I will analyze findings to compare the students exposed to the treatment with the larger control group, to draw implications for the enhancement of instructional grouphate mitigation methodologies, to determine if different grouphate treatments might improve overall learning and course outcomes, and to gain support for future treatment studies.

Humphrey, Becky
Graceland University
Shame Resiliency (Session 36)
This presentation will explore the shame culture in the United States and the power of empathy in combating shame. Although shame causes harmful behaviors in our lives, communities, and relationships, is often too painful to talk about or acknowledge. Specific attention will be paid to the relationships between empathy and shame.
Hwang, Jinsoo
Madison College
Mobile Applications for Survey Research in Sociology (Session 12)
The purpose of this research is to identify the feasibility of survey mobile applications in the field of sociology. As mobile technology advances, the possibility of utilizing mobile devices for survey research in sociology may appeal to undergraduate students who wish to conduct small research studies. This project involves research in three key areas: the existing literature on survey research, native and web mobile applications, and current mobile applications for surveys that already exist in the market. The goal of this research is to identify a mobile application that will work well for small-scale undergraduate research in sociology.

Igo, Rachael, Ashley Kanak, & Kristen Paulsen
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Effective Methods of Communication in an Honors Program (Session 10)
Effective communication is essential to communal success. This is especially true when applied to honors communities, which come in different shapes and sizes. Whether it is a close-knit Honors Program or a large Honors College, it is incredibly important to effectively communicate with all individuals involved. The Honors Program staff at Minnesota State University, Mankato utilize numerous outlets of communication in order to relay information to the honors community. These outlets include social media, newsletters, and many other platforms. In this session, please join Minnesota State University, Mankato’s Honors Program Graduate Assistant, Media Relations Director, and Student Activities Director in a presentation and discussion of effective, as well as ineffective, methods of communication in an Honors Program.

Joos, Crystal
Southwest Minnesota State University
Are the Wings too Much? (Session 11)
When someone says “angel” the image that springs to mind is that of a beautiful, winged creature with a halo and white robes. Recent movies and television shows such as Legion, Supernatural, and Dogma do not hold true to this ideal. Their angels are dark, terrifying creatures of incredible power. The innocent and righteous preconception that we have in mind is hugely contradicted when we see Michael or Gabriel, angels we consider protectors, attack and kill defenseless humans in the movies. However, which idea conflicts with Christian texts? Are the angels of the Bible harmless cherubs, or are they something a little more sinister? This paper will argue that it is perhaps our own preconceptions, and not pop culture portrayals, that conflict with biblical versions of these creatures that so many of us consider to be our guardians and protectors.
Kampsen, Dalton, Jacob Kaiser, & Matthew Kunerth  
South Dakota State University  
**Evaluation of Farming Systems to Improve Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa (Session 33)**  
This semester our Global Food Systems class has examined the many relationships between global agriculture, food security and poverty alleviation. Our team project goes beyond class requirements and is focused on an evaluation of three specific farming systems in Sub-Saharan Africa and their capacity to provide greater food security and contribute to poverty alleviation. Each team member studied a specific FAO designated farming system and evaluated their system in terms of its natural resource base; farm size and land use patterns; farming practices and technology used; different roles of family members; income potential and relationship to agribusiness and food markets. In this presentation, we will discuss what we have learned from each of the three farming systems in Sub-Saharan Africa: maize mixed, irrigation, and cereal root crop mixed. We will evaluate, compare and contrast each farming system in terms of their major strengths and weaknesses. We will investigate which components of these farming systems can be improved so most of the farm products can be sold instead of mainly used for farm household subsistence. Overall, we will conclude how each farming system can be enhanced to improve food security and the standard of living of people in these regions of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Kanak, Ashley, Julia Hamann, Ali Oku, Zachary Petzel, & Makenzie Petzel  
Minnesota State University, Mankato  
**Collective Creation: Declaration of Values (Session 6)**  
Born from a seminar discussing philosophies of mentorship, undergraduates collaborated on a group project to create a new text to be included in the student handbook. This document, formally named as a declaration of values, outlines the core beliefs of honors students’ related to personal goals, academic achievement, cultural competency, community engagement, and how these relate holistically to our honors program. In this session we will explore the evolution of the declaration of values from conceptualization to final draft. We learned about the triumphs and challenges faced in creating a text that is both specific to honors and yet engaging to students from diverse backgrounds. We hope to share our strategies for best practices and serve as guides in creating a declaration of values related to your honors program.

Kanak, Ashley  
Minnesota State University, Mankato  
**Creating Confluence among Students through a Fall Retreat (Session 17)**  
By working with upperclassmen to create a fall retreat for new students, we hope to provide an opportunity to introduce incoming undergraduates to the fundamentals of the honors program from a peer perspective. This orientation enables first year students to begin formulating a plan for achieving the three competencies of leadership, research, and global citizenship during their time in the Honors Program. With activities lead by honors mentors, this retreat enhances the new student university experience by encouraging academic conversation with program peers. Retreat guides are able to practice their mentorship skills and further develop their leadership experience. During this session we will discuss how program administration worked with the mentors to implement a long standing staple to the first year experience. We will also review two retreat itineraries and encourage audience participation in one activity associated with our honors program competencies.
Kemp, Dan  
South Dakota State University  
*Using History and Philosophy in Honors Calculus (Session 25)*  
One idea to make a calculus class “honorable” is to incorporate the History and Philosophy of Mathematics into the class. There are at least two ways to do this with history. One is to have students read and reflect on reading from the history of mathematics literature. There is no lack of this and students really seem to enjoy such readings. For most it’s their first exposure to the History of Mathematics. Another way is to have students work through historical approaches to mathematics. The oft-quoted “Read the Masters” is difficult for freshmen calculus students to do, but there is much historical mathematics that can be rendered understandable to your audience. Philosophy is harder to work into class for me. Reading and reflecting on the readings is the best I’ve been able to do.

Kleinjan, Barb, Logan Hunter, Alex Clem, Emily Pederson, & Kaya Borg  
South Dakota State University  
*Constructing Meaning through Engaging and Interactive Class Discussions (Session 22)*  
Bueller?...Bueller?...Bueller? Are your students zoned out and glued to their electronic screens? Do you want to create more classroom interaction within your lectures and presentations? Communication is a shared event where the source encourages the receiver to participate in an adventure, searching for knowledge, expertise and application. When the conversational dance between the two parties becomes a reciprocated exchange of trust, talent and dedication, inspiration is the true motivational factor. Once inspired, students learn; once dendrites activate, long-term memory occurs – a simple process which all instructors must pursue with an ethical fervor. The South Dakota State University Honors Public Speaking course focuses on the Audience First interactive model to promote honorable and ethical student class discussions. Using Constructivism as a guiding philosophical pedagogy, these models establish student-centered and controlled class discussions that effectively move context and content to long term memory. As numerous research studies indicate, lecture alone will not produce preservation and recollection of material. By utilizing these methods of engagement, students take ownership into the construction of their own learning, and thereby increase the retention of the same materials and concepts. During this session, six SDSU Honors students, Kaya Borg, Danielle Dickerson, Alex Clem, Emily Peterson and Logan Hunter, will replicate discussion models and invite audience participation. This interactive session will demonstrate three types of student-centered discussion models easily adapted to any discipline or curriculum. Join the session and practice these models with a team of Honors students ready debate timely issues of ethics and philosophy.
Kleinjan, Barb, & Joshua Westwick  
South Dakota State University  
Using Drama to Create Honor and Advocacy in Our World: The Triangle Factory Fire (Session 25)  
The South Dakota State University Honors Communication students were challenged to create original, choral reading performances that portrayed an interpretative view of American culture or addressed social issues within the American framework. One group investigated the “Triangle Factory Fire,” a shocking tragedy that changed the way in which American factory workers, especially women, were treated. On March 25, 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory in New York City burned, killing 145 workers. It is remembered as one of the most infamous incidents in American industrial history, as the deaths were largely preventable—most of the victims died as a result of neglected safety features and locked doors within the factory building. The tragedy brought widespread attention to the dangerous sweatshop conditions of factories, and led to the development of a series of laws and regulations that better protected the safety of workers. After beginning the session with an ensemble Readers’ Theater presentation that focuses on the victims and their subsequent court cases, the student researchers will present their findings about the Triangle Factory tragedy, trace the impact of resulting legislation and discuss the abusive conditions that still exist today. Join the session to view how performing arts may be integrated into a variety of disciplines and how research projects may help the students achieve a constructivist style of learning and retention.

Kleinjan, Barb  
South Dakota State University  
Connecting the Honors Dots: Fundamentals of Speech, Pharmacy, and the Common Read (Session 30)  
The South Dakota State University Fundamentals of Speech Pharmacy Learning Community course is designed to meet the diverse communication needs of first year Pharmacy majors. Since this class is strongly encouraged for all Pharmacy majors, many of the Honors students within the course are unable to take the specialized Honors introductory speech courses or receive Honors credit for that coursework. However, six Honors students within the Pharmacy Learning Community proposed a course adaptation that would elevate the content to a more challenging and invigorating curriculum. By corresponding the themes of Will Allen’s Good Food Revolution: Explore Your Roots, Grow Our Awareness, Feed Our Passion and Nurture Our Communities, to the four major speeches in the course, the Honors students were able to creatively add a multidisciplinary approach to the learning and communication environment. Bailey Buenger, Miranda Borass, Amanda Dickenson, Amanda Neubauer, Alexis Karow, and Sarah Ginsbach will each share excerpts from their thematic speeches while also discussing the complexity of incorporating the SDSU Common Read into a Pharmacy learning community course. In addition, this session will provide communication resources and methodologies for numerous disciplines.
Kleinjan, Barb, & Jordan Nichols
South Dakota State University
“Acting” with Honor: Using Interpretive Literature within a Multi-Discipline Curriculum (Session 14)
Creating a visual presentation of literature can be one of the most powerful and dramatic forms of interacting with an audience. Through manuscripted performances, students may use a variety of vocal tones, facial expressions, physicality and theatrical movement to portray the author’s message in a meaningful and poignant format. The function of the Oral Reader or Interpreter is to creatively establish a link between the author who created the literature and the audience who responds to it. In the South Dakota State University Honors Speech curriculum, students prepare non-original duo and trio Oral Reading selections of prose, poetry and/or drama without the use of costumes, set or props. Through this process many Honors students who normally suffer from communication apprehension find an energizing and creative outlet to lessen performance anxiety with guided practices and the incorporation of basic acting techniques. This workshop session will provide an interactive experience with the audience members as several models of performing arts, character exercises will be included, along with two interpretative performances of both adult and children’s literature. SDSU Honors student performers include: Liz Piehl, Jacob Kaiser, Jessica Schultz, Jordan Little, Kali Bendix and Madison Bieber. Using oral readings of literature may enhance any content collegiate area; therefore, this session will provide curricular resources and methodologies for numerous disciplines.

Klima, Terra
South Dakota State University
Honors Handbook and Supplemental Guidebooks for Honors Student Success (Session 6)
Every student takes a distinct and difficult road to graduating with Honors College distinction. Dean Nichols created an Honors College Handbook to ease the path to graduation with honors distinction along with other necessary requirements. The handbook serves as a general guide for all students and helps students make the most out of their honors experience. In addition, students in the South Dakota State University Pharmacy College have difficulty completing the Honors College requirements along with other Pharmacy and University related graduation requirements. A supplemental guidebook was created to include with the Honors College Handbook to help Pharmacy students complete both programs. The supplemental pharmacy guide provides a template for other colleges and departments to create a customized roadmap through each major. The goal of having an Honors Guide and a Pharmacy Supplemental Guide is to improve student graduation rates with Honors College distinction. In this session, we will explore and share the process of creating a general honors college handbook along with a major specific supplement guide.
Klocke, Krista  
Iowa State University  
*The Danger of a Feminine Political Narrative (Session 18)*  
The study was a rhetorical analysis that investigated the political ads aired by U.S. Senatorial Candidate Joni Ernst and U.S. Congressional Candidate Staci Appel during the 2014 Iowa midterm elections. The ads were analyzed using narrative and feminist rhetorical criticism methods to identify the interaction between the narrative themes and narrator roles both women established and the gender roles they enacted. Female political candidates face unclear, changeable expectations and constraints for their gendered behavior during election campaigns. Given the effectiveness of each woman’s campaign, a link was established between the relative femininity or masculinity of their rhetorical discourse and whether or not they won their election.

Knox, Bill  
Western Illinois University  
*Perceptions of Honors, Accurate and Not: Building from the Best and the Rest (Session 32)*  
Honors too often remains a misunderstood academic program (or college) on campus. Although Honors is often applauded for its role, much misperception remains because of its “separation” from the mainstream of campus curriculum, student life, staffing, and funding. Sometimes the adjective applied to honors is “elitist.” Unfairly, this view may be reinforced because of the selective yet wide range of honors engagement including honors courses, student activities, recruitment of new and on-campus students, scholarship endorsement, awards recognition, student research grants and programs, and fund-raising. This talk will begin with audience members and presenter completing a short questionnaire addressing perceptions of these and other honors elements on their campuses. A number of these responses will be shared by the audience. From that point, the presentation and discussion will address these current issues (some probably shared by many but also some unique to individual campuses) and possible solutions for enhancing the image of honors on campus. The program will then conclude with identifying ideas to promote even larger honors roles despite inaccurate perceptions, shifting student demographics, and uncertain budgets.

Lara, Gabrielle  
Bemidji State University  
*Letting Go (Session 8)*  
A personal narrative essay demonstrating the importance of not allowing hard work, fear, and anxiety to restrict one's passions.
Lara, Gabrielle, Spenser Larson, Paris Thomas, & Daniela Maltais
Bemidji State University
Reacting to the Past: Learning by Role Playing (Session 13)

Bemidji State University's Honors Program brings history and culture to life by having its students role-play historical figures from a specific time period. Students are assigned character roles which they must act out accordingly to achieve individual goals and tasks. Among the various games played, the Athens game is one of the most interesting to play. The game takes place in 403 B.C. in Athens, Greece. The climax of the game is the trial of Socrates. Socrates was tried on two charges: corruption of the youth and impiety. The impious acts that the accusers of Socrates believed he had committed were: the failure to acknowledge the gods that the city acknowledged, and the introduction of new deities. During this portion of the game, students must work in groups, called factions, in which their team will either fight for or against the persecution of Socrates. There are four factions: Moderate Democrats, Oligarchs, Socratics, and Radical Democrats. This presentation demonstrates a sample trial from the game.

Larsen, Hannah, Tim Nichols, & Kirstyn Fiala
South Dakota State University
Continuing in the Classroom: Utilizing Honors Students as Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (Session 34)

Honors students are always valuable assets in the classroom. South Dakota State University utilizes upper-class Honors students as undergraduate teaching assistants (TAs) in several freshman-level Honors courses, most notably the Honors Orientation and Honors First Year Seminar courses in which the majority of incoming first-semester Honors students enroll. These undergraduate TAs serve as peer mentors for incoming Honors students and assist with some of the grading for the course. They can also answer questions about class material, Honors requirements, and broader university experiences from a current student’s perspective. The TAs add to course content through sharing stories and examples from their experiences as current Honors College students and offer a perspective that is different from that of the instructor. The relationships formed in the classroom between the students and the TAs often continue throughout the students’ time at SDSU. This session will examine in more detail the role the Honors TA plays in the classroom and how all students (TAs and first-year students alike) benefit from having undergraduate TAs in Honors classes.

Larsen, Hannah, & Terra Klima
South Dakota State University
Developing Honors Student Leaders (Session 15)

Academics are an important part of an Honors experience, but so are other areas of personal and professional development. The Fishback Honors College at South Dakota State University seeks to help students develop as leaders both in the classroom and within the broader campus community. Students have opportunities to be leaders within Honors College organizations and events, and they are also encouraged to pursue leadership opportunities in other areas of campus. Some of the leadership opportunities students currently have at SDSU include being on the executive board of the Honors College Student Organization, serving on the Dean’s Student Advisory Council, becoming a peer mentor or teaching assistant for Honors courses, participating in a cross-campus sophomore leadership development program, and assisting with the planning and execution of annual Honors College events. This presentation will include both students and staff from the Fishback Honors College who will discuss why leadership opportunities are important for Honors students and offer suggestions for ways students can become involved as leaders within an Honors College or Program.
Le Denmat, Catherine  
Iowa State University  
Using Biomaterials to Improve Success of Implanted Biomedical Devices (Session 9)  
Fibrous encapsulation, commonly referred to as scar formation, can cause failure in many biomedical implants, such as in the artificial pancreas for type I diabetes treatment. Scar tissue prevents wastes and nutrients from being able to exchanged in the implant, ultimately rendering the treatment painful or ineffective. For example, one potential therapeutic for type I diabetes involves using a polymer to protect insulin-producing cells. This artificial pancreas provides diabetics with their much needed insulin on-demand. If scar tissue forms around this artificial pancreas, the device loses the ability to deliver insulin and becomes useless. Our goal is to reduce the fibrous encapsulation of implants using biomaterials and improve the understanding of how cells involved in scar formation respond to biomaterials. We show that our materials can reduce fibrous capsule formation by inhibiting certain physiological pathways. This research will not only improve the success of the artificial pancreas, but other biomaterials.

McCloud, Mariah  
Southwest Minnesota State University  
Coping with Trauma: The Complex Relationship between the Dakota People and Alcohol (Session 7)  
Researchers have documented that alcohol use and its associated impacts occur at much higher rates amongst Native Americans than in other ethnic groups (Wood, et al, 2006). Many Native Americans have become victims of the hurtful stereotypes that are provided by others who are unaware of this population’s unique and sobering history. While many people commonly associate alcohol dependency with the Native American people, few try to fully understand the events that may have caused this devastating correlation. When trying to understand the alcohol dependency in the Dakota community, one must consider the consequences of the 1862 Dakota Conflict and the disabling psychological and emotional issues that it prompted. In this essay, I will provide a brief history of the Dakota people’s psychological and emotional troubles that resulted from the Dakota Conflict, Indian boarding schools, and enduring poverty. I will also examine the extensive role of alcohol use amongst the Dakota people and how their psychological and emotional dispositions allowed them to view alcohol as a viable coping mechanism. Lastly, I will describe how the vicious cycle of alcohol dependency will continue to proliferate amongst the Dakota people until the psychological wounds are healed.
McKune, Cody Michael
Scott Community College
Accelerando: Revival of a Sonic Laboratory (Session 2)
“Accelerando: Revival of a Sonic Laboratory” is an honors independent study carried out to bring back to a functioning position the hardware and software components of a sound booth and over $2,000 worth of equipment left untouched for at least three years after the passing of its faculty creator. The sound booth and the equipment are located in Room 400 of the college's Kahl Educational Center. As a musician of approximately eight years and an audio engineer of nearly four years, I was moved to share the benefits of the sound booth with other students and faculty of our Department through my engineering knowledge. My project involved the creation of a twelve-minute video over-viewing and describing the hardware components of the sound booth, while detailing some of their features. The video is also supplemented by two guides, or "Accompaniments," developed to provide more in-depth coverage of the concepts introduced by video, as well as directions on preparing the sound booth for use. I will do a power point presentation of the video and the process of creating it.

Miller, Caleb
Graceland University
Living without Free Will (Session 31)
Free will is a popular, but daunting topic to address. Philosophy, religion, and science all have significant and differing perspectives and arguments regarding free will. Yet often the debate seems implicitly biased for the existence of free will. In order to not avoid ideas that might be uncomfortable, we must discuss the implications of what it would mean to live without free will.

Nasreldin, Ranna
South Dakota State University.
Chemosensitization of Drug-Resistant Ovarian Cancer Cells with Hexanor-Cucurbitacin D and Estrone Analogs (Session 16)
Ovarian cancer develops in the tissues of the ovaries when the cells grow and divide uncontrollably. It is the eighth most common cancer and the fifth leading cause of death in women due to cancer. Two ovarian cancer cell lines were studied, A2780, which was sensitive to cisplatin, a chemotherapy drug, and A2780CP, which was resistant to the drug. A naturally occurring drug, known as hexanor-cucurbitacin D, was used to pre-treat both types of cells to make them more sensitive to cisplatin. The cytotoxic activities of several estrone analogs were also studied. The effects of hexanor-cucurbitacin D and the estrone analogs were observed on the cisplatin-resistant and sensitive ovarian cancer cells through cell culture and western blot analysis. The combination of cisplatin and hexanor-cucurbitacin D increased the sensitization of resistant ovarian cancer cells to cisplatin chemotherapy while the estrone analogs showed cytotoxic effects against the cells. Therefore, a combination of hexanor-cucurbitacin D and cisplatin was investigated and estrone analogs were studied to provide a potential solution to cisplatin-resistance.
Nichols, Jordan, & Casey Goodmund  
South Dakota State University  
Honors Publishes Book of Love (Session 35)  
The Honors Book of Love was developed based on student writings from an interdisciplinary Honors colloquium taught around the theme of Love at South Dakota State University. Students wrote creative non-fiction essays about love in their lives for the course, and afterwards, were invited to submit their essays for publication in book form. Many themes were explored in the essay collection including eros (romance), philia (friendship), storge (family), and agape (unconditional) love, and loss of love. An Honors student served as editor for the volume, and another Honors student was graphic designer for the book’s cover and interior pages. A book signing and public reading of the essays will be held to celebrate the publication. This ‘Idea Exchange’ presentation will feature excerpts from the included essays, and discuss the steps in the process in publishing this collection of Honors student work.

Nichols, Timothy, Jacob Gubrud, & Benjamin Meyer  
South Dakota State University  
Energy: Present Realities, Future Possibilities (Session 27)  
Energy was the theme for an interdisciplinary Honors Colloquium at South Dakota State University, team taught by faculty in engineering, agriculture, biological sciences, rural sociology and economics. Students explored multiple sources of energy (fossil fuels, biofuels, nuclear, solar, renewables, etc.), conducted personal energy audits, presented on energy in the news, and worked in groups to develop current and future energy portfolios for an assigned geographical area. For the portfolio project, student teams functioned as consultants and presented the ‘ideal’ energy mix for their geography 20 years in the future, justified their recommendations, and suggested policy approaches that would move their population to their desired future energy portfolio. Energy-related issues were examined from scientific, environmental, economic, sociological, health, and public policy perspectives, with an emphasis on Honors approaches such as critical thinking, communications, and complex problem solving. The course also included a role-play exercise highlighting “not in my backyard” dilemmas, and field trips to sites such as photovoltaic research laboratories, wind farms, and biofuel processing plants. This session will highlight course objectives, content, approaches, activities and assessment strategies. Faculty and student perspectives will be included.

Nichols, Timothy, Hanna Larsen, & Amanda Neubauer  
South Dakota State University  
Going Deep in with Honors First Years (Session 24)  
Honors Orientation and First-Year Seminar courses at South Dakota State University challenge students to go beyond typical “transition to college” exercises. This presentation will showcase a number of student projects including “This I believe” essays, engagement in the campus/community common read, and creative projects representing what students believe it means to be “honorable.” Participants will be invited to share their own experiences with the challenges and successes of working with Honors first-years.
Norman, Vernée  
Union College  
**Obstacles despite Opportunity: Refugee Employment in Lincoln, Nebraska** (Session 11)  
Successful refugee relocation is closely tied to obtaining gainful employment. Lincoln, Nebraska is an advantageous relocation site for many refugees and secondary migrants due to its welcoming support network and many opportunities for employment. However, many refugees deal with obstacles in obtaining gainful employment in the areas of cultural assimilation, language learning, and the recognition of foreign training and work experience. In this paper, I provide a perspective into the obstacles and opportunities refugees experience for employment in Lincoln, Nebraska and present documentary films as an ideal tool for advocacy.

Pelelo, Ann, & Tom Riley  
Clarke University  
**Clarke University Scholars Program: A Uniquely Flexible “Honors Program”** (Session 32)  
Clarke’s student population isn’t unique, as far as four-year liberal arts institutions go. We have a large constituency of students who fit a transfer student profile, but we did not have a way to include these students in our Honors Program. As a result, we created the Scholars Program, which flexes to the needs of varying types of “Honors” students. Its mission statement illuminates the fact that the Scholars Program serves “as a unique, innovative, and flexible platform from which exceptional students can prepare for their futures even as they explore their potential in the present.” As a result, students challenge themselves and each other intellectually, developing formative academic and professional relationships, and they actively engage with the larger academic community. One year ago, Clarke University implemented its new Scholars Program. Within this presentation, we will share how we, along with committee members and students, have developed our new mission statement, our new goals, our new outcomes and our new curriculum plan.

Qian, Pengyu  
Minnesota State University Moorhead  
**Country Risk and its Effects on Institutional Investment Fund Flows** (Session 37)  
This paper analyzes a sample of 14,445 observations where funds invest in Mexican companies. Preliminary results show that investment funds react not only to economic, but also to political events. Specifically, I study the reaction of investment fund flows to the announcement of (1) presidential results in July 1st, 2012, (2) Energy Reform that took place in December 11th, 2013, and finally, (3) the disappearance of 43 students in the area of Iguala, Guerrero State, Mexico at the end of September 2014. Comparing samples before and after the events, one of the political events that had the most effect on investment flows was the disappearance of the 43 students in Iguala. On average, investment funds decreased exposure to Mexico by 2.6 percent and US-based funds by 0.27 percent. Although the magnitude is different, both decreases are statically significant at a 1 percent level. But US-based companies seem to adjust the exposure back to previous levels three months after the event. This evidence suggests that investment firms based in different countries react differently to country-risk events.
Quade, Skyler  
Clarke University  
*Breaking the Binary (Session 7)*

In this presentation, I address history, biological and sociocultural influences, and implications for college campuses relevant to intersex and transgender individuals. This presentation was inspired by reading the novel *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides, in which the main character is intersex, raised as female, and then transitions to male. Along with providing general information about intersex and transgender individuals, I relate concepts relevant to the transgender community in general to specific details in *Middlesex*. I have created this presentation in a manner that is easy to understand for listeners who do not have prior knowledge of terms and concepts relevant to the transgender community. This is accomplished by incorporating an overview of terms such as sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, transgender, cisgender, and intersexuality. A key concept communicated through this presentation is the idea that gender lies on a spectrum and is not as clear-cut as most people believe it to be. Gender goes far beyond the realm of female and male, and the informational approach that constitutes this presentation ends with the idea that transgender individuals have always been present in every culture and therefore, accommodations need to be made to suit the needs of these people who explode the capacity of the gender binary.

Ramos-Garcia, Maria, Miranda Boraas, & Christopher Kotschevar.  
South Dakota State University  
*Analyzing the Attraction of the Paranormal Romance in the 21st Century (Session 35)*

A new honors course at South Dakota State University titled *Love, Monsters, and Global Conflict: Paranormal Romance and Urban Fantasy in the 21st Century*, offers students the opportunity to examine social values and popular culture through the study of this widely read genre. The romance novel is usually viewed as substandard writing unworthy of literary consideration. More recently, however, new critical approaches to its study are offering new insights into what actually is the best-selling literary genre in the U.S. Within this new perspective in the romance as a whole, and concentrating on the recent blockbuster success of the paranormal romance, the course approaches the study of this literary production in the 21st Century as a cultural phenomenon. Utilizing teaching approaches geared to promote discussion topics such as gender, power, and historical context (especially the traumatic effects of 9/11) the course examines the production and consumption of what is usually perceived as an escapist genre with a new lens. Students are challenged with readings and discussions, and are conducting research on topics of their choice. The presenters hope to give an overview of the course, student and teacher perspectives about the course, and discuss the students’ ongoing research projects.
Reps, Erin  
Southwest Minnesota State University  
*Coming Together: The Conflict between Conformity and Individuality* (Session 36)  
American society is often viewed as a highly individualistic, Western culture. As opposed to Eastern collective societies, Americans have traditionally valued success gained through individual effort and ingenuity far above the cooperative effort of groups. An example of this can be found in most any American team sporting event. Fans wildly applaud the most valuable player and overlook the fact that the win was ultimately a team effort. Yet when this same MVP goes out and deviates from the norm, fans openly criticize and question the character of that individual. For, although individualism is arguably worthy and good in itself, feelings on this subject are actually mixed. While our society seems to encourage individuality, it also screams conformity from all around. Individuals who break from ‘the norm’ are called out, ridiculed, or snubbed by the larger majority in an effort to curb behavior back to the ‘acceptable.’ People are told to “fit in” and “don’t rock the boat.” This clash of values can lead to a state of internal and interpersonal conflict. Is it possible to be an individual while being a part of the collective? Must we come together in order to understand who we are? This paper will discuss these questions and argue that our sense of individuality has to come together with our level of group conformity in order for each to grow into a more complete understanding of one-another.

Revis, Eric  
Wartburg College  
*Mindfulness Therapy: Blending Eastern and Western Medicine to Treat Bipolar Disorder*  
(Session 3)  
Bipolar Disorder is an affective disorder that causes extreme shifts in mood, energy, behavior, and activity levels. The disorder is generally considered to include two distinct moods: mania, a sense of euphoria that is not justified by the circumstances, and depression, a period of little energy and inability to feel pleasure. However, in 2013, the DSM defined Bipolar Disorder in a different way, breaking it down into three different types. However, with this change in diagnosis, we need to change as psychologists, and, in fact, as people. In order to move forward, we need to take a step back and look at the broader picture. We live in a world in which many cultures, ideas, and cures exist, and a fusion of these ideas may be exactly what we need. Lithium, the most common drug used to treat Bipolar, works sporadically and not for everyone, with some having allergies and others having side effects including: frequent urination, trouble breathing, and weight gains that lead to hypothyroidism. Wow, that sounds like a bad drug commercial. With more statistics coming out, an increasing amount of people aren’t qualified for lithium or don’t want to try it in the first place. That is where a new idea could come in. What if we could blend a weaker drug with less side effects with, say, a therapy? Not just any old therapy, but a practice that dates back to Asia for thousands of years. Why don’t we meditate on it?
Schlom, Ryan
Graceland University
*Developing Food Security that is Independent of the Contemporary Food Distribution Network* (Session 33)
An examination of the American dependency upon the food distribution system and the consequential absence of food security. The research explores potential abatement of the problem. Also included is the analysis of the effectiveness and feasibility of certain initiatives in this field.

Seefeldt, Levi & Samie Ebert
Northern State University
*#LoveYourSelfie* (Session 21)
Ancient Egyptians paid incredible amounts of money to have solid gold statues made of themselves, and famous artists throughout the ages sat for hours while they painted incredibly detailed portraits of themselves, yet our generation gets dubbed the “Me Generation” because we like to take a few seconds to take a picture of ourselves. Selfies can be used as a tool to promote positive self-image, which is important in our roles as a member of our generation and as a leader. This session will be two-fold and explore both sides of those roles. Personally, we will see how significant selfies are in our lives, how they can be used as a tool for self-love, and whether or not we can use selfies to change the minds of millions of Gen X-ers. I will also elaborate on how we can employ the benefits of selfies in our role as a leader of any organization and what selfies can do to help build a positive, healthy environment for our team members and for building relationships between us and individuals.

Serfling, Nathan, Christopher Kotschevar, & Kalynn Slabaugh
South Dakota State University
*Changing the Mindset of Arguing: Making the Inclusive Argument a Part of the Honors Classroom* (Session 4)
Our students should be actively engaged in debates about issues of cultural, social, and political importance. However, our public discourse today seems hindered by divisive rhetoric and an unwillingness to explore multiple, diverse viewpoints. Unfortunately, more traditional, agonistic notions of argument often taught in general-education writing courses may contribute to this problem. In response to this, I asked students in my Honors Composition II course to apply a different style of argument to their final research project. For this project, students chose controversial social or political topics important to them and explored the multiple perspectives and arguments associated with that particular topic. Instead of following the more traditional argument formats driven by the author’s position, students applied Rogerian (or inclusive) argument and rhetorical listening strategies, emphasizing compromise and full and fair inclusion of others’ perspectives. Through this project, students learned the value of understanding and empathizing with others’ views, encouraging compromise, and enhancing their communication skills related to civic discourse. Engaging with multiple perspectives and applying alternative strategies of argument allowed the honors students in this course to successfully confront and discuss significant, even controversial, public issues.
Shay, Owen  
South Dakota State University  
Strange Students on a Conservative Campus: Vietnam Protests at South Dakota State University (Session 19)  
This project looks at the anti-war movement at South Dakota State University during the Vietnam War, focusing specifically on the years surrounding the Kent State shooting. Using local and student newspapers, along with memoirs and political analyses of the state during this time, the project explores student movements leading up to and revolving around the Kent State shootings. While events in South Dakota never reached the violent levels experienced by places like Kent State and Jackson State, the student protests that occurred there both prior to, and after Kent remained important for another reason. The students protesting at SDSU were some of the only residents in the state to question the war, the military-industrial complex, and the status quo of these things that seemed so hard to shake. Their reactions to Kent State were not a knee-jerk reaction to some distant trauma, but rather they were the result of anger with the system and opposition to Vietnam that had been building at least since the fall of 1967.

Soboleva, Tatiana  
Minnesota State University, Mankato  
Oxidative effects on muscle protein contractile function (Session 16)  
Purpose: Muscle is made up of two main contractile proteins, myosin and actin. In this actomyosin complex, myosin is the molecular “motor” using the universal energy source adenosine triphosphate (ATP) to produce force and movement. At the molecular level, myosin undergoes a series of structural transitions upon force generation: an open-to-close transition of the actin-binding site, a close-to-open transition of the ATP binding site, and a rotation of the “lever arm”. Perturbations in the open-to-close transition of myosin’s actin-binding cleft have been associated with both oxidation stress and muscle aging as well as various muscle diseases including muscular dystrophy and hypertrophic cardiomyopathies. This project focuses on one main hypothesis. I predict that myosin’s open-to-close transition of the actin-binding site is necessary for proper actomyosin function, for both actin-activated ATPase structural dynamics and actomyosin complex formation. Methodology: Crosslinking of the actin-binding cleft will be accomplished using the BSL. Control samples will include no spin-label and a monofunctionally attached spin-label. Actin’s ability to bind myosin and activate it will be tested via a myosin enzymatic activity assay. Pyrene-actin fluorescence quenching will be used to determine the ability to form strongly bound actomyosin complexes. Anticipated Outcomes: I anticipate there will be a change in the ability of myosin to bind actin which is partially responsible for myosin’s decreased ability to generate force. However, a lack of change could suggest significant changes in the binding-site availability for the substrate which could be the focus of future research.
Sperry, Mark  
Northern State University  
Development of a Tissue Culture Protocol for Rheum rhubarbarum (Session 16)  
The purpose of this project is to develop protocols for sterilization and growth of a commonly grown garden plant, Rheum rhubarbarum (Garden Rhubarb), in tissue culture. This research incorporates previously designed protocols as well as newly developed techniques to identify the optimal medium, sterilization techniques, and methods of tissue extraction when culturing Rhubarb from different types of plant tissue. Data presented includes the number of successful cultures from each type of medium in addition to the success of tissue sterilization. The solutions used from each type of medium in addition to the success of tissue sterilization. The solutions used for sterilization (e.g. ethanol or bleach) and time of tissue immersion will be analyzed for effectiveness. Prior lab experience and protocols, along with new techniques developed for this species, will be incorporated. Observations on which tissue type is easiest to sterilize and culture are also included. Protocols developed by this research may not only be used to culture this species, but may also be applied to other species of ornamental or economic importance.

Taylor, Jessica  
South Dakota State University  
The Biological Testing of Estrone-Inspired Cucurbitacin Analogs Against Melanoma Cells (Session 16)  
Cucurbitacins are a class of compounds extracted from plants in the Cucurbitaceae family that have been traditionally used in Chinese medicine due to their anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer and biological activity. Derivatives of these compounds have been synthesized to optimize the biological activity of this group of compounds on malignant cancer cells. Cases of deadliest form of skin cancer, melanoma, are rapidly increasing, so a novel method of treatment is needed. Melanoma cells with wild-type mutations show resistance to current anti-oncogenic drugs. In our search for potential targeting melanoma, several estrone-inspired cucurbitacin analogs were synthesized. In this study, two of those analogs, MSA-8 and MSA-10, were selected for further biological testing. The inhibition of cell proliferation of three different types of melanoma (A375, B16F10. SK-Mel-2) was examined. In these cell lines, MSA-8 produced IC50 values of 5.5, 10, and 3.5 µM, respectively, while MSA-10 generated IC50 values of 6.5, 20, and 7 µM, respectively. Since MSA-8 was more cytotoxic, A375 cells were treated with it in a western blot analysis, targeting proteins essential to proliferation. Other targeted proteins affected by the treatment will be presented at a later time.
Terry, Christian K  
Wartburg College  
*Today's Gender is: Error-A Discourse on Gender and Human Freedom (Session 18)*  
The existential situation of human beings is one being condemned to freedom. Regardless of constraint  
the act of choosing cannot be separated from human existence. Human kind is individually and  
collectively the architect of the perceptual world in which we live and inhabit. Roberto Mangabeira  
Unger argued “We become more human by becoming more God like.” It is the human power to  
transcend context the truly defines humanity and in fact we must continually transcend ourselves in  
order to come more fully in to the possession of life. The institutions of society ought to be built in such  
a way that they help each of us individually and collectively to achieve greater lives, but too often the  
institutions are elevated to higher importance the people that constitute society. Unger calls this “the rule  
of the dead over the living.” What of the institution of gender? Gender is the subjective expression of  
each sex and sexuality. Thus, it is not a given but an integral part of the project of human freedom.  
Society at large has contributed to the institutionalization of gender, which is expressed through the rigid  
gender binary that is present in language, individual cognitive schemas, as well the shape of societal  
institutions more broadly i.e. marriage, normative graded life events. The institutionalization of gender  
not only objectifies the individual but also diminishes the ability of all society collectively to come more  
into possession of life.

Tokatli, Ali  
Graceland University  
*Islamic Fundamentalism and the Paradox between Religion and Terrorism (Session 11)*  
Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism are, often, vague and broad terms. Their recent usage in  
mainstream media has had a part in altering the basic meaning of these terms, creating alternative  
definitions that serve political or religious agendas. The importance of this subject is explored by  
looking at contemporary examples in the Middle East, where political and religious definitions are  
constantly being renegotiated between the great powers as an extension to the War on Terror.

Umennachi, Nnachi  
Scott Community College  
*Community College Round Table (Session 26)*  
At this session the panel will discuss the challenges involved in creating and sustaining an Honors  
Program at a community college. At this initial stage the discussion may focus on how to help new  
honors coordinators, directors, deans or those leading or creating new honors programs and colleges get  
the information they need to start off well. Participation of experienced honors directors, deans or  
coordinators is needed and will be highly appreciated.
Vockrodt, Megan
Northern State University
A Limitation of Pre-Service Teacher Education: The Lack of Preparation for Family-Teacher Relationships (Session 16)
This study explored the preparedness of pre-service teachers for collaboration with their future students’ families. Teachers must work closely with families to enhance students’ educations, so being prepared to effectively collaborate with families is an essential component of any teacher education program. According to one study, though, teachers reported that the biggest challenge they faced in their classrooms was communicating with and involving parents (Markow & Pieters, 2012). The purpose of this study was to determine if pre-service teachers were prepared to engage families in their child’s education. Through quantitative research design, differences were found between current teachers’ and pre-service teachers’ levels of preparedness for family collaboration. Additionally, the researcher determined that a possible relationship exists between elementary and secondary education majors’ preparedness levels. The amount of importance both groups believed family collaboration has for student learning also differed between the two groups. Suggestions for possible improvements to teacher preparation programs were also analyzed in order to improve teachers’ readiness for incorporating family collaboration techniques.

Volz, Darcy
Graceland University
A White Coat Field Trip: Breast Cancer through the Eyes of Your Physicians. (Session 20)
Cancer is a frightening condition that is well known but rarely understood. This presentation will introduce how a physician thinks about cancer by outlining what cancer is on a cellular level, give an example of a mechanism (pathway) of tumor formation, and discuss common treatment options for breast cancer and the reasoning behind these options.

Walski, Sara
Southwest Minnesota State University
Between Law and Morality: Lessons from Les Miserables (Session 23)
In Victor Hugo’s Les Miserables, Inspector Javert, unable to reconcile Jean Valjean’s past lawlessness with his moral superiority, commits suicide. Throughout history, similar conflicts between law and morality have arisen with equally dramatic results for those caught in the middle. From Nazi Germany to America’s civil rights movement, many have been asked to take sides in this struggle between what is legal and what is moral, always with profound psychological and physical consequences for those involved. In this paper, I will examine the effects of these choices in a variety historical cases—for those who chose the law against their own beliefs, and those who chose to act in accordance with morality in defiance of the law. Insights drawn from Les Miserables will also be considered in this examination of what it means to choose between the law and morality.
Waldschmidt, Jessica, Laura Wang, & Shan Xiao  
University of Iowa  
*I Love my Job! Maximizing Profit for the Honors Program Student Worker* (Session 10)  
As a student, you are expected to gain knowledge and cultivate skills that employers seek so you can earn a living after graduation. Whether you call it a job, career, hobby, or passion; when there’s demand, you need to supply, and those who supply earn a profit. Profit, by definition, means financial gain, but non-monetary profit is often overlooked in today’s world. Both honors students and honors programs profit greatly from student employment; honors students have a unique opportunity to work for the program whose mission is to foster their higher-level learning ability. Honors programs have an opportunity to employ a unique population of high-ability student staff. During this presentation, we will examine the pros and cons of an honors student staff from both the employer and employee perspective, and explore ways to maximize the profit, and what that profit might be, for everyone. Afterwards, we will share some tools and concepts with you to identify ways you might be able to maximize your profit from student employment at your institution.

Wenzel, Michael, Lori Halverson-Wente, Marissa Cummins, & Rachel Brockamp  
Rochester Community and Technical College & University of Minnesota-Morris  
*The Convergence of Service and Learning* (Session 1)  
Service and learning converge on several levels, especially on the RCTC Cambodia Service Trip. Learn how students tested their intercultural communication skills while organizing and implementing service projects such as providing wells, testing water, and creating educational projects. Further, students will share how the Cambodian students taught them more than they could have imagined.

Westwick, Joshua, Barb Kleinjan, & Kaya Borg  
South Dakota State University  
*Treatment of Honors Student Speech Anxiety: Using Tutoring to Calm Fears and Increase Public Speaking Competency* (Session 30)  
Public speaking anxiety affects a large portion of the population to the point of impacting their ability and willingness to speak in public (Richmond, Wrench, & McCroskey, 2013). Butler, Pryor, and Marti (2004) found that honors students had significantly higher public speaking apprehension than non-honors students. These results recommended that additional training may be useful to alleviate the negative effect of speaking anxiety in honors students. Thus, this study examined the impact of faculty tutoring for students enrolled in honors sections of the basic public speaking course. The results suggest that the treatment, one 30-minute tutoring session focused on skills training, significantly decreased honors students’ public speaking anxiety and significantly increased honors students’ self-perceived communication competency. Implications of this study validate a model of teacher/student remediation prior to formalized evaluation and also provide research-based course assessment for curricular modifications. One of the primary goals of most basic public speaking courses is the reduction of speaking anxiety (Kinnick, Holler, & Bell, 2011). Helping honors students cope with their fears remains a critical issue for all honors faculty who utilize public presentations in their courses. These are principles that can and should be applied to honors courses in all disciplines.
Wilcox, Emily, Cody Hancock, & Kyle Miller
Iowa State University
A Freshman Honors Retreat for 450, from Start to Finish (Session 17)
What are the benefits of a large, program-wide Honors retreat NOT grounded in academics? What can students learn from spending time playing real life Clue or building Rube Gold machines? Why would students willingly fit 10 or more people into 3 square feet of space as a competition? Iowa State’s First-Year Honors Program (FHP) Retreat is an annual tradition that takes 450 freshman students and 72 sophomore leaders to a campground away from campus for an evening of bonfires, glow sticks, walking tacos, and Olympics-style games. Retreat supplies include 20 flashlights, 2,000 cups, a karaoke machine, an emptied-out swimming pool, and 13 school buses. To top it all off, the annual event is spearheaded by three junior-level Honors Undergraduate Assistants. Think we’re crazy yet? This presentation will include a general discussion of how such an event fits into the goals for FHP and for our students’ first semester as college students. We will then share exactly what goes into planning the FHP retreat, including medical, dietary, and logistical concerns. The presenters will be a mix of Undergraduate Assistants (who plan the retreat) and Honors staff (who sign the checks), and will share the successes and pitfalls of planning a large-scale event and its implications for them as organizers and educators. Participants will leave with a full slate of activities to take back to their own Honors programs, as well as an understanding of the staff support, logistics, and student buy-in necessary to facilitate a wildly popular, offsite retreat.

Wood, Emily
Union College
Bridging the Gap: Yoga as a Treatment Method for Eating Disorder Recovery (Session 2)
In “Effective Treatment of Eating Disorders: Results at Multiple Sites” (2013), Cecilia Bergh et al. indicate that standard care for eating disorders is anything but standard, with dozens of treatments currently in use. Likewise, rates of recovery with current treatment methods are disputed among scholars (Policy and Herman, 2002; Bergh et al., 2013). Various scholarly discussions have explored similar concerns targeting the growing number of eating disorder cases (Douglass, 2011; Grant, 2012), eating disorder development (Polivy and Herman, 2002; Berrett et al., 2013), and challenges in recovery (Peterson et al., 2013). Due to their complexity, additional methods of treatment are in need of examination to aid effective recovery from eating disorders. One example of treatment worthy of exposure is yoga, a system of exercises designed for attaining bodily or mental control and well-being. Though eating disorder treatments are receiving increased attention in mainstream media, little academic research explores yoga as an additional treatment for successful eating disorder recovery. This paper explores the difficulties in treating eating disorders and how the elements of yoga can supplement recovery. I argue that yoga’s postural movements, breath control, and associated spirituality provide psychological and physiological benefits necessary for long-term ED recovery. Yoga bridges the mind-body connection when used as an additional treatment method. After analyzing research on the history and dynamics of yoga from David Gordon White (2012) and Laura Douglass (2009), as well as scholarly discussions on the mind-body connection and eating disorders from M. Alejandro Chaol and Lorenzo Cohen (2010), Jennifer Grant (2012) and K.A. Dittman and M.R. Freedman (2009), I present yoga as a viable option for eating disorder recovery.
Yoder, Holly, Adam Ishola, & Sangwoo Han  
University of Iowa  
**Falling in Love with Honors: The Appeal of Peer-Led Honors Programming (Session 15)**  
Honors education is at its best when students help to set the direction for class. Applying that principle to programming, Honors Peer Advisors at the University of Iowa brainstorm, organize and implement ideas for programming that serves their peers. Some programs, such as the game-show formatted "Are You Smarter Than a Peer Advisor" event serve to build community and connections within the honors program; others, such as events titled "How to Get Published" and "Myth-busting Med School," help talented students to achieve their post-graduation goals. In the process, the planners themselves gain leadership experience and skills.

Ytell, Kate  
Graceland University  
**Insects: The Ultimate Superfood (Session 33)**  
The world’s appetite for meat is growing, and addressing food security with regard for the environment is becoming an increasingly relevant issue. One solution may lie in changing our diet to include what are often considered among the lowliest of creatures: insects. Insects use far less resources, produce less waste, can even be used to recycle waste, and pose almost no risk of transmitting disease to humans, all while providing a tasty, nutritionally comparable alternative to beef, pork, and chicken. The value of insects as a source of animal protein is highly underappreciated, particularly in the Western world, but accepting them as a food source could address issues of both food security and the environmental pressures created by the food industry.

Zeigler, Stad  
South Dakota State University  
**Systematic Binding Assessment of Paralogs and Homologs (Session 16)**  
The general postulate about homology is that proteins with very similar sequences exhibit similar functional behavior such as catalysis, protein-protein, protein-peptide interactions etc. This has served as the backbone of bioinformatics prediction of function and functional annotation of genomes. However, recent reports suggest cases where, despite retaining the catalytic or binding site amino acid residues, close homologs may not behave the same way (e.g. human Argonaute proteins, Ago2 and Ago3). In order to better understand the possibilities contributing to dissimilar behavior of close homologs, we carried a case study with the close homologs of a particular peptide-binding domain, the PHD finger domain, well known for interacting with histone peptides. Here, we compare the histone-peptide binding behavior of the PHD fingers of KDM5B, KDM5D and RSF1 using ITC (isothermal titration calorimeter) and by a colorimetric rapid detection assay. KDM5B-PHD1 interacts with N-terminal histone H3 peptide with ~10 μM affinity while KDM5D-PHD1 (sequence identity 58%) and RSF1-PHD (sequence identity 47%) fail to bind the same peptide in spite of retaining the peptide interacting residues at the binding site. Comparison of the KDM5D-PHD finger structure with other PHD fingers that bind histone peptides suggests that the peptide-binding groove of KDM5D-PHD constrains a crucial hydrogen bond necessary to accommodate the peptide on the binding groove. Collecting other examples of such cases in the recent literature suggests that the substrate/ligand binding behavior of close homologs can differ from one another in three different ways: (1) subtle alteration of the binding site to prevent key interactions (2) introduction of unfavorable interaction near the binding site and (3) allosteric effect. These results suggests that the need for developing methods to enable rapid screening of interacting pairs in genomic scale as homology goes not guarantee similar functional behavior.
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The Honors Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato is proud to host the 2015 Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference. The theme of this year’s conference is “Confluence and Conflict.” Minnesota State Mankato faculty members Dr. Shannon Fisher (Director of the Water Resources Center) and Dr. Gwen Westerman (English and Humanities) will give public lectures on the regional river systems and Dakota culture and history, respectively.

Located at the confluence of the Blue Earth and Minnesota Rivers, Mankato has a long history of peoples coming together to exchange goods, resources, and ideas. The Dakota called the region home, and French fur traders first visited in the early eighteenth century. The nineteenth century witnessed a series of treaties and conflicts between settlers and the Dakota which eventually erupted into the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. In the wake of the war, the Dakota were expelled from their lands, and the region received an influx of settlers. The modern metropolitan area has since developed as a significant economic, education, and health care hub for southern Minnesota and Northern Iowa.

We would like to thank our conference sponsors for dedicating funds and resources to make UMRHC 2015 a success!