West Texas A&M University’s 22nd Annual Student Research Conference

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Sponsored by West Texas A&M University’s Graduate School and Research
8:00 – 9:00  Registration – Legacy Foyer
9:30 – 11:00  Poster Set Up – Legacy Hall
9:00 – 10:00  Session I – Jack B. Kelley Student Center
10:10 – 11:10  Session II – Jack B. Kelley Student Center
11:10 – 11:30  Break
11:30 – 1:30  Poster Judging – Legacy Hall
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1:30 – 2:30  Poster Removal – Legacy Hall
1:40 – 2:00  Break
2:00 – 3:00  Session IV – Jack B. Kelley Student Center
3:30 – 5:00  Awards Ceremony – Legacy Hall
Guests to campus may obtain a free visitor’s parking permit at the University Police Department, located in the Old Student Union Building (#9).
“Research is creating new knowledge.”

—Neil Armstrong
Afro Latinos, since the beginning of colonization, had to go through a lot and suffer many injustices. To demonstrate this, I am going to use the following poems; “Mejestrad Negra,” “Balada de los abuelos” and “Me gritaron negra,” Injustices, such as forcing Afro Latinos to become slaves, forcing them to work hard and submitting them to the worst conditions can be seen in these poems. By reading these three poems, what it means to be an Afro Latino will be defined. The poems talk about the Afro Latinos experiences, feelings and ways of seeing life as an African Latino.

“Equality”
Reyna Ayala

I am going to write about feminism and how it incorporates into the literature world. I will compare how men are more dominant in literature than women. I will incorporate woman authors who’s poems are about feminism.

“The Idea of Latin America”
Gerardo Dominguez-Marquez

I am not trying to provide an answer in opposition, nor acception of his ideas, but rather to voice the collective popular opinion that have not been expressed before over the historic reality of Latin America. We already have sufficient, and sometimes adequate, opinions from outsiders and academic intellectuals. I want for this continent (as spokesperson of his inhabitants) to have the opportunity to express its ideas and emotions that have not been understood, to help us to comprehend why we are so distant, and at the same time, so close to each other.

“Defining Race”
Christina Hansen

In pre-colonial history, race has had different connotations, depending on the one defining it or the ones subjected to it. Race can be defined differently in terms of modernity and coloniality. Race has been defined based off of the phenotypical, cultural, and religious differences that arise between those that are conquered and those that are dominated. The racial precedence imprinted in the modernistic view of how race is defined can be demonstrated through literary works such as “Me gritaron negra,” by Victoria Santa Cruz, “Balada de los dos abuelos,” by Nicolas Guillen, as well as “Chiriboga,” by Nancy Morejon.
“Grief: A Look into the Hope and Healing Place”  
Chapin Galena

The process of grief can be a very long, complicated process. Many well-known theories on grief have been established by psychologists like Kubler-Ross. Despite these common theories, grief can be difficult to understand. Grief looks different for each individual because of the variety of components that can affect the way the grief plays out. Each individual experiencing pain also encounters a unique set of circumstances that influences the way grief is overcome. Organizations like the Hope and Healing Place understand the impact of grief and strive to help grieving individuals to overcome their difficulties and adjust to their new lives.

“The Effect of Cognitive Perception on Stress”  
Marissa Naab

According to research done at the University of Wisconsin’s School of Medicine and Public Health in 2012, the perception that stress is detrimental towards a person’s physical health is the fifteenth greatest cause of death in the United States, as opposed to the actual stressors experienced. This research aims to expand upon that study, and determine whether taking preemptive measures against the mental aspect of stress has any effect on the physical indicators of stress.

“The Investigation of Language Communication Barriers Physical Therapists Encounter with the Emerging Hispanic Population”  
Jose Robledo

This preliminary study explored if there are challenges Physical Therapists encounter when treating Hispanics that have Limited English Proficiency skills. The diversity of PT professionals in the field is unable to meet the demands of this emerging diverse population that continues to increase becoming the largest ethnic minority according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The miscommunication barrier has been long overdue and has existed in various healthcare settings but adverse effects of LEP patients have not been fully investigated in PT settings. Preliminary results from PTs perspectives showed an acknowledgment that there exist limitations in the communication.

“The Importance of Parent Education in SIDS and the Risk of Cosleeping”  
Kimber Willburn

This study examined findings regarding Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SID) and the risks of cosleeping. to conduct this research, an online database was used to gather information and interviews were conducted with teen mothers regarding their knowledge of SIDS and cosleeping as well as their child’s sleeping arrangements (cosleeping or independent). The research revealed that the health care and science communities are gaining more knowledge about SIDS and cosleeping every year. The study also showed that cosleeping increases the risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, which demonstrates the need to continue research in this area.
In this both qualitative and quantitative research, Jessica Adame and Dr. Lisa Garza, WTAMU, conducted research on the many barriers that the Hispanic students at WTAMU encountered during their undergraduate studies in order to identify the reasoning behind a low graduation rate amongst this specific population. Data was collected through surveying over 60 Hispanic students (quantitative), and an extensive process of interviewing (qualitative) eligible Hispanic students. From the concluded findings, several possible recommendations are presented as reasonable tactics that can be implemented in the University in order to increase the retention and graduation rate amongst the Hispanic student population.

Communication plays a big part in a college student’s everyday life, but what exactly is the best way to communicate with students who are continuously on the move? This research shows how college students prefer to communicate with their professors and the university. Knowing the best way to communicate with college students is essential for universities and professors, especially since the use in technology is growing rapidly.

Student engagement is becoming more researched and notable on college campuses in order to increase retention, improve transition, and enjoyment. One thing that is commonly overlooked are the student orientation leaders and what they are also learning in the process of helping others. Orientation leaders or what we call on the campus of West Texas A&M “Peer Leaders” will be defined and looked at in depth. Specific life lessons and benefits will be explained. These include: knowledge of human diversity in social interaction, changing people’s preconceived notions of college experience, broadening individual education, and learning how address unexpected issues.

This project examines how socioeconomic levels impact public education in the Dumas Independent School District in Moore County, Texas. Research shows that students’ socioeconomic level impacts their education causing limited resources, possible negative home and/or school environments, and social stigma. Through examination of data provided by the Texas Education Agency, dependent variables such as the TEA Accountability Ratings and educational attainment have been measured to find if programs created and/or offered by the district enrich the lives of their economically disadvantaged students increasing chances of academic success.
Maroon Room #37

“Sexuality in the City: The Male Gaze in Sister Carrie”  
Sally Bell

This paper examines Theodore Dreiser’s early 20th century novel Sister Carrie. It aims to establish the novel within the field of feminism to add to its general interpretation as a work of Naturalism. Sister Carrie, as a character, exists as a subject of and subjects herself to the male gaze. Carrie obtains power, however futile it may be, when she becomes conscious of her role and agency under the gaze.

“The Unforeseeable Failure of Optimism: Shifting Modes of Nostalgia in David Guterson’s Snow Falling on Cedars”  
Rigel Dimel

This analysis of David Guterson’s novel Snow Falling on Cedars explores the cultural implications of various modes of personal and national nostalgia. Utilizing the work of contemporary critics and theorists including Lauren Berlant, Svetlana Boym, and Aaron DeRosa, I demonstrate a shift in the novel’s significance over a two-decade period, from its initial publication to a post-9/11 world. Guterson’s novel promotes the reunification of society following the nationally endorsed racism and jingoism of Japanese internment; unfortunately, that optimism cannot withstand the reactionary mentality of a nation in the wake of terrorist attacks—a nation eager to forget its past atrocities.

“O, When Mine Eyes Did See Olivia First”: Confronting and Reclaiming the Male Gaze in William Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night”  
Rylee B. Sharp

This paper examines William Shakespeare’s comedy Twelfth Night under modern critical film and art theorists, including Laura Mulvey and John Berger. This paper questions the gendered assumptions of the play and attempts to create a new order for its female heroines, Viola and Olivia. It posits the possible existence of a female and queer gaze that speaks back to the damaging power of the male gaze as exemplified in the play, recovering for a modern reader the problematic gendered hierarchies of the play.

“When Things Get Hairy: A Study of Lycanthropy and Determinism in the Duchess of Malfi”  
Shannon Thomas

Critics have long written Duke Ferdinand off as a two dimensional villain with no motive and full responsibility for his actions. Church doctrine at the time of the play held that men capable of transforming into beasts were unable to consciously make moral decisions and therefore were not liable for their actions. By synthesizing modern psychoanalysis with 17th century church doctrine and Webster’s depictions of Ferdinand, this paper attempts to prove he exists as a werewolf through the entirety of the play in order to absolve him of his crime and introduce a new dimension to his character.
West Texas Room #33

“The Impact of Social Media on Iran’s 2009 Green Movement”
Azi Madani

This paper examines the contents of Twitter posts from Iran between May 2009 and August 2009 following the country’s disputed presidential elections. The purpose is to explore the possibility that Twitter may have played a significant role in bringing about the mass protest movement that followed the Iranian elections. The social media tool may have also influenced the protest movement’s final outcome. The research paper being presented explores both questions. One hundred tweets were randomly selected for this qualitative research using the TwapperKeeper archive and #IranElections 2009.

“Television and Asperger’s Syndrome: A Cluster Criticism of the Television Series Parenthood”
Madison Mangum

The paper uses cluster criticism to examine Max, a child who has Asperger’s syndrome, in the television series Parenthood. It was found that the message behind Max’s character was that individuals with Asperger’s syndrome need support from their family and other individuals. They are individuals who have wonderful qualities and are full of potential and hope. Simultaneously, it provides awareness of Asperger’s syndrome by describing it accurately. It was determined that the rhetor was successful in creating identification with the audience by examining the reactions regarding Max in Parenthood.

“Rise to Fame Through the Use of Social Media: YouTube celebrities”
Sheba Manya

Social media has been a growing channel for sharing content with hundreds and thousands of people across the world. A lot of people have risen to fame through the exposure they have gotten on the video-sharing platform YouTube. This study was carried out to find out how “regular-everyday-people” get popular and rise to fame through their use of YouTube. The study looked for patterns in historical methods and similarities of different people who have risen to fame through their use of YouTube and have become online/internet celebrities. Eight themes emerged from the analyses of these videos and will be discussed.
White Room #38

“Department of Communication Newsletter”
Karla Acero

For my creative arts presentation, I will present my capstone project, the yearly communication department newsletter, which is used for external and internal communication. The newsletter is similar to a yearbook because its contents cover a whole year of activities and events that have happened in the department. The newsletter usually contains about 30 pages, and it will be completed by the end of the spring semester yielding both a printed copy and a digital version that would be shared on the WTAMU Department of Communication’s website.

“Dorsiflexion”
Deidre Hearn

This piece of choreography integrated not only my dance training, but my interest and experience of anatomy, injuries, and physical therapy. I used my experience in these fields to reflect and invent the movement of which I choreographed. Half of my ensemble of dancers represented injuries from my past, while the others represented pain. Their separate movement stemmed from either their limitation or manipulation by pain. Through choreography and musicality, this piece followed the “Stages of Grief” cycle, acknowledging the emotional and mental components of an injury.
“The Power of the Stronger Gender”
Sonia Flores

My research will be over gender, focusing on "I wanted to be a man" by Rosa Maria Roffiel, "The Judge's wife" by Isabel Allende and "Anorexia and scissors" by Alfredo Brice Echenique. The writers in my research are from Mexico, Chile and Peru. During this investigation I want to know how does, Roffiel, Allende and Echenique interpret the role of a women, I want to further my knowledge of why men were portrayed as the stronger gender.

“Social Divisions in Latin America Seen Through Literature”
Roxana Nogales

For centuries, Latin America has been a region characterized for having vast social divisions among its population. These divisions have been addressed in various literary works such as "El delantal blanco (The White Apron)" by Sergio Vodanovic (Chile, 1926-2001), "El pan nuestro (Our Daily Bread)" by Cesar Vallejo (Peru, 1892-1938), and "En las montañas (In the Mountains)" by Ricardo Jaime Freyre (Bolivia, 1868-1933). This investigation will be focused on the ways Vodanovic, Vallejo, and Freyre portray Latin America, in order to find whether or not they share a similar perspective on the social divisions of the region.

“Gender Roles in Latin American Poetry”
Yoselin Rueda

Rosa Maria Roffiel, and Rosario Castellanos are Latin American poets that challenge traditional women’s roles in the 1900s. I will be focusing on how the authors represent women in various ways, by comparing their views highlighted in the texts to the gender role accepted by society in their time. Doing so will uncover how the poets believed a person cannot be confined to a specific role. Their writings are traditional and show a significantly different way of viewing the gender roles.

“The Impact Rubén Dario Had in the Literary World”
Katie Vaughan

Rubén Dario is a well-known author and poet whose work defines the literary movement and time period known as Modernism. His book, Blue, is considered to be the first piece of modernism literature in the Spanish language. The idea of Modernism is to break away from the past and to create something the world has not seen before. Rubén Dario understood this idea well and his poems give evidence to this by the types of literary tools that he uses in his writings. His works of literature are definitely nothing short of revolutionary, especially for the Spanish-speaking world.
“The Dangers of Latex Gloves: An examination of the dangers of wearing latex gloves in the health care field when giving direct patient care”
Ashley Kirkwood

This study examines the dangers of powdered latex gloves in the health care field and the risks they cause to healthcare workers and their patients. The risks that will be addressed are the problems that occur when using powdered latex gloves while performing surgeries, the results of having allergic reactions to the cornstarch powder used in latex gloves, as well as powdered gloves leading to inaccurate test results. The aim of this study is to spread awareness of the harmful effects latex gloves have in the medical field.

“The Public’s Perception of Plastic Surgery”
Caleb Prestwood

With shows like “Grey’s Anatomy” and “Keeping up with the Kardashians,” it’s no wonder the general public has a negative perception of the field of plastic surgery. People perceive plastic surgeons as less intellectual, less educated and less giving than other types of surgeons because of the way the media represents the field. Through research and a quantitative study, a survey asking people four questions comparing different types of surgeons, it is determined that there is a need to increase awareness of the surgical field of plastic surgery and to improve the image of plastic surgery in the media.

“Prescribing Profit: Conflicts of Interest within Modern Medicine”
Billy Sibley

The purpose of this work is to illuminate the inequitable motivations inhibiting the business of healthcare as seen in today’s free market. As a result, the propagation of modern medicine within the capitalistic system has evolved to prioritize profit at the detriment of the consumer. Analysis of business practices exhibited by leading firms within the industry suggests that such governing dynamics are pervasive throughout the industry. Ultimately, the aspects exhibited within the healthcare sector are indicative of the inclement direction of our evolving consumer culture, and thereby speak to the overarching evolution of commerce within society at large.
White Room #38

“The Weather of Martian Dust Devils: Dust Devil Variability Across Different Timescales at Gusev Crater, Mars”
Allyson Stanton, Mark T. Lemmon

To characterize Martian weather, dust devil movies were recorded by Mars Exploration Rover Spirit. All movies must be analyzed for frequency, size, and vertical velocities of dust devils. Previous observations omitted key climatological information such as short-timescale variability. This paper analyzes seasonal, diurnal and hourly frequency trends over the first year. Dust devils were tracked using Interactive Data Language codes. Average number of dust devils show no sol-to-sol trends and an average peak in frequency at noon. Small time-scale variability leads to unpredictable quantities/frame after three minutes, proving dust devils are weather phenomena, therefore providing inaccurate dust loading models.

“A Genetic Comparison of Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction Positive & Negative Equines, for the Development of Genetic Diagnostic Pro-Cols”
Ashley Coffman

Pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID) is the most common endocrine disorder of horses and ponies, and is a progressive neurodegenerative disease resulting from a loss of dopaminergic periventricular neurons that innervate the pars intermedia. Currently, diagnosis is made by a combination of clinical signs and multiple endocrine hormone tests. In studying two candidate genes for association with PPID, preliminary research indicates increased heterozygosity at DBH in unaffected controls; further research must be conducted to determine the advantage this provides, as PPID is likely to be influenced by multiple genes and the environment, much like other neurodegenerative disorders.

“Landscape Genetics of Porcupines (Erethizon dorsatum) Along Two Texas Panhandle River Drainages”
Erica Thomas

The identification of spatial genetic patterns requires the collection of genetic data from many individuals whose exact geographical location is known. The objective of this study is to determine how landscape influences genetic subdivision and gene flow of North American porcupines (Erethizon dorsatum) along the Canadian and Red River drainages of Texas. Genomic DNA of 94 tissue samples was extracted using a DNeasy®Tissue protocol and PCR amplified with 4 microsatellite loci. Individual-based analyses were utilized to estimate population structure and gene flow of porcupines within each river drainage as well as the degree to which porcupines are genetically isolated.
Thunder Room #35

“Innocent Killers”
Roy Calvin III

Beasts of No Nation is inspired by the idea of child soldiers. The film, directed by Cary Fukunaga, gives an inside perspective of the life and journey of a child soldier named Agu (Abraham Attah) who is trained by a warlord played by Golden Globe Winner, Idris Elba. This paper uses metaphoric criticism to examine in what ways, metaphorically, Beasts of No Nation portray the journey of Agu as he transforms from a boy to an adult because of the challenges he faces.

“Which Tuning is Best? 440 Hz v. 432 Hz”
Joel Carbajal

440 Hz was been the standard of tuning since 1939, but music historians claim 432 Hz is better because many famous composers wrote their pieces in that tuning. In this experiment, three short pieces of music were recorded in both 440 Hz and 432 Hz and presented to a group of musical and non-musical subjects who identified which they preferred and described the emotions they felt when listening to all three pieces in both tunings. The experiment revealed that the correct tuning to choose depends on listeners’ musical training and experience and what emotions the artist wants audiences to feel.

“Graphic Design as a Stable Market: A Study of the Graphic Design Field in the Amarillo, Texas Area”
Tiffany Reynolds

This study examined the prominence and strength of the graphic design career field in Amarillo, Texas, and the effects of outsourcing and crowdsourcing. The author analyzed online articles regarding small town graphic design and job databases, and gathered qualitative data through interviews with two members of the graphic design community in Amarillo. The research revealed that quantitative data is unavailable regarding graphic design positions in Amarillo and other small towns; however, personal testimonials from the interviews revealed that the graphic design market is still strong and is not being negatively affected by outsourcing or crowdsourcing.
West Texas Room #33

“Women’s freedom in Latin America Poetry between 1890-1930"
Alejandra Dockery

In this research paper I plan to compare the similarities between three poems from the writers Ruben Dario and Alfonsina Storni. The the poems are Dario’s “Sonatina” (Nicaragua 1867-1916), Storni’s “You who want me white”, and “Ancestral burden” (Argentina 1892-1938). These three poems reflect how women were tired of being the “perfect woman” for men without receiving any type of appreciation.

“Fanship Levels & Sports Marketing”
Marissa Rivera

This study examines the varying emotional connections students from West Texas A&M University have to sports teams of their interest. Sales of team-licensed merchandise depend on the connection between the team and their fans. Examining this connection can give insight to sports marketers about what factors motivate one to become emotionally connected to a team, or why one isn’t emotionally connected to a team. The study results showed that those demonstrating a higher level of emotional connection to a specific team were most likely to devote a considerable amount of time to their team and spend money on their team.

“Czech-American Acculturation in My Ántonia: How Ántonia retains her Bohemian identity through Music, Land, and Home-making”
A.J. McCormick

Examining immigrant’s struggles between assimilation and acculturation, this study compares the death of Mr. Shimerda to the life of Ántonia Shimerda in Willa Cather’s _My Ántonia_. An analysis of the role of music, Mr. Shimerda’s burrow compared to Ántonia’s farmstead, and Ántonia’s role as an earth mother demonstrates how she succeeds where her father could not. The differences between these two characters—her gains, his losses—fictionalize the difficulties immigrants face when building a life in a new country. Ántonia’s acculturation allows her to hold onto her Bohemian roots while sprouting from American soil.
White Room #38

“Design and Validation of a Nephelometer Using Computational and Empirical Methods”
Daniel Angloher

The cattle feedlot industry is under increased regulatory involvement at state and national levels with regard to particulate matter (PM) emissions. Commonly used PM concentration measuring devices listed by Chow 1995 require extensive expenditures and operation effort. To expand data collection abilities, a new less cost and labor intensive nephelometer design was developed using a computational particle dynamics approach. In addition, empirical wind tunnel tests were conducted to validate the data. This lead to a calibration of the air sampler to a minimal detectable concentration of 100 (µg)/m^3 and a prototype efficiency of 66-100% of the computational model predictions.

“Water Conservation in Irrigated Corn”
David Do

Nicole Arias, Lance Duncan, Nick Durante, Samson Wood
Water conservation is important to the Texas Panhandle, where the Ogallala Aquifer has been greatly depleted in recent years. Because of this depletion, the team did research on irrigation methods in corn production to find the watering technique that would grow the healthiest stalks of corn with the least amount of water. Using four different irrigation methods in organic and non-organic soil, the group grew corn plants and measured their growth to find the most efficient watering technique. Two months into the experiment, the results showed that the drip irrigation method in organic soil was the most efficient technique.

“Growing Corn in Clumps: A Strategy to Improve Microclimate, Grain Yield, and Harvest Index”
Sushil Thapa
B.A. Stewart, Q. Xue

Corn (Zea mays L.) field studies were conducted in Gruver and Bushland, Texas to compare plant canopy temperature (CT), vapor pressure deficit (VPD) within crop canopy, grain yield, and yield components between clump (3 plants clustered) and conventional evenly spaced planting (ESP) geometries. As a whole, mean CTs were significantly lower for clumps compared to ESPs, and mean VPDs were consistently lower for clumps than those for ESPs, indicating that clumps improved the microclimate. Aboveground biomass and grain yield showed mixed results, but harvest index (HI) was significantly higher for clumps compared to ESPs in both studies.
This study examines attempts to control the wild hog population in America. The problem of wild hogs goes unnoticed by most city dwellers; however, if they continue to breed like rabbits, the population will soon spiral out of reach. The overall size and appetite of the beasts creates a problem for most ranchers attempting to rid their land of the boars by hunting; but simply, the pigs will not leave without a fight. Although many attempts have been made, scientists have yet to find a substance poisonous only to the feral hogs and none of the other wildlife.
Legacy Hall

“Farmers Application of Post-harvest Management Strategies in Tahoua and Maradi Regions of Niger (West Africa)”
Hame Abdou Kadi Kadi
Bonnie B. Pendleton and Kadri Aboubacar

In West Africa, sorghum, Sorghum bicolor, and millet, Pennisetum glaucum, are important cereals in acreage and production. Insect pests cause significant postharvest loss. To control storage pests, farmers rely on insecticides that are costly and toxic to organisms and environment. A survey assessed farmer knowledge of storage pests and control. Ants and storage insects were recognized by 31.3, 67.5, and 70.0% of respondents. By contrast, 23.8% of farmers recognized rodents as storage pests. All farmers used phostoxin and actellic powder. Eight plants were substituted for insecticides. To reduce pesticide toxicity, alternative control strategies are needed to manage storage pests.

“Diabetes and Gum Disease”
Cynthia Adame

Diabetes and Gum Disease

The concern is resistant blood sugars and dental infections from: hyperglycemia as agent media for bacteria, causing oral infections; and infections from biofilm accumulation driving glucose levels upward. Concluding, that diabetes management involves glycemic control and dental infection prevention; however, expensive dental care is a deterrent, leaving clinicians to be sole providers, of both. Our obligation to, “Whole body care” involves assessing regularly for dental and target organ damage; and proactive education for clinical signs, alarm features, and when to seek medical attention. Resulting in appropriate self-tocare and improved diabetes outcomes.

Presenters should remain with their poster, prepared for judging for the entire poster session. We also request that students leave their posters on display following judging. Posters left on display may be picked up Monday, April 18, 2016, at the Killgore Research Center, Room 107.
Legacy Hall

“Descriptive Research of the Cultural Experiences of International Students”
Carlos Aguirre

The purpose of this research related to human behavior is to acquire new knowledge relevant to the understanding of cultural characteristics and perspectives of international students at West Texas A&M University. The overall goal of the project is to learn the cultural similarities and differences among individuals from multiple nationalities. More specifically, this study has been created with the vision to share the content gathered during the research timeline, through publicized stories that will appeal to a larger audience.

“Growth Hormone Use in the Treatment of Idiopathic Short Stature: Roll of the Family Nurse Practitioner”
Miranda Altman

Use of growth hormone in children with idiopathic short stature is a controversial topic. Limited studies have been performed to prove the true benefits of use of this therapy. The role of the family nurse practitioner is to educate the family regarding use of growth hormone therapy. The risks and benefits should be weighed and both the physical and psychological effects on the child should be discussed. More research is needed to have full understanding of the medical potential, or harm, associated with the use of growth hormone therapy in the normal, short child.

“The Comparison of Success Rates when Using a Communication Exchange System Versus a Speech-Generating Device (SGD) when Working with a Child with Autism”
Ivone Andrade

Autism awareness has significantly increased over the past few years. As research concerning this disorder continues to increase, therapists’ and caregivers have enhanced their ability to understand and treat this disorder. There are currently more than 3 million individuals who are affected by this disorder in the United States. The implementation of visual supports in therapy is stressed when working with children with autism. They believed children with autism would benefit from the structure and routines present in a visual support system, by allowing them to achieve their potential in life despite some of their impairments in communication.

“New Pap Smear/HPV Guidelines”
Beverly Aycock

Updated guidelines for pap smears and Human Papilloma Virus, or HPV, typing have been released. Pap smears are the cytological examination of cervical cells for changes. They have been very effective at reducing mortality in women since their implementation. HPV typing is new in comparison and has been paired with cytology to detect infections which can cause cervical cancer. Specific age groups have specific needs, which are addressed by the newest guidelines.
“Acquired Brain Injury: The Effects of Music Therapy with Speech Therapy versus Speech Therapy Alone”  
Ariel Benavides  
Debra J Blanton

This study will examine the effects of music therapy combined with speech therapy. This study will take place over 16 sessions for thirty minutes twice a week. There will be two groups of 10 participants. In group A, social interaction will focus on social stories and participation in a social skills group. In group B, social stories and participation in a social skills group will be implemented, in addition to formal music therapy techniques. This study is going to examine the effects of music therapy with speech therapy rehabilitation interventions versus speech therapy rehabilitation interventions alone.

“The Benefits of Utilizing the Patient Portal”  
D’Linda Benham

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act was initiated to promote the adoption and meaningful use of health information technology. All eligible professionals and healthcare entities are required to participate with electronic health care records (EHR). EHR initiation has improved the continuity of patient care. Through the patient portal, patients are able to access their medical records electronically providing access to patient’s medical information including history, previous diagnosis, allergies, current home medications and vitals signs. Every patient must be empowered to understand the potential and importance of this technological advancement.

“Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Memory Capabilities with and without Caffeine”  
Lyndsay Beran

This experiment tested how sleep deprivation affects memory capabilities. The subjects stayed awake for 24 hours on two occasions. One occasion drinking caffeine was permitted, the other it was not. They were given multiple choice tests at the beginning and end of each testing period over facts they had been given. This was done to determine whether staying awake for 24 hours was beneficial while studying. It was hypothesized that the best scores would be at the beginning of the experiment, and the worst scores would be after the subjects had stayed awake for 24 hours while drinking caffeine.
“Assessing Crop Water Status and Genotypic Variability of Maize Hybrids using Infrared Thermal Imaging under Different Irrigation Regimes”
Mahendra Bhandari

Thermal imaging is used to study stomatal behavior of plants. Thermal images taken from field of different maize hybrids grown under two water regimes were processed using IR Crop Stress Image Processor Software and mean canopy temperature was calculated. Canopy temperature was negatively correlated with biomass and grain yield. A significant difference in canopy temperature among hybrids grown under reduced irrigation was found. Hybrids grown under lower water regime had higher canopy temperature than those of fully irrigated condition. It indicates thermal imaging can be used as one of the techniques to understand physiological performance and genetic variability of maize.

“The Morphemic Sign System and Its Impact on Language and Psychosocial Skills”
Lesandra Botello

In Amarillo, the Morphemic Sign System (MSS), an artificial language system, is taught instead of ASL, a real language complete with its own unique conventions. Consequently, deaf students in Amarillo are unable to communicate in the language used by most deaf Americans. The exclusive use of MSS has yet to be examined. This study investigates the social and linguistic skills of deaf students who are taught ASL and English located in Canyon and deaf students who are taught MSS and English in Amarillo. A standardized language test and questionnaire will be given to students of both communities for comparison.

“Student-Centered Education”
Christopher Burgos

Problem-based educational games are able to provide a fun and motivating environment for teaching and learning of certain subjects. This research presents a short overview of this blended learning concept; providing arguments for and against the concept of game based learning.

“Identifying Adults with Specific Language Impairment and the Risk for Mild Cognitive Impairment and Dementia”
Elizabeth Bush

The research will be a ten-year longitudinal study to evaluate the risk for MCI and dementia in adults with SLI in comparison to their peers. Participants will be selected and interviewed from Amarillo, Albuquerque and Oklahoma City. Initially, participants will be given the Woodcock-Muñoz Language Survey®–Revised Normative Update (WMLS®-R NU) and Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale—III to identify those with SLI. Participants will be divided into groups a) with SLI and b) without SLI. In the following 10 years, both groups of participants will be retested with the MMSE annually to screen for MCI and dementia.
“Education on the Effects of Using Synthetic Marijuana”
Tarah Carnes

Synthetic marijuana is a dangerous alternative to “illegal” marijuana. The makeup of this drug is a variety of shredded plant materials that are infused with chemicals producing similar experiences to tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) which is found in natural marijuana. This dangerous substance labeled “not for human consumption” continues to be inhaled and ingested by numerous individuals despite the warning. After individuals have smoked or ingested synthetic cannabinoids, they are exhibiting symptoms not typical of natural marijuana and experiencing severe life altering consequences. Early education, screening, and recognizing signs and symptoms of this dangerous drug in the primary care setting is vital.

“Volkswagen: Focus on Main Street”
Veronica Carrillo

The primary subject matter of this case is an analysis of the interaction of the strategies of Volkswagen and one of its new American dealerships. Secondary issues include product differentiation, exchange rates, and industry structure analysis. The case also examines local competition environment issues. The case has a difficulty level of four. The case is designed to be taught in two hours and is expected to require four hours of outside preparation by students.

“The Effects of Child Neglect on Language”
Kirstie Chick

This study will determine if language development is effected when a child experiences neglect during the ages zero to three. The participants will consist of ten children between the ages five and eight years of age and under the care of child protective services. The clinician will use language tools to evaluate children to determine if there is a language delay. These participants will be compared to children of the same age who have not been exposed to childhood neglect. The results of these tests will be compiled to analyze the composite scores for each group.

“Effects of Music, Singing, and Dancing on Individuals with Dementia”
Jenna Cote

This study will determine the effects of singing with music, or dancing with music for individuals with dementia, and evaluate which better increases the ability to answer questions. Participants will include twenty females and twenty males between 65 and 95 years old. Each individual will answer ten questions before singing or dancing with two songs that are reported as the most meaningful for them, and then after singing or dancing with the two songs. This study will compare the ability of individuals with dementia to answer questions after singing or dancing with music.
“Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): Alternative and Complimentary Management Approaches”
Rachel Cozart

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a condition that is commonly diagnosed in children and persists into adolescence and adulthood. ADHD is distinguished by periods of inattention, impulsivity, and hyperactivity that affect daily life and academic performance. Standard treatment dictates that the affected individual be placed on stimulant therapy. Stimulant therapy is known to have serious side effects that range from dependency and abuse to growth delay. Complementary and alternative approaches in regard to management of ADHD provide treatment options for the condition that can include dietary modifications, exercise therapy, behavioral and psychotherapy, and nutritional and herbal supplements.

“Healthcare Provider Impact on Colonoscopy Screening Guideline Compliance and Colorectal Cancer Prevention”
Susan Cruz

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States. Healthcare providers are key assets in patient colonoscopy guideline compliance and colorectal cancer prevention. The educational empowerment given to patients regarding screening guidelines has a profound effect on colorectal cancer prevention. Screening colonoscopy can detect noncancerous polyp and/or benign lesions and is the gold standard in colorectal cancer prevention. Patient’s noncompliance is related to many factors and must be addressed by the healthcare provider. Understanding the impact the healthcare provider has on colorectal cancer prevention is essential.

“Examining the Popularity of Consumer-Generated toy Videos on YouTube”
Laura Dangerfield

Currently, there is a growing trend on YouTube for parents and children to create their own toy reviews, and they have built up millions of followers. Using content analysis to examine 88 videos produced by three top YouTube channels, Kids’ toys, EvanTubeHD, and DisneyCollectorBR, the current research effort sought to identify the key characteristics that are most commonly used by top YouTube toy review channels to understand how these characteristics influence the popularity of YouTube toy review channels and their videos. Furthermore, this study showed that surprise, education, and elements of play highly correlated with high numbers of views.
Nanotechnology can be found in many cosmetic products due to the unique ability of nanoparticles. One niche market that has yet to update technologies based on nanoscience is nail care. Researchers at West Texas A&M University have developed a novel nanoscale material that provides significantly enhanced products for the future of this $8 billion industry. The material is incorporated into the base polish during manufacturing and does not change the overall appearance or texture of the polish. Experiments were conducted using common types of bacteria and fungi and the enhanced polish shows greater than 99% effectiveness at neutralizing harmful microbes.

“Bridging the Gap: Nurse Practitioners Eliminating Barriers Among Hispanic Women Regarding Cervical Cancer Screening and Preventative Vaccines”
Veronica Estrada

Cervical cancer is attributed to morbidity and mortality worldwide and in the United States. Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the cause of almost all cervical cancer cases and is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States (Center for Disease Control, 2015). Hispanics represent the largest racial minority group in the United States and despite a growth in cancer screening, in the past decade higher rates of cervical cancer continue in Hispanic women. The purpose is to identify existing barriers among Hispanic women regarding cervical cancer/screening and preventative vaccines and ways in which Nurse Practitioners can promote education.

“Non-pharmacological management of anxiety”
Kevin Fleming

To explore the mechanism of generalized anxiety disorder, and identify non-pharmacological interventions. Searches were conducted using CINAHL and MEDLINE. Limiters included full text, peer reviewed, English language, and dates between 2011 and 2016. Searches were conducted through Google Scholar using the same criteria. Eleven of 179 articles were selected based on relevance. Limitations of research was subjective data and lack of diversity. Further research should include a diverse age range, ethnic population, and socioeconomic status. Yoga has positive psychosocial, and physiological benefits while being highly accessible. Meditation and distraction therapy increased thought control and redirection away from negative stimuli.
Hypothyroidism is a common, treatable disorder. Slow progression of thyroid hormones are followed by possible thyroid failure. Metabolism is fueled by the production and synthesis of thyroid hormones. Iodine is essential for secretion of thyroid hormones.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth aged twelve to eighteen. Every two hours and three minutes one youth takes their life. For every one youth death from suicide 100-200 more attempts occur. Approximately ten to fifteen percent of youth feel sad/depressed daily while a mere 29% of teens diagnosed with depression see a medical professional for help. The primary thing we can do is teach intervention. Intervention techniques include; bullying prevention, recognizing depression symptoms, recognizing depression/suicide risk factors, warning signs, where to get answers and help. Each one of us can be the change.

Metabolic Syndrome is a general diagnosis that is made when a patient has a group of disorders that includes: hyperglycemia, elevated blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, and abdominal obesity. The damaging effects of this disorder place an individual at an increased risk for developing life-threatening cardiovascular disease and type II diabetes mellitus. to reduce these devastating complications, it is important to understand the best available prevention strategies, treatment options, and the best ways to implement these practices. This poster will describe Metabolic Syndrome along with the strategies for the prevention of type II diabetes mellitus and different treatment options.
Legacy Hall

“Chronic Pain Management Without the Use of Opioids”
Kendra Guerra

The purpose of this paper is to discuss different options of treating chronic pain without using opioid drugs. Chronic pain affects over 100 million Americans and according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 40 Americans a day die from abuse and addiction. There are many approaches to treating chronic pain the benefit should be based on less pain, more function, and return to everyday activities with the least, manageable side effects possible.

“The Effects of Aided AAC Modeling on the Communication of Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities”
Ashleigh Guzman

The purpose of this study is to identify the effects that aided AAC modeling has on the production of multi-symbol messages and grammatical morphemes in children with intellectual disabilities. Participants will include five children, ages 10-14, with intellectual disabilities and severe speech impairments. High technology dedicated aided AAC devices will be used for the study. Participants’ use of bound morphemes and multi-symbols messages will be observed in multiple settings to obtain baseline data. A SLP will implement aided AAC modeling along with verbal models during therapy over 18 weeks. Following intervention, participants will be reevaluated through probes and observation.

“Impact of Discount Rate and Price on Intertemporal Groundwater Models in Southwest Kansas”
Logan Harkey

Agriculture plays a vital role in the economic success of the High Plains Region of the United States. This region relies heavily on irrigation drawn from a continually depleting Ogallala Aquifer. The focus of this study is to analyze the effect different discount rate and price scenarios have on groundwater models created for two counties in Southwest Kansas.

“Inverted classroom: Is it Beneficial?”
Lesli Hassler

A recent method that is gaining popularity is the inverted style of teaching. In doing this the teacher uploads all the lessons online and the students watch them at home and return to school with questions. Once the questions have been answered the remainder of the time is spent completing homework. As this is being done the teacher is available for questions. Speculations rise in the effectiveness of the method. I have gathered articles that have shared the pros and cons of this method to conclude whether or not the time and effort are paying off.
“80/20 Diet Efficacy in Regard - Physiology and Self-Efficacy”
Mercedez Hernandez

The purpose of this research is to assess an 80/20 diet, a form of flexible dieting, and USDA MyPlate. 29 participants were recruited and instructed to follow specific dietary guidelines for three months. During this time, changes in physiological and mental health elements were measured. Results may indicate that an 80/20 diet is a reasonable dietary plan for the general public due to its flexibility, however MyPlate guidelines are difficult to abide by, which may have contributed to the low adherence, and consequently, an insignificant relationship between intervention and changes in physiology and mental health factors.

“Consumers’ Knowledge of Health Effects of Agrochemical Use in Food Production: A Study at Agona West Municipality, Central Region - Ghana”
Philip Hinson

A survey of 100 respondents (67% females and 33% males) at Agona West Municipality in Ghana examined knowledge of consumers of health effects of agrochemical use. Mean age of respondents was 41, but ranged from 22 to 68. Most (64%) were adults (36-60 years), 27% were youth (18-35 years), and 9% were elderly (>60). Besides not knowing mental damage was caused by agrochemical use in food production, most consumers knew of other health effects such as risk of cancer, infertility and birth defects. Respondents believed that water pollution (77%), air pollution (68%) and killing beneficial organisms (62%) were effects of agrochemical use.

Halzie Holman

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability in which pragmatic skills are the pronounced challenge. This research will compare 3 groups of 25 nonverbal preschool children diagnosed with ASD to answer the following question: Do preschool children with ASD experience a higher efficacy rate in pragmatics with applied behavioral analysis therapy, the picture communication exchange system, or a combination of applied behavioral analysis therapy and the picture communication exchange system?

“Treating Obesity in Primary Care”
Deni Hoyler

Obesity is a medical diagnosis. Thirty-five percent of American adults are considered obese. Treating obesity in the primary care setting is challenging, however providers now have additional pharmaceutical options to complement treating this epidemic health problem. Few patients are able to reach and maintain adequate weight losses on their own. Qsymia, Belviq, Contrave and Saxenda are the newest drugs available. Texas Nurse Practitioners can treat patients holistically for successful weight-loss. This review is an introduction to pharmaceutical treatment and specifies when to consider it. The effectiveness, side effects and pros/cons of the newest drugs are highlighted.
“The Effects of Motor Movement on Childhood Apraxia of Speech”
Doris Ironfield

This study will determine if Brain Gym® movement activities will assist with facilitation of speech sounds in children with CAS. The participants are two males and two females diagnosed with CAS, ages 6-6.5 years old, who are within an average intellectual range for their age, and from the Texas Panhandle region. This study will observe these participants over a 1-year period. During the 1-year period, the researcher will compare the experimental group that received Brain Gym® movement activities along with traditional articulation therapy (drill therapy) to the control group that just received traditional articulation therapy.

“The Social Significance of Incessant Questioning in Those with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)”
Shelby Jones

There is confounding evidence of the function of incessant questioning (Gense&Gense, 2007), as well as a void in interventions that addresses this in those with ASD. It is possible the primary function of incessant questioning is a desire to be social. This paper seeks to define the function of this questioning. Furthermore, it will survey the role of the speech-language pathologist (SLP) in identifying this questioning and possible responses in intervention that encourage this attempted social communication. The researcher will give SLP’s working in the panhandle region four weeks to complete a survey on this subject matter.

“The Difference Between Monolingual and Bilingual Children”
Giorgia Kalampalikis

The purpose of this study is to determine if bilingual children score better than their monolingual peers on standardized language scores. There are similar language areas activated among monolingual and bilingual speakers, however it is noted in neuroimaging that the frontal lobe is activated more in bilingual children due to the constant code-switching among various languages.

“Chronic Methamphetamine Use”
Nathan Kragh

Describe methamphetamine and explore long term effects on the human body. What is Methamphetamine-basic description of what it is and interaction with body. Our Community, Our patients-methamphetamine use a serious issue right here in the panhandle. As providers, we will be taking of people who use methamphetamines or have used them in the past. At the least a family member impacted by it. Why the high-explanation of the allure. Long term effects-evaluation of literature of effects focusing on chronic use of methamphetamines.
“Student Response System’s Impact on Long-term Knowledge Retention”
Mallory Leach

Knowledge retention is a long-standing challenge for college students. However, innovative teaching methods can be incorporated by faculty to combat this challenge. One such method includes the use of low cost student response systems to question students during lecture. This acts as a gauge for students and instructors to determine levels of comprehension. This project compares two low cost student response systems and their associated effect on knowledge retention both in the short-term (a sixteen week semester) and long term (subsequent semester). Short-term retention results will be completed by June 2015. Long-term retention results will be completed fall of 2015.

“Promoting Breastfeeding in Primary Care”
Anastacia Leatherwood

Breastfeeding decreases the risks of many diseases in mothers and infants. About 70 percent of United States children have ever been breastfed. Of the barriers to breastfeeding in the United States, lack of knowledge about specific benefits and support from the provider are interventions that can be addressed from the primary care prospective. Obstetricians, pediatricians, nurse practitioners and other providers of maternal and pediatric care have a unique opportunity to promote and support breastfeeding thus potentially building a healthier nation.

“The Role of Early Diagnosis and Treatment of Hearing Loss in Children”
Chandler Lemaster

This study will determine the linguistic and educational effects of early diagnosis and intervention of a moderate hearing impairment and early intervention. This will be a longitudinal study involving two groups. Participants in group A will have received a diagnosis and hearing intervention prior to 18 months of age, participants in group B will have received a diagnosis and hearing intervention between the ages of 18 months and 3 years of age. Standardized tests will be given every four years and charted on a graph upon completion of the study.

“The Efficacy of Telepractice for Children with Pragmatic Language Impairment”
Vanessa Lemus

Telepractice is the utilization of technology for the delivery of services connecting clinicians to clients despite great distances between them. This study aims to identify the efficacy of telepractice when treating children with Pragmatic Language Impairment (PLI). This often entails deficits in the areas of turn-taking skills, topic maintenance, discourse comprehension, conversational skills and communication repair, among other social-language areas. Twelve students with PLI, between the ages of six to eight years, living in rural communities will undergo speech therapy services. Six of the students will receive face-to-face intervention and six will receive services via telepractice.
**Inappropriate Antibiotic Use in Streptococcus pyogenes Infections & Prescribing Factors**

Hung-Fu "Charlie" Lin

Streptococcus pyogenes, or group A streptococcus, accounts for 15% of all pharyngeal infections in adults and 30% of pediatric patients with pharyngitis. Due to a variety of prescriber and patient variables, the criterion for the administration of antibiotic therapy remains inconsistent. The overuse of antibiotics in the management of this infection potentially increases complications, including an increase in adverse events and wasted health care resources, due to antibiotic drug resistance. After evaluating the 14 studies reviewed for inclusion, this study examined existing literature on the use of antibiotics by a variety prescribers within the last five years.

**Intervention Approaches for Echolalic Children with Autism**

Amanda Lindemann

While there is research on autism and echolalia, there is a lack of research on effective intervention for echolalic children with autism. A child who uses echolalic speech will struggle with the language required for social interactions and may withdraw from social situations because of their inability to appropriately communicate (Liber, Frea, & Symon, 2008). More research is necessary in order to better serve the communication needs of this population and to support the advancement of growing research in this area. This study will determine if script-based or object withholding intervention will eliminate repetitive speech in echolalic children. The focus of this study is echolalic speech in children with autism. This study will compare the efficacy of two treatment approaches for echolalia. Ten 6-7 year old male students diagnosed with autism will participate in this study. Five participants in Group A will receive object withholding therapy to initiate request making. The remaining 5 in Group B will receive script-based therapy to increase functional responses. After 12 weeks, the researcher will compare the functional language of each group to determine which therapy is more effective at decreasing echolalic speech.

**Prolonged Breast and Bottle Feeding, Togue Thrust, and Effects on Articulation**

Jena Love

Tongue thrust refers to the anterior position of the tongue at rest, during swallowing, and speech. It is a normal part of child development. A natural transition to an adult swallow pattern should occur, but sometimes persists. Many causes and effects of tongue thrust behavior have been suggested, but there are no conclusive results. Further investigation into tongue thrust behavior, type of feeding method, and effects on articulation is needed. A longitudinal study will be conducted with 300 children/mother pairs to investigate the effects of long term breast feeding in comparison to bottle feeding and tongue thrust behaviors.
“Irrigated Cotton: How is it Impacting the Southern Ogallala Region?”
Rebecca McCullough

Upland cotton is one of the four primary crops grown in the Southern Ogallala Region. In 2014, cotton constituted approximately 20 percent of all planted crop acreage in the region. Unlike other primary crops (corn, sorghum, and wheat) which are planted in all areas of the region, cotton is almost exclusively grown in Texas. Cotton production requires less water than alternative grain crops. This characteristic, along with cotton’s heat-tolerance established it as the principal crop grown in the southern portion of the region before development of irrigation.

“Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) and Speech Production in Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)”
Kelly Meathe

ASD is a developmental disability that affects communication, language, and social skills. Individuals with ASD might not develop functional communication, so AAC devices may be required. One type of AAC device is PECS. PECS training will be implemented using four nonverbal speaking adults aged 25-35 years old with low-functioning ASD who do not have a current functional communication system. The focus of this study is to discover if verbal output and language acquisition emerge with this type of intervention, as well as bridge the gap between the limited amount of research in PECS for adults.

“Comparative Analysis of Corn Silage and Sorghum Silage Production in the Texas High Plains”
Emmanuel Mensah

Economic analysis of sorghum silage potential for dairy industry was conducted to identify yield effect, water saved, feed requirement, acreage and production cost. Results revealed that switching irrigated corn silage with irrigated sorghum silage has the potential to save water and reduce production cost. The decision to increase sorghum silage yield from 20 to 22 tons per acre compared with 27 tons per acre of corn silage can save 121,659 ac-ft. of water. At 27 tons per acre of corn silage and 23 tons per acre of sorghum silage, 123,948 ac-ft. of water will be saved.

“Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy in High School Football Players”
Julia Moore

Chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder that results from repeated trauma to the head. This study, will take a closer look at the occurrence of CTE in individuals that participated only in middle school and high school football. Autopsies will be completed on fifty brains from individuals who participated in only middle and high school football to determine if CTE neuropathology is present. The reality is, there is little scientific evidence that has determined whether there are any long term effects of competing in a contact sport during this developmental period.
“Correlation Between Body Mass Index and Interleukin-1β”
Kayla Mosher

The inflammatory cytokine Interleukin-1β is often associated with postprandial lipemia characterized by an influx of lipoproteins following eating which is linked to atherosclerosis, increased inflammation and potentially elevated salivary IL-1β levels. This study investigates the anthropometric data of male college students and the correlation of their lipid metabolism to IL-1β levels following an oral lipid tolerance test (OLT). There was no significant difference in the comparison of IL-1B and percent body fat. There was a solid trend between lower IL-1β values and lower central adiposity thus suggesting the need for more subjects in future studies.

“Vaping: A safe solution or just smoke and mirrors”
Kristen Neely-Gilbert

It is no surprise that cigarette smoking is the leading cause of preventable death. The clear correlation between smoking cessation and improved health make it one of the most cost-saving clinical preventative services. Electronic cigarettes are devices that have been marketed and used as tools for smoking cessation. Electronic cigarettes have been shown to have decreased levels of carcinogens when compared to traditional cigarettes, however still contain nicotine. While much is still unknown about long-term effects related to vaping, health care providers must educate users of both the known benefits and risks to this relatively new practice.

“Hydrogen as Fuel for Green Flexible Power Plant”
Joshua Partheepan

Thirst for alternative energy, global warming, government regulations, public perception, and energy security has led to the development of green power in the last few decades. In the future energy mix, hydrogen will play a vital role as a fuel and energy carrier. Exploring its potential is essential and though fuel cells will fill a key niche in the future, an alternative way to extract the maximum potential energy of hydrogen is crucial. In WTAMU, a power plant model is proposed to use hydrogen as fuel. And the plant is capable of operating flexibly with zero pollution.

“Stability Profiles of HSPC Peptide-Modified Liposomes Designed - Target the α3β1 Integrin on Metastatic Breast Cancer Cells”
Shelby Phelps

The use of liposomes as drug delivery systems has become of particular interest in treating cancer due to their ability to improve the pharmacological and therapeutic properties of chemotherapeutic agents (1). Liposomes can be tailored to target specific receptors on the cell surface with the addition of a peptide. One such receptor, the α3β1 integrin, is known to be overexpressed in metastatic breast cancer, making it a viable target for these peptide-modified liposomes (2-4). Here, we analyze the leakage rates of liposomes with varying compositions to determine if the presence of the peptide has an effect on overall stability.
“Microscopic Evaluation Assessing the gentoxicity of a herbicide”
Kimberly Polleri

A mixture of 2,4-D and 2,4-5T was used by the US army as “Agent Orange” during Vietnam War to destroy the natural vegetation as well as reduce coverage for the enemy troops by reducing the dense, tropical foliage. This herbicide is still detected in various areas of Vietnam, and could be a threat to plant as well as human populations. In this study we investigated the effects of varying 2,4-D concentrations on Allium cepa. The results indicate a larger variation in mitotic indices corresponding with higher doses of the herbicide.

“Financial Comparison of Female CEOs and Male CEOs in the Food Production Industry”
Anastasia Rademaekers

This study is a five-year financial comparison between Fortune 500 companies with male CEOs and Fortune 500 companies with female CEOs in the food production industry. The results show that having a female CEO has a positive effect on company earnings and reduction of long-term debt. Having a male CEO has a positive impact on company sales. There is a negligible difference in dividend distribution in these companies. The findings of this article should encourage companies to consider elevation of women to CEO positions.

“Acrylamide production in Russet potato cultivars is affected by amino acid and free carbohydrate composition”
Jason Ray

The purpose of this research was to determine the correlation between selected amino acid concentration, carbohydrate composition and production of acrylamide, a potential neurotoxin, in potatoes. It was found that cooked Texas Russets produced more acrylamide than non-Texas Russet potatoes. An analysis of free amino acids revealed that Texas Russets are lower in asparagine, comparable in glutamine and lower in cysteine concentration than non-Texas potatoes. Texas Russet potatoes contained less starch and dry matter but higher moisture content. We propose that amino acid composition in conjunction with more free carbohydrate in Texas Russets is responsible for the higher acrylamide production.

“Antibiotic Resistance Related to the Misuse of Antibiotics in The Primary Care Setting”
Brittne Renner

Antibiotics are the most common known antimicrobial. Viruses, such as the common cold, are not alive and cannot exist by themselves. They can only grow and reproduce after they have entered other living systems. Antibiotics do not work against them.

The Common Cold is an acute, mild and self-limiting condition caused by a viral infection of the upper respiratory tract. The most common virus that causes the common cold is Rhinovirus. Antibiotic resistance is the ability of the bacteria to resist the effects of an antibiotic.
“Evidence based treatments to address alcohol and substance abuse in American Indians/Alaska Natives”
SATURNINO SALERA

The American Indian/Alaska Native population has a disproportionately higher incidence of alcohol/substance abuse compared to the other racial groups. Evidence-based treatments (EBTs) may hold a significant potential to address the problem but several barriers to their adoption have been met. Surveys and interviews with experts were done to analyze this problem. The best direction seems to be to shift to evidence based practices to which is an integration of the best available research evidence with clinical practice and patient values rather than EBTs. Improving the infrastructure and fiscal resources needed to support the use of evidence is also necessary.

“Does Auditory Bombardment with Phonological Awareness Therapy Increase Reading Ability Better in Late-Diagnosed Dyslexia in Adults than Phonological A”
Megan Sales

This study discusses how dyslexia is a novel diagnosis, and increasing amount of new research everyday. There are many adults that are living with undiagnosed and untreated dyslexia. The need for research is imperative to understand the effects of dyslexia on these adults. These participates include 10 adults ages 30-35. Half of these participants will be given phonological awareness therapy alone, and half of the participants will be given phonological awareness therapy along with auditory bombardment therapy. Tests to determine the effectiveness and differences in the progress from the two groups will be given.

“Increased Aeroallergen Index of Texas Panhandle, Increased Allergy, AHPCO and Bi-Polar Nanotechnology as the solutions”
Madeline and Micah Shaw and Vivens

In recent years the Texas Panhandle has experienced increasing allergy cases, double the percentage of the state itself. Analysis of 16-years aeroallergen data revealed bacterial and fungal organisms present in the air. We viewed and analyzed slides to determine the types of aeroallergens present in the Texas Panhandle. Collaboration between Dr. Ghosh at West Texas A&M University and Dr. Bennert at Air Oasis birthed two new technologies called AHPCO and Plasma Nanotechnology. AHPCO technology was used to develop a filter-less air purifier that neutralizes indoor aeroallergens. The Bi-Polar unit, using Plasma Nanotechnology, eliminates aeroallergens, VOCs, and potential pathogens.
“Language Intervention Deficiencies for Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care”
Molly Smith

This study investigates the reasons why children 0-5 years old who are placed in foster care are not receiving adequate early intervention services concerning language development.

Secondly, this study outlines the role of the speech-language pathologist when providing early language intervention to infants and toddlers within the foster care system and briefly discusses what the speech-language pathologist needs to understand about the child welfare system to help ensure successful early intervention language therapy for this particular population.

“Managing Type 2 Diabetes With a Long Acting GLP-1 Agonist in Primary Care”
Ginger Stinnett

Once per week injections with a GLP-1 agonist can provide a number of advantages for the patient. GLP-1 agonists can be added on to oral diabetic medications and/or basal insulin regimens for greater A1C control. Additionally, they cause modest weight loss by suppressing the appetite and slowing glucose absorption from the gut. GLP-1 agonists increase insulin secretion from the pancreas, when the glucose is high and also preserve beta cell functioning of the pancreas. GLP-1 agonists also lower post meal glucose levels and allows for future reduction in basal insulin doses, once the A1C is under control.

“Vulvodynia: A Multi-Disciplined Disorder”
Brenda Stoddard

Millions of women are affected by the chronic pain disorder of Vulvodynia also known as vulvar pain. Women with this multi-disciplined disorder often experience years of suffering and undergo many diagnostic tests before a diagnosis is achieved. The etiology of vulvodynia is multi-factorial and can occur in the absence of any visible signs. The pain associated with vulvodynia is described as burning, stinging, irritation, or a feeling of rawness. Treatments include cognitive-behavioral therapy, sexual counseling, topical and oral medications, pelvic floor physical therapy, and vulvar surgery.

“The Effectiveness and Longevity of the Lee Silverman Voice Treatment vs. the SPEAK OUT! ® Voice Program in People with Parkinson’s Disease”
Kinslee Story

This research is designed to decipher which voice treatment, Lee Silverman Voice Treatment or the SPEAK OUT! ® Voice Program, is the most effective and long-lasting in patients with Parkinson’s Disease. Participants will include fifty individuals diagnosed with idiopathic Parkinson’s Disease. Sound pressure level will be measured using the Computerized Speech Lab. The following measurements will be taken: the maximum speech intensity for sustained phonation of /a:/, and the duration of the sustained phonation, the average habitual intensity while reading a standard passage, and the average habitual intensity of conversational speech. The VHI will also be administered.
The purpose of this research study is to define what private information is gathered, via the internet, in the form of the electronic health records and protected health information. Risks are identified as to access for public and individual personal information. Prevention strategies, such as beneficience, nonmaleficence, justice and respect, that are used by practitioners are reviewed. Individual strategies to ensure their patient rights and that they are followed are reviewed. Health care institution strategies to maintain security and encryption, therefore, ensuring compliance regarding electronic privacy and interoperability are reviewed.

“Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: The Effects of Medication and Behavioral Therapy in Elementary School Children”
Maricella Strowd

Background Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is recognized as a prevalent psychiatric disorder in pre-school and school-aged children (Hodgkins et al., 2013). Since 2011, 6.4 million children between the ages of 4-17 have been diagnosed with ADHD (CDC, 2016).

Objective The purpose of this paper is to inform families who have children with Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) that medication coupled with Behavior Therapy (BT) can positively impact both them as well as their child’s life.

Conclusion Pharmacologic agents, behavioral therapy, or both have been proven to effectively decrease ADHD symptoms and behavioral problems (Maier et al., 2014).

“Audi-ry Associations and Independence in Dementia”
Stephanie Tavenner

This study’s purpose is to investigate a potential program aimed to create auditory associations in a person with dementia to bridge the deteriorating communication gap between patient and caregiver. The question being addressed in the study is: Can an auditory association between a preferred song and an activity of daily living be created to increase independence in task performance and reduce caregiver support? A single-case research design will target this question with a twelve week program conducted by a speech language pathologist. Independence in the chosen ADL will be measured throughout treatment to compare pre-treatment and post-treatment performance.
Legacy Hall

“The Advantages of Probiotics in the Primary Care Setting”
Shelli Tracy

Probiotics are microorganisms intentionally consumed for health benefit. The gastrointestinal tract hosts trillions of micro-organisms from more than 350 different species. The species found in the gut provide benefits such as protective functions, structural functions, and metabolic functions. Prepared probiotics do not become permanent in the human GI tract but they execute some of the same biological functions. They help produce a GI environment that incline a healthy balance. Probiotics can provide multiple health outcomes noted in many clinical trials. Multi-strain approach will have the best outcome for the widest number of patients.

“Caffeine Consumption Among Children”
Jennifer Turner

Caffeine is the most widely consumed stimulant drug in the world. It is present in many forms: medications, coffee, tea, soft drinks and chocolate. The recent introduction of energy drinks has been highlighted as a cause for concern about the potential adverse effects of caffeine in children. Although caffeine toxicity is rare, it can occur in sensitive populations. Children are considered sensitive due to their smaller size and developing nervous systems. One might ask, does consumption of caffeinated beverages such as tea and soft drinks potentially take the place of more nutritionally beneficial beverages such as milk and juice.

“Siblings of Children with Autism: Positive and Negative Reciprocal Effects”
Christine Valadez

This research aims to gain a clearer idea of how a younger typically developing sibling (TDS) influences the behavior and social language of their older sibling who has autism. The results of this study will mirror how the younger TDS model appropriate social behavior for their older siblings with autism.
Legacy Hall

“US-Cuba Relations: Current Issues and Future Trends”  
Ana Villagomez

The project involves understanding the current affairs and future tendencies of the US-Cuba relations. The goal is to show the economical, social and political impact that the end of the Cuban embargo would represent for both countries. This examination was carried out by the analysis of research papers. It considered important historical facts and major events that have shaped the current situation of the US-Cuba relations. Upon examination of this information, charts and tables were created to display data and to represent outcomes and conclusions. This research highlights the importance of grasping the possible outcomes of normalizing relations.

“Examining Effectiveness of Language Therapy Dosage Based on Later Student Success”  
Kelli Weatherholt

This research intends to gain understanding of whether or not the dose frequency of language therapy in schools is sufficient in remediating difficulties for post-high school success in students with LLD. This will be achieved by surveying SLPs around the Texas Panhandle area in order to locate former clients with LLD. The former students will receive a survey of questions related to their post-high school transition into the workplace or collegiate setting.

“The Benefits of Hippotherapy for Dementia Patients”  
Victoria Wellman

This is a literature review of the current research published pertaining to treatment, animal-assisted therapy, hippotherapy, and the deficits associated with dementia. Dementia has reached epidemic proportions in today’s society, raising the need for more therapy approaches that benefit the patient’s quality of life, as well as sustaining their current level of function as long as possible. Animal-assisted therapy, canines most prevalently, has risen in popularity due to the benefits for dementia patients on a multitude of deficits. This research will use the Mini Mental State Examination to measure the benefits of hippotherapy for dementia patients.

“Cleft Lip and or Palate: Effectiveness of the Corrective Babbling Speech Treatment Program Compared to the Traditional Articulation Approach”  
Alyssa Wianecki

Cleft palate and/or lip result in delayed speech due to the abnormal anatomical structures. Once the primary surgical procedure occurs, children often need post treatment to target speech errors as a result of compensatory sounds made pre-surgery. There is little evidence on the efficacy of treatment approaches geared to the treatment of speech errors secondary to CPL. This research looks at the efficacy of the traditional articulation approach in comparison to an alternate therapy program called Corrective Babbling approaches in the treatment of children with speech errors secondary to cleft palate or lip in children.
Legacy Hall

“Recognition and Management of Bipolar Disorder in Primary Care”
Phyllis Wilkerson

Bipolar disorder is a mental illness that can cause an eight-fold higher risk of suicide. Young adults are often diagnosed in their twenty’s. This illness is characterized by periods of major depression and mania. Patients with bipolar disorder are presenting more often to the primary care setting for treatment. It is vital that providers understand how to use the identification tools such as the World Health Organization’s composite International Diagnostic Interview (CIDI) and evidenced-based pharmacological treatments to manage the care of patients with bipolar disorder.

“Fluency and Communication Attitude: SpeechEasy + Therapy”
Benjamin Zamora

This study examines the effects of therapy when added to SpeechEasy standard protocol. Elementary students with a diagnosis of stuttering were randomly selected. Half of the students received speech therapy while using the SpeechEasy device. The other group used the SpeechEasy device alone. Fluency testing took place in the clinic and in a restaurant at the 5th and 10th week. The participant’s communication attitude was also assessed in the clinic at 10 weeks.

“Natural Water Quality In The Texas Panhandle”
Lance White

This study examines the ionic composition and quality of water as it travels through the hydrological cycle in the Texas panhandle. Throughout 2015 four playas and wells and one rain event were sampled. The water properties varied between playas and wells, but show some correlation between similar playa environments.
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Dr. Angela Spaulding  
Vice President for Research and Compliance, Dean of Graduate School

Dr. Wade Shaffer  
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs
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- First Year Experience
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- Lead WT Suite
- Maroon Room
- Buff Branding Room
- Thunder Room
- White Room
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- Student Organizations

LEGENDS:
- Student Government
- Student Organizations
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- Bookstore
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- Post Office
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- Student Government

LOCATION: NORTH END OF CAMPUS

N
ELEVATOR
RESTROOMS