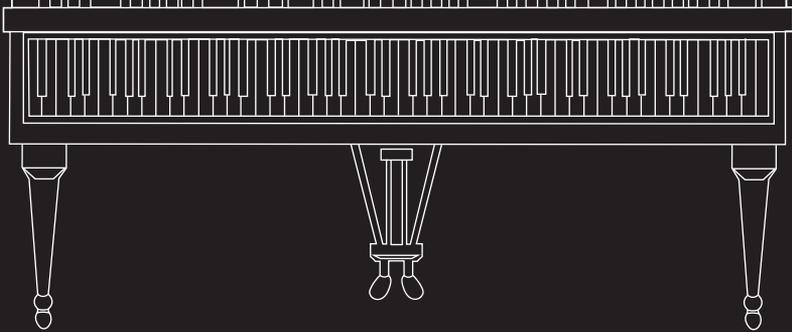
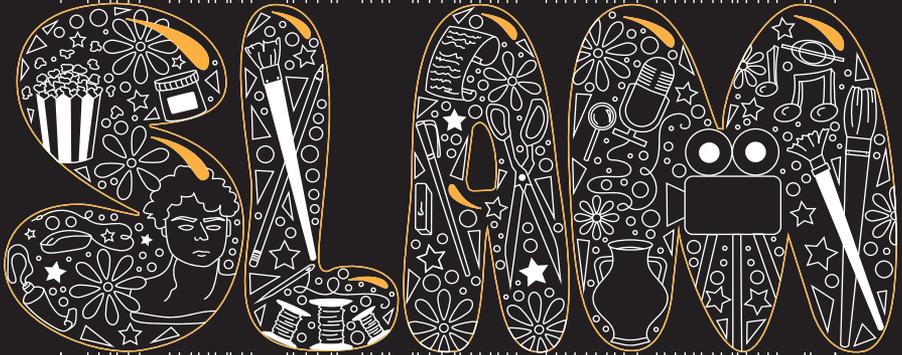


APRIL 9, 2024

STUDENT LIBERAL ARTS MOSAIC

SLAM, THE STUDENT LIBERAL ARTS MOSAIC, PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MARS HILL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO EXHIBIT THEIR CREATIVITY AND ENERGY TO AN AUDIENCE THAT INCLUDES THE ENTIRE CAMPUS AND THE WIDER UNIVERSITY FAMILY



RESEARCH CREATE PRESENT PERFORM
CELEBRATE MHU STUDENTS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024!

Please Read Carefully!

***Remove your SLAM Passport from the program.
Add your name and signature to the back of the passport.
Your passport is your personal ticket into SLAM activities.
It will be stamped at the door as you leave each session you attend.***

DO NOT LOSE IT!

Many professors will ask to see your passport as proof of attendance.

- ▶ During Oral Presentations, thematically arranged groups of presentations will be happening SIMULTANEOUSLY in MULTIPLE PLACES on campus. Check your program carefully and decide which you want to attend. You will only be able to attend one group of presentations in each session. Please remain in that session for all presentations.
- ▶ The Arts Breaks are also happening simultaneously in MULTIPLE PLACES on campus. The performances begin at 1:30 and last for twenty minutes. They will be repeated at 2:00 so you can attend more than one. You only need to attend one to get your passport stamped.
- ▶ To be eligible for one of the fabulous SLAM door prizes, you must be present at the Closing Celebration at 3:30pm in Belk Auditorium and your passport must have five stamps that show you have attended:
 - Plenary Session II – Lauryn Higgins AND
 - All 4 other sessions (Oral Presentations I & V, Poster Session III, and Arts Breaks IV)
- ▶ What next? Select one of the exciting presentation groups from Session I. Some may be Standing Room Only, so get there early to get a seat!

HAVE FUN and GET SLAMMED!

The program cover for SLAM is designed each year by a student in MHU's Graphic Design program. Students submit designs as a class project and the SLAM Committee selects one design to be used for the cover of the program. All the other submitted designs are printed as posters and displayed around campus in the days leading up to SLAM. This year's cover design is by Sara Grace Cook.

*The SLAM banners hanging above the stage in Moore Auditorium were designed and created for the very first SLAM in 2007 by the following students in what then was called the Fashion & Interior Merchandising program (which has evolved into our current Fashion Marketing program):
Claudia Cala, Kristin Kilpatrick, Katie Ledford, Jessica Lowman, Hannah McGinnis, Elizabeth Ravel, Cody Webb*

SLAM

The Student Liberal Arts Mosaic

Mars Hill University

April 9, 2024

Order of the Day:

8:45–9 a.m.	Gathering in Moore
9–9:35 a.m.	Opening Ceremony
9:45–10:35 a.m.	Oral Presentations Session I
10:45–11:45 a.m.	Plenary Speaker Session II
11:45 a.m.–1:20 p.m.	Lunch + Poster Session III
1:30–2:20 p.m.	Arts Breaks Session IV
2:30–3:20 p.m.	Oral Presentations Session V
3:30–4 p.m.	Closing Celebration & Prizes

Fanfare

8:45 a.m., Moore Auditorium

MHU World Percussion Ensemble

Brian Tinkel, Director

Judah Barak
Elijah “Wyatt” Bell
Isaiah Cedillo
Jared Dunn
Tyler Domangue
Tayler Hodges
Luke Holt
Nathaniel Ogden
William Pooser
Cierra Williams

Opening Celebration

9 a.m., Moore Auditorium

Invocation	Zoe Rumley
Welcome	Pres. Tony Floyd
Welcome from the SLAM Committee	Hannah Todd
Charge to Students, Faculty, and Friends	Joy Clifton

Oral Presentations Session I 9:45 a.m., Various Venues

Is the Glass Half Full?

Belk Auditorium

MHU Ethics Bowl Team Demonstration

Alexis Allen
Ana Paula Andrade
Zoe Rumley

Creating Biodegradable Plastics with Milk

Zoie Steinkamp

Maple Leaves and Whistles

Broyhill Chapel

The Relationship Between Coaching Styles and Student Athlete Performance

Kayla Gallagher

The History and Culture of Canada Through Our Study Abroad Experiences

Amber Emerson
Riley Gall
Presley Moore
Arinha Phouamnoy

.What's Love Got To Do With It Owen Theatre

The Impact of Attachment Styles and Love Languages On Friendship and Relationship Quality

Sydney Gearhart
Camden Ingle

An Analysis of Friendly Social Behaviors in African forest (Loxodonta cyclotis), African savanna (L. africana) and Asian elephants (Elephas maximus)

Mirta Rodriguez

Cadenza Unveiling

Thomas Black Box Theatre

Cadenza Unveiling: The Return to Tradition

Ja'Leah Bellamy
Skylar Camby
Erin Cline
Nash Richardson
Braxton Robinson
Lovelie Williams
Cadence Wyatt

Plenary Session II

10:45 a.m., Moore Auditorium

Find Your Team and Then Get To Work

Lauryn Higgins

Introduced by Braxton Robinson

Lunch & Poster Presentations Session III

11:45 a.m.

Lunch

On your own

Poster Presentations

Redway Dining Room

1. Lee Barker: *Distinguishing Two Cryptic Desmognathus Species in the southern Appalachian Using Phylogenetic Data*
2. Carrick Bromage: *Effect of Creatine Supplementation on Sports Performance*
3. Naya Clamp: *The Effects of Jim Crow Laws on African Americans*
4. Kara Halouma: *Factors That contribute to Prosecutorial Misconduct*
5. Emilee Harper: *The Power of Arts Integration*
6. Brogan Heavner: *The Impact of Solitary Confinement on Inmate Mental Health*
7. Grace Keaser: *Using Clay for Emotional and Energy Regulation*
8. Faith Lillie: *A Deeper Delve Into the Relationship Between Nostalgia and Loneliness*
9. Jordan Mulcahey: *Effects of Latitudinal Location on North American Raptor Species Richness and Diversity*
10. Sawyer Parker: *The Relationship Between Physical Activity and Academic Achievement in Middle and High School Students*
11. Arinha Phouamnoy: *Pet-Pal: An Innovative New Product Invented by an MHU Student*
12. Haley Stallings: *Prison Overcrowding in the United States*
13. Aniya Surratt: *A Balanced Examination of Gun Laws and Firearm Accessibility in North Carolina*
14. Brogan Heavner, Jordan Schmucker, Madison Thomas, Katie Todd: *Using Time on Bailey Mountain to Clear Minds for Focus During the Tumult*

Arts Breaks Session IV

1:30 p.m., Various Venues

Clothesline Art Connections

Ponder Atrium, Ferguson Math & Science Center

Brooke Grabowski

Grace Keaser

Tuff Luv and Hard Threads: The 2024 MHU Fashion Show

Owen Theatre

Scott Casagrande

Dexter Fitzpatrick

Posters and Logos Exhibition Moore Fine Arts Bldg., 3rd Floor

Art 109: Mascot Logos

Sam Bayly
Marlee Bishop
Lou Brown
Thomas Durant
Elizabeth Gandee
Kerry Hampson
Liam Murray
Omololu Olugbemi
Ryan Partlow
Zachary Trudelle
Zury Anneliese Velazquez
Aljaz Vidmar

Art 209: SLAM Posters

Ana C. Baptista
Sara Cook
Lilah Dean
Noah Fasel
Destyni Hastings
Nevaeh Ingle
Bayden Jones
Trent Jones
Keira Links
Landon Matz
Daniel O'Leary
Kayleigh Palmer
Brandon Robinson
Aaron Silva
Aniya Wright

Oral Presentations Session V 2:30 p.m., Various Venues

Otterly Perfect

Belk Auditorium

The Effect of Self-talk and Automatic Thoughts on Life Functioning

Lauren Bryner

Does Climate Change Affect Prey Availability in Otters?

Madison Thomas

Worldly Shenanigans

Owen Theatre

Healthy Relationships Versus Unhealthy Relationships: How to Tell Which One You Are In

Riley Gall

Unveiling Minds: Exploring the Intersection of Banned Books and Censorship in Education

Madison Price

Slimy Situation

Ferguson Health Sciences 306

Cultures and Comparisons: Nine Students' Experiences in Lisbon, Portugal

Corrine Annas
Aliyah Brewer
Trent Jones
Ashlin Mathews
Andrew Navarro-Valdez
Zoe Rumley
Brendan Seibeck
Lauren Sermersheim
Amaya Tipps

Staph Inhibition Via Salamander Slime

Chandler Nunn

Napoleon Datamyte

Broyhill Chapel

World Application of Data Analysis

Gabe Boone
Tykasia Davis
Hannah Kendall
Ethan Lee
Collin Maides
Quan Steed
Lia Whitman

Ridley Scott's Vision of Napoleon: Facts or Fiction?

Eric Allen
Cassie Berry
Scott Casagrande
Elinor Maloney
Zachary Martin

Closing Ceremony & Prizes 3:30 p.m., Belk Auditorium

Please bring your completed passport with five session stamps to be eligible for the prize-drawings.

Abstracts

An Analysis of Friendly Social Behaviors in African forest (*Loxodonta cyclotis*), African savanna (*L. africana*) and Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*)

Mirta Rodriguez

The three species of elephants evaluated in this study include two African elephants, the forest (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) and savanna (*Loxodonta africana*), and the Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*). The objective of this study is to evaluate visual cues that elephants use to maintain friendly social relationships. Behaviors that were observed include tail wagging, ear flapping, and mouth opening. Data were collected using social media including YouTube, Instagram, and the live feed “elecama” website. Videos were assessed for the three social behaviors previously mentioned, and data were analyzed with a chi-square with Yates correction. Results showed that ear flaps were performed significantly more frequently in social settings than when alone. Tail wags and mouth openings did occur more often in social situations but were not statistically significant. Greater sample sizes may reflect that they too are important social cues. Understanding these behaviors is essential in aiding conservation efforts for these species’ declining populations.

Cadenza Unveiling: The Return to Tradition

Ja’Leah Bellamy, Skylar Camby, Erin Cline, Nash Richardson, Braxton Robinson, Lovelle Williams, Cadence Wyatt

The 2024 Cadenza Arts and Literature Magazine SLAM Unveiling will reignite a cherished tradition at Mars Hill University. The Cadenza, a longstanding platform for student creativity, will return to its historical setting, allowing students to showcase their poetry, prose, and artistic creations in a vibrant and communal atmosphere. By presenting the Cadenza at SLAM, we aim to celebrate the rich history and significance of the publication within our campus community. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the creative process behind the Cadenza, acknowledge their peers for their artistic achievements as we award prizes to student writers and artists and hear from them read from their work and talk about their creative processes, and foster a supportive environment where creativity thrives. Through this initiative, we seek to strengthen the bonds of our community, and continue the legacy of the Cadenza, an essential part of Mars Hill University’s cultural heritage.

Creating Biodegradable Plastics With Milk

Zoie Steinkamp

The ample negative environmental effects that have come from the use of plastic is becoming detrimental to society. The use of synthetic plastics has begun a war of negative environmental consequences, with plastic pollution posing a significant threat to ecosystems, marine life, and human health. Will the introduction of biodegradable plastics as a substitute for synthetic help reduce toxic waste in our environment? This research is derived from the fact that biodegradable plastics will have a significant effect in reducing plastic pollution in natural environments. Plastics are detrimental to our society and creating biodegradable materials can help reduce the negative environmental impact of plastic pollution. By transitioning towards sustainable alternatives we can focus on the effects of plastic waste in ecosystems, marine life, and human health we can shift towards a cleaner and safer future.

Cultures and Comparisons: Nine Students' Experiences in Lisbon, Portugal

Corrine Annas, Aliyah Brewer, Trent Jones, Ashlin Mathews, Andrew Navarro-Valdez, Zoe Rumley, Brendan Seibeck, Lauren Sermersheim, Amaya Tipps

During Spring Break 2024, nine MHU students and their professor traveled to Lisbon, Portugal, for a short-term Community Engaged study-abroad experience through the INS 235 class. The group explored Portuguese culture, current social issues, and historical contexts for contemporary issues. While in Lisbon, the group partnered with Impact House and ReFood to address food insecurity in the region and to learn about international development challenges and opportunities. Students will share their most impactful experiences and what they learned about ethical service abroad. Additionally, students will highlight the many comparisons that can be made to the Asheville, NC region as both Lisbon's and Asheville's economies rely heavily on tourism.

Does Climate Change Affect Prey Availability in Otters?

Madison Thomas

Climate change has had a negative impact on many species, including different species of otter. This is supported by numerous research studies, showing air temperatures are rising, and prey availability is decreasing. By examining what specific factors climate change affects in otter's habitats such as prey and availability, we can have a better understanding

of the conservation measures needed to protect populations. In this study, I used *Lutra lutra* (Eurasian otter) as a model organism to assess diet composition from 1988 to 2023 to see if the preference of prey has shifted. The Eurasian otter is a keystone species and losing them would likely cause drastic changes in the ecosystems they inhabit. Although the results of this study were statistically insignificant, if more research is done on a larger population size, then significant ways to conserve populations can be found.

The Effect of Self-talk and Automatic Thoughts on Life Functioning

Lauren Bryner & Allison Page

Do you think that negative self-talk affects your life? What about your sports performance? Do you feel that you have constant negative or positive automatic thoughts that are out of your control? Executive functioning is used in everyday life from school, communication, sports, and even folding laundry. This experimental study evaluates the extent that internal thoughts affect executive functioning. In other words, how does your self-talk affect your ability to plan and make decisions? Perfectionism and eating behaviors are also evaluated as possible correlates to self-talk. The Tower of Hanoi puzzle task is used to measure planning, frontal lobe function, and working memory. Participants state a negative, positive, or neutral word aloud and continuously while working on the puzzle. The goal is to understand how much self-talk and automatic thoughts affect the performance of the task. This may help people use self-talk to improve their ability to stay focused on tasks that require planning and focus.

Healthy Relationships Versus Unhealthy Relationships: How To Tell Which One You Are In

Riley Gall

According to findings from Knowledge Network, 57% of college students disclosed experiencing being in an unhealthy relationship during their college years. Reflecting on this statistic, do you perceive your current relationship as a beacon of health and harmony, or does it resonate with the individuals in the study? This presentation delves into the balance between healthy and unhealthy relationships, examining key factors such as conflict resolution, boundary establishment, and healthy communication. Drawing upon psychological theories it highlights the significance of mutual respect, trust, and empathy in fostering healthy connections. By contrasting the characteristics of both

types of relationships, this study states the detrimental effects of toxic patterns such as manipulation, coercion, and lack of accountability. This presentation also delves into the rich narrative behind the creation of the Clothesline Project, intertwining it with the commemoration of resilience and empowerment among survivors.

The History and Culture of Canada Through Our Study Abroad Experiences

Riley Gall, Amber Emerson, Presley Moore, Arinha Phouamnoy

Study abroad opportunities on campus! Over Spring Break, the INS 328 Study Abroad class traveled to Montreal and Quebec City in Canada, a country with a rich culture and history. Prior to the trip, students worked in groups to develop a foundational understanding of Canada's history, culture, and daily life by conducting research and presenting their findings to the class. Due to the fact that both Montreal and Quebec City are French-speaking cities in Canada, students also got to learn important French phrases. In this presentation, students will share their travel experiences as well as what they learned and took away from the trip.

The Impact of Attachment Styles and Love Languages On Friendship And Relationship Quality

Sydney Gearhart, Camden Ingle

Relationship quality is an important part of a college student's life. However, there are multiple parts of both their personality and their partner's personality that could impact the quality of their relationship. We decided to examine those traits in order to see how much importance they hold in determining the quality of ones' relationship. Participants completed our survey online, answering questions about their attachment style and love language. After completion, the main participants named an email address for the person they would like to complete the survey with, designating their relationship status (romantic or friendship) in the process. These named individuals made up the paired participants. The paired participant survey was conducted in the same manner. We believe that this examination will help students gain a better understanding of love languages and attachment styles that they can apply to their own lives and in current and future relationships to benefit the quality of the relationship. It might also allow inspiration towards their senior study in their own major.

MHU Ethics Bowl Team Demonstration

Ethics Bowl – Alexis Allen, Ana Paula Andrade, Zoe Rumley

Ethics Bowl is a structured debate format in which competing teams of 4-6 collaborate to deliver oral arguments responding to a case study and prompt with ethical dimensions. MHU has participated in the NC Ethics Bowl for 9 years, including this past February, and the theme this year was “Ethics in Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity.” The team would like to demonstrate an Ethics Bowl using one of this year’s case studies. Ethics Bowl represents the application and intersection of many different majors in a “real life” way, both in terms of the students participating and the universality of the cases they address. We want to make sure MHU knows and supports our team and how future students might participate next year and beyond.

Real-World Application of Data Analysis

Gabe Boone, Tykasia Davis, Hannah Kendall, Ethan Lee, Collin Maides, Quan Steed, Lia Whitman

This project investigates how data analysis techniques can help organizations make accurate decisions and work more efficiently. It focuses on answering questions from our industry partner Community Housing Coalition of Madison County and stresses the importance of interpreting data well to come up with practical solutions. In today’s business world, having insights of data is common. But just having it isn’t enough. This project looks at ways to analyze and use data to solve problems in the real world.

The Relationship Between Coaching Styles and Student Athlete Performance

Kayla Gallagher

In this study, coaching leader styles will be examined. My hypothesis is that coaching styles will affect a player’s mental game and physical game. I have related research on general leadership styles to show that coaching styles are similar. By considering leadership styles in coaching, we can understand the potential risks and benefits. Negative forms of leadership can cause emotional and behavioral distress within organizations or teams (Braun, 2017). Positive forms of leadership can show honesty, trust, care, an open input, principle, and respect (Yukhmenko-Lescroart et al, 2015). To study coaching leadership styles, coaches agreed to participate and encourage their athletes to participate as well. Coaches and athletes filled out similar surveys about leadership and team cohesiveness.

I expect to find that leadership styles can predict student-athlete performance. By conducting more research in this area, it is helping student athletes and coaches work together. Research will not only benefit athletes but also benefit coaches in the long run.

Ridley Scott's Vision of Napoleon: Facts or Fiction?

Eric Allen, Cassie Berry, Scott Casagrande, Elinor Maloney, Zachary Martin

In this presentation, we will be providing evidence to uncover the historical inaccuracies of Ridley Scott's new movie Napoleon. Each presenter will be looking at a specific component of the movie. One student will be looking at the ways the military campaigns are represented, and another student will be investigating the relationship between Great Britain and Napoleon. One student will be focusing on how Napoleon's exile on the St. Helena Island is portrayed in the movie, while another student will be focusing on the relationship between Josephine and Napoleon and will also comment on the costumes. Last, one student will consider how Napoleon's personality is depicted in the movie.

Staph Inhibition Via Salamander Slime

Chandler Nunn

Pathogens are evolving defenses against current treatments at an alarming rate. Finding a way to keep up with these rapidly mutating pathogens is an imperative part of modern medicine. Amphibians contain a plethora of different dermal peptides for pathogenic and predatory defense. Antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) provide protection against pathogens for these sensitive organisms. Each species of amphibian has been shown to have different AMPs for defense. These AMPs from select frog species have been shown to inhibit the growth of pathogens in vitro. This research provides evidence that the AMPs present in the Southern Black-Belly salamander (*Desmognathus amphileucus*) are capable of inhibiting the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* significantly in vitro, even in low concentration.

Unveiling Minds: Exploring the Intersection of Banned Books and Censorship in Education

Madison Price

Book censorship in the classroom continues to increase in the United States. This presentation explores the importance of addressing this issue

in the classroom, highlighting the connection between book discussions and development of critical thinking skills and perspective-taking. The presentation examines various types of censorship encountered in the classroom, ranging from overt bans to subtle restrictions. A literary analysis of peer-reviewed journal articles was conducted to complete the research, as well as data from leading advocacy groups against book bans. Research indicates an intrinsic connection between censorship and the stifling of diverse voices, hindering students' ability to engage with complex historical narratives and contemporary issues, thus inadequately preparing them to take active roles in our democratic society. The presentation advocates for intellectual freedom in the classroom and encourages teachers to utilize developmentally appropriate books on contemporary issues that encourage students to interrogate, analyze, and synthesize information from a critical perspective.

Poster Session Abstracts

A Balanced Examination of Gun Laws and Firearm Accessibility in North Carolina

Aniya Surratt

There is complex interplay between legislative frameworks, social considerations, and diverse perspectives that pertain to firearm availability in North Carolina. As a result, debate has existed over the appropriate balance between regulating firearms to enhance public safety and protecting individual rights to own and bear arms. This research gives a balanced discussion of the relationship between gun laws and gun accessibility in the state and gives insight about current legislation on firearm purchasing, carriage, and storage with the overall goal of exploring how they impact public safety, individual rights, and community well-being. By presenting a comprehensive, balanced perspective that examines both sides of the gun control controversy, this research contributes to informed discourse and policy deliberations concerning firearms in North Carolina.

A Deeper Delve Into the Relationship Between Nostalgia and Loneliness

Faith Lillie

There is a vast amount of research conducted on the concept of trait loneliness, but very little on state loneliness. Loneliness is defined as

the subjective experience of discomforting emotions due to perceived feelings of social disconnection. Trait loneliness is the persisting constant feeling of loneliness and dissatisfaction of one's relationships and social connectedness, while state loneliness is the momentary extent in which one feels loneliness. Understanding ways to alter and improve both trait and state-based loneliness can help assessments of loneliness and the implications it can cause to mental health and go beyond momentary feelings of loneliness to foster great social connectedness between communities.

Distinguishing Two Cryptic *Desmognathus* Species in the Southern Appalachian Using Phylogenetic Data

Lee Barker

The Southern Appalachian Mountains hold an array of biodiversity in species of salamanders. Over many years, these creatures have become more and more endemic, leading to speciation and cryptic species. One genetic barrier could possibly be the French Broad River since there are two cryptic species that live on either side. In this study, selected DNA sequences from NCBI were pulled and a phylogenetic tree was created from two cryptic species, *Desmognathus organi* and *Desmognathus wrighti* as well as two others for reference. After creating the tree, it is almost evident that these are two completely distinct species with no gene flow. However, one *D. wrighti* was found within the *D. organi*, and while this could suggest there is some gene flow, it is unlikely. The reason for this outlying sequence could be due to misidentification in the field or that these species have more complex DNA sequences than anticipated.

Effect of Creatine Supplementation on Sports Performance

Carrick Bromage

Creatine is an amino acid located mostly in your body's muscles as well as in the brain. Most people get creatine through seafood and red meat, although it can be found in synthetically made creatine supplements. The body's liver, pancreas and kidneys also can make about 1 gram of creatine per day. Your body stores creatine as phosphocreatine primarily in your muscles, where it's used for energy. As a result, people take creatine orally as it is said to improve athletic performance and increase muscle mass. Creatine is one of the most well-researched performance-enhancing supplements on the market at this present moment and

is only becoming more and more mainstream. This presentation will discuss the positive/negative effects of creatine supplementation on sports performance and the standout trends that are seen with taking the supplement.

The Effects of Jim Crow Laws on African Americans

Naya Clamp

The Jim Crow Laws had a huge impact on American society during the 1860s–1960s, causing a rise in violence between blacks, whites, and law enforcement in an attempt to keep the country segregated. Many people do not understand the severity of these laws and how much it has affected light on the everyday struggles that African Americans went through in this time period and attempt to provide an understanding of what we have been through during the ongoing fight for equality.

Effects of Latitudinal Location in North American Raptor Species Richness and Diversity

Jordan Mulcahey

“Raptor” is the common name given to birds in five different orders (Accipitriformes, Cathartiformes, Falconiformes, Cariamiformes, and Strigiformes). This experiment was done on raptors due to the positive impact they have on the environment being an umbrella species and bioindicators as well as many being looked at for conservation efforts. Using data from the North American Bird Banding program I attempted to determine the effect of latitude on raptor species richness. A linear regression model found no significant effects of latitudinal location on raptor diversity. While there was no correlation in the data, we did find an increase in raptor diversity around approximately 40 degrees of latitude. 40 degrees latitude falls mid United States through UT, CO, all the way to PA, and NJ. Which could be due to a large number of the states that sit on the latitude line being sparsely populated.

Factors That Contribute to Prosecutorial Misconduct

Kara Halouma

Prosecutors play a crucial role within the criminal justice system and are the most powerful actors in the criminal court system because they review evidence gathered by law enforcement agencies and decide whether to file charges against people who are accused of committing crime. Prosecutors are also tasked with preparing cases for trial, representing the government’s interests in criminal proceedings,

engaging in plea bargaining, and advocating for the rights of crime victims. Prosecutors are expected to adhere to strict ethical guidelines and are obligated to seek justice rather than merely secure convictions. Prosecutorial misconduct, a critical issue within the legal system, undermines the integrity of criminal proceedings and threatens the principles of justice and fairness. This study explores the factors that contribute to prosecutorial misconduct, with a specific focus on pressure to secure convictions, inadequate training, and institutional culture within prosecuting offices.

The Impact of Solitary Confinement on Inmate Mental Health

Brogan Heavner

Solitary confinement is a form of imprisonment in which an incarcerated person lives in a single cell in a jail, prison, or private detention center with little or no contact with other people for 22 to 24 hours a day. The use of solitary confinement within prisons is a controversial issue. Some correctional administrators argue that isolating offenders is a practical use of punishment, however, scholars maintain that the practice is cruel and inhumane, it exacerbates mental health problems, and increases the risk of suicide and violent behavior. In addition, people who are held in solitary confinement are more likely to recidivate than people held in the general population, and they lose meaningful connections with their support networks. This research examines the risk factors involved with the use of solitary confinement and considers alternatives to punishment that are more centered on rehabilitation.

Pet-Pal: An Innovative New Product Invented By an MHU Student

Arinha Phouamnoy

Ever missed your pet and wished you could play with them from anywhere? Pet-Pal is the solution! Introducing Pet-Pal, an innovative robotic device for pet owners who are always on the go. This modern technology is reshaping remote pet care by offering real-time monitoring as well as instant seizure notifications to ensure your pet's overall well-being. Pet-Pal has been developed based on my personal need as an international student to stay in touch with my pets while away, and it provides a simple, interactive way to do so through a user-friendly application. Come discover more about our innovation, which provide a

peaceful understanding and interaction with pets. Our SLAM Poster event offers you the opportunity to walk through the prototype, learn about the brand, and comprehend our business plan executive summary, and so much more!

The Power of Arts Integration

Emilee Harper

In the current educational landscape, creativity stands as an undiscovered superpower, capable of transforming learning experiences and shaping brighter futures. This presentation advocates for the integration of arts into education to reduce stress, develop social skills, increase engagement and achievement, and improve students' overall understanding of the world. By blending artistic expression with academic curriculum, educators can cultivate a rich learning environment that nurtures creativity and fosters holistic student development. Drawing on firsthand experience and scholarly research, this presentation offers insights into the nuances of arts integration within educational frameworks. It explores the teaching process's intricacies, demonstrating the strengths and challenges inherent in such an innovative approach.

Moreover, this presentation goes beyond theory, showcasing a tangible application of arts integration in an English Language Arts unit plan for second-grade students. Through a carefully crafted blend of visual arts, music, and creative writing activities, this unit plan aims to teach coordinating conjunctions in an engaging and insightful manner. Visit this poster session to experience the transformative power of creativity in education, empowering educators to cultivate a generation of innovative thinkers and lifelong learners.

Prison Overcrowding in the United States

Haley Stallings

Prison overcrowding is a critical issue that is driven by punitive sentencing policies, socioeconomic disparities, and systemic inequalities within the criminal justice system, which necessitates urgent attention and comprehensive reforms to alleviate strain on incarcerated individuals, correctional facilities, and society at large. The United States holds only 5% of the world's population, but houses about 20% of the world's incarcerated population. Because of mass incarceration, prison overcrowding has emerged as a critical issue. This study seeks to provide an overview of the various factors that have contributed to the

phenomenon of overcrowded prisons. Most notably, prison overcrowding has emerged because of punitive sentencing policies, the war on drugs, and systemic inequalities within the criminal justice system. This research investigates the adverse effects of prison overcrowding on inmate well-being, institutional safety, and the delivery of rehabilitative services.

The Relationship Between Physical Activity and Academic Achievement in Middle and High School Students

Sawyer Parker

This presentation highlights the findings from a literature review which examined the relationship between physical activity and academic achievement among middle and high school students. The research indicates a strong relationship between varying types of physical activity and academic outcomes, including improved grades, standardized test scores, and overall cognitive abilities. Understanding the positive effect of physical activity on academic achievement has significant implications for policy makers, physical education teachers, classroom teachers, and parents invested in promoting student physical literacy and academic success. Additional research is needed on this topic to investigate term effects of physical activity interventions on academic outcomes and more into the types, durations, and intensities of physical activity for maximizing academic performance.

Using Clay for Emotional and Energy Regulation

Grace Keaser

This project studied the effects of using clay as an emotion and energy regulation method. All participants were divided into two groups, and both were tested on their emotions and energy levels before the experiment. Group one was given instructions to make a pinch pot, and group two was given instructions to make whatever they wanted for three minutes. Afterward, each group was once again tested on their emotions and energy levels. Based on previous research, my hypothesis was that those in the structured clay group would evoke more positive emotions and regulated energy levels. However, my experiment ended up showing the opposite. Come to my poster and I will explain why I think that happened.

Using Time on Bailey Mountain to Clear Minds for Focus During the Tumult

Brogan Heavner, Madison Thomas, Katie Todd, Jordan Schmucker

This study examines the effects that spending time in nature has on study habits and school-focused anxiety. Specifically, this study looks at how spending time on Bailey Mountain affects Mars Hill Students' anxiety levels and study habits. Bailey Mountain is a preserve that is taken care of by the local community to protect its biodiversity through conservation. Student volunteers from MHU's two Health and Wellness classes (HHP.111) will be grouped into a control group and an experimental group; the control group will not go to Bailey Mountain whereas the experimental group will go out to Bailey Mountain twice. Polls will then be sent out to the volunteers to measure anxiety levels and confidence regarding school. This data will then be analyzed, and it is hypothesized that increased time with nature will reduce anxiety and increase confidence in schooling.

Arts Breaks Abstracts

Clothesline Art Connections

Brooke Grabowski, Grace Keaser

The Clothesline Project is a national movement that raises awareness for survivors of sexual assault and abuse through hanging of t-shirts that represent individuals' experiences. The MHU Clothesline is installed outside of Pittman Dining all day during SLAM. During this Arts Break, come tour the MHU Clothesline and make some art in reaction to the project and in support of survivors. Those students, faculty, and staff who are survivors and witnesses of abuse may privately make a t-shirt to add to the Clothesline. Everyone may create empowering messages through art and craft for themselves, their friends and family, and/or the MHU community to celebrate the strength and resilience of survivors.

Posters and Logos Exhibition

Art 109: Manato Arndall, Sam Bayly, Marlee Bishop, Lou Brown, Thomas Durant, Elizabeth Gandee, Kerry Hampson, Liam Murray, Omololu Olugbemi, Ryan Partlow, Zachary Trudelle, Zury Anneliese Velazquez, Aljaz Vidmar. Art 209: Ana C. Baptista, Sara Cook, Lilah Dean, Noah Fasel, Destyni Hastings, Nevaeh Ingle, Trent Jones, Keira Links, Landon Matz, Daniel O'Leary, Kayleigh Palmer, Brandon Robinson, Aaron Silva,

Aniya Wright

This exhibition shows work created by the MHU Intro to Computer Graphics and Graphic Design 1 classes. Students will show how they used a creative process to develop their project concepts. The two projects that will be on display are SLAM posters and Mascot LOGOS. The exhibit will take place on the third floor of the Moore building.

Tuff Luv and Hard Threads: The 2024 MHU Fashion Show

Scott Casagrande, Dexter Fitzpatrick

The 2024 SLAM student fashion show aims to be an exhibition of contemporary college fashion. Models and designers have worked together to create outfits that are both fashionable and realistic in a way that shows the passion and struggles of college students. Through the use of thrifting, resellers, pass-downs, and in-house alterations, our team has curated and designed a show that expresses students' fashion choices while also being conscious of the monetary restrictions that plague most of our pocketbooks.

The SLAM Committee

Mr. Gavin Andrews, Assistant Director of Housing
Mr. Ryan Bell, Director of First Year Academic Success and Advising
Mrs. Joy Clifton, Assistant Professor of Health & Human Performance,
Committee Chair
Dr. Amanda Knapp, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Dr. Jonna Kwiatkowski, Professor of Psychology & Art Therapy
Dr. Jennifer Roberts, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Ms. Misty Rondeau, Assistant Professor of Woodwinds
Ms. Zoe Rumley, Student Representative
Mr. Mike Thornhill, Director of Communications
Ms. Hannah Todd, Student Representative

Special Thanks To

Chartwells Staff
Lora Eggleston & Graphic Design Students
Tony Floyd
Blake Freeman
Danielle Hagerman
Kristie Hollifield
Information Technology Staff
Dan Lunsford
National / MHU Facilities Staff
Tracy Parkinson
Nina T. Pollard
Laura Steil & Alpha Chi
Brian Tinkel & MHU Percussion Ensemble
The dedicated Students, Staff, Faculty, Alumni, Trustees and Friends of Mars
Hill University

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Lauryn Higgins

Plenary Speaker

Lauryn Higgins is a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. She graduated from Mars Hill University with a degree in business administration in 2014, and was a member of the women's track and field team and editor of the yearbook. She went on to earn her master's degree in journalism at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2018. In 2023 she was selected as Mars Hill University's Alumna of the Year.



Higgins' work focuses primarily on public health and wellness. She currently works as a freelance journalist, adjunct professor of journalism at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and as a stringer for the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. She also writes for NPR, *Women's Health*, *Shape*, *Health.com*, *Teen Vogue*, and other outlets.

Her work at the *New York Times* tracking the COVID-19 pandemic was part of a team that won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, as well as the 2020 Philip Meyer Journalism Award and a 2020 Sigma Delta Chi Award. Her work at the *New York Times* tracking the Russian invasion of Ukraine was part of a team that won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in International Reporting.

A native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Higgins now resides in Nebraska. In her spare time she enjoys watching college football, gardening, and spending time with her husband, Sam, and their Bernedoodle, Gus.

SLAM

Student Liberal Arts Mosaic

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