

**Goshen College 12th Annual
Undergraduate Student Research Symposium
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Abstracts

Ben Baumgartner
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In Search of Well-Being: Shari'a and International Human Rights in Northern Nigeria

Nigeria has been in the news recently for the increasing tensions between Christians and Muslims, especially since various states in the north of Nigeria established Shari'a law in 2000, which has led to condemnation by international human rights organizations. My paper argues that if we focus on the true objectives of both Shari'a and human rights, it is possible to be faithful to both. I briefly explain the history of international human rights, as well as give an overview of Shari'a. I then examine ways in which Shari'a can be harmonized with human rights while still remaining faithful to its original intent: in women's rights, corporal punishment, and freedom of religion. Furthermore, I attempt to show how Shari'a can actually contribute to the betterment of Northern Nigerian society.

Patricia Hershberger
Department of Nursing

The Health Needs of Children Experiencing Obesity in the United States

Childhood and adult obesity is one of the most prominent healthcare epidemics in our nation, yet it is not getting the attention it or action deserves. Because a large portion of treatment depends on interventions to take place as preventive measures, healthcare dollars are not being funneled to this aspect, but rather are focused on treating the chronic diseases that occur as a result in the long run. Culprits can range from sugary drinks and high-calorie snack foods, to less parental supervision, and even unsafe neighborhoods. Though there are numerous other factors besides these that are contributing to the consistent climb in numbers of children experiencing obesity, it is even more critical that we as consumers, families, and community members become aware and educated to what the causal factors are and what we can do to help. Childhood obesity is an increasing problem of epic proportions that must be addressed and fought with passion and determination. This presentation explores the causes, effects and possible steps that can be taken to prevent obesity, as well as ways to work with those that are currently considered obese.

Joshua Hertzler
Department of Bible, religion and philosophy

Why Camping?: A Look into the Mennonite Camping Movement and Its Role in Youth Ministry

When contemplating Mennonite Youth Ministry and its various mediums, Mennonite camping is not often on the list, in terms of a viable youth ministry option. Programs such as the youth convention, service trips, the youth group, etc. are more obvious choices in terms of what constitutes a solid youth ministry program. However, if one takes a closer look, it becomes clear that Mennonite camping does in fact have much to offer to the Mennonite denomination in terms of a substantive program for Mennonite youth. In fact, one could argue that Mennonite camping is one of the better options for a more complete youth ministry program, as it is accessible for participation from a young age and extends throughout young adulthood via staff positions. Mennonite camping offers a place for faith development, Mennonite teaching, leadership development, environmental education, and ministry opportunity. And yet this valuable asset has yet to be tapped by the institutional Mennonite church. Thus, this paper will present the important role of camping as a medium of youth ministry in the Mennonite church, looking at Mennonite faith education and development, specifically in terms of nurture and evangelism; leadership skills development, looking at leadership within the camp and ministry opportunities outside of the camp; and the role the Mennonite Camping Association (MCA) plays as the connection between camps and the institutional Mennonite denomination, as an attempt provide concrete evidence as to the importance of the camping program to the Mennonite denomination.

David Horst
Department of History

Culture Clash on Common Ground: Potawatomi and Europeans on the Elkhart Prairie

Europeans and Native Americans had very different ways of expressing politics, agriculture, and land ownership in inland North America, but each locale's transition from Native American use, through pioneer times, toward a neo-European landscape occurred under the continuous geological circumstances that had a significant impact on the daily practice of societies. During those crucial transition periods for the land, white pioneers emulated Native American land use techniques because those were the techniques Native Americans had shaped the landscape to facilitate. Ultimately, however, European's vision for the best use of the old North West Territory did not include a Native American presence, only the acquisition of land which they had managed for millennia. The Elkhart Prairie region of northern Indiana can provide specific examples of how land that once supported a Potawatomi village became prime real estate for squatters waiting Indian title to the land to be extinguished. Despite the efforts of Onaska/ "Five Medals," the local chief of Obbenabbe village being considered important by the US government and seeking to adopt western farming methods, the

Potawatomi living on the Elkhart Prairie were replaced by white settlers who emulated, competed with, and feared them in turn as the Potawatomi were displaced. The transition of the Elkhart Prairie from Potawatomi territory toward defined, properties held by individuals forced adaptations among both whites and Native Americans as each group spent time in an environment shaped by the other, but the power behind white ideas of ownership ultimately led to the full implementation of white visions for the landscape.

Rachel M. Lehman
Department of Sociology, social work and anthropology

Whose Job Is It Anyway? An Examination and Analysis of Goshen's Public and Private School Sex Education Initiatives

The goal of this “action research” project was to discover what methods of sex education are currently being used in both public and private school systems in Goshen, teachers’ views of the pros and cons of each method, and whether or not those methods are similar to programs for middle and high school students in greater Indiana. Sex education teachers from Bethany Schools, Goshen Middle and High Schools were interviewed about the history and development of their syllabi. Curriculum materials, handouts, and parental letters of consent were examined for each program. Detailed program profiles were created. The paper concludes with an analysis and evaluation of the profiled programs.

Thomas Leischner
Department of History

Where Have They Put Our Hero? The Remembrance of Steve Biko

In apartheid South Africa, Steve Biko was a leader of the Black Consciousness movement, encouraging community development and Black pride until his death while in police custody in 1977. Since Biko's death, several political groups have attempted to control appropriate his legacy to support their own ends. The party in power since the end of Apartheid, the African National Congress, has been especially criticized for their co-opting of Steve Biko. However closer examination shows moments of tension between using Steve Biko and allowing his legacy to be greater than the grasp of the ANC. Not only is this tension present, but reveals the impulses and responsibilities of a political party in charge of a democratic nation.

Daniel Martin
Department of Communication

Gitlow's Revolution

Examines the importance of the U.S. Supreme Court of Benjamin Gitlow v. The State of New York. Describes both the First and Fourteenth Amendment's parameters and the implications of the Fourteenth Amendment to the First. States the history and battles between state and federal law specifically according to those of freedom of speech and expression. Dives into the meaning of Gitlow's case against New York and the revolution it caused in adopting First Amendment rights onto the state level, as well as the implications this revolution holds for us today as U.S. citizens.

Susana Martinez
Department of Sociology, social work and anthropology

Social Work with Undocumented Immigrants

Social work is a difficult profession when dealing with real, complex, and unique human problems. But it is even more challenging when working with people who are not given certain rights and are often considered an undeserved population. Because social work has been developed in a European context, the unique experiences of undocumented immigrants have not received the attention they deserve. In turn, the unawareness of this issue creates certain dilemmas in the relationship between the social worker and the client, in this case an undocumented immigrant. For the first time the social worker might be immersed in ethical, personal and practical dilemmas that she/he might have never considered before. For a profession like social work which considers every person important and worthy and equally deserving of effective services, it is urgent for a social worker to practice specialization when working with undocumented immigrants.

Caleb Paul Mecham
Department of Peace, justice and conflict studies

Storytelling

Mythmaking and storytelling are primary ways that nations, ethnic groups, religious communities, and families form a collective identity. A negative side of group identities is that they often lead to vilification of those outside the group, and collective stories can abet that process when they include enemies and negative portrayals of the Other. Yet sharing stories can also be an effective means for finding common ground between different groups. Even if cross-group storytelling can not alone create peace, it does provide a starting point for conflict resolution; it allows individuals and groups to recognize their common humanity.

Caleb Miller
Department of Nursing

Health Issues Facing the Prison Population

This paper is a study of several of the many health issues facing prison inmates in the USA. These issues include overcrowding, psychological disorders, communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis), and suicide. The paper also looks at possible solutions to these health problems as well as ways to evaluate the success of the possible solutions.

Jeffrey Moore
Department of Communication

The Right to Disagree: Protecting Intellectual Minorities

Although many universities talk about diversity and inclusiveness, they often forget that protecting minorities includes protecting the rights of people who disagree with the idea of tolerance and diversity. The right to disagree must be protected in this country and at Goshen College, because failure to do so would create a society in which free speech is guaranteed by law, but limited in practice. A prevalent liberal world view on many college campuses often results in unofficial censorship of more conservative ideas. Colleges sometimes abolish academic freedom if there is a possibility that some groups may find material offensive. And, in response to a history of discrimination, social speech codes like political correctness infringe on the rights of all people to express themselves freely. Modern society has decided not to tolerate intolerance. Therefore we must learn to protect the right to disagree because failure to do so will create a system of intellectual slavery.

Daniel Moya
Department of History

Ubuntu and Reconciliation: The Social, Political and Spiritual Dimensions of the Theology of Desmond Tutu.

In this paper, I explore the concepts of humanization, justice, truth and forgiveness as essentials for reconciliation. I focus on Desmond Tutu and his influence on the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in South Africa as the instrument that attempted to incorporate these themes into a specific national project for promoting reconciliation in a post-apartheid society.

Jacob Schlabach
Department of Communication

Swearing Our Way to Freedom: Linguistic Obscenity and Broadcast Media Law

American laws have long regulated what can and cannot be spoken in broadcast media. The changes in the media environment brought about by the internet as well as modern research into the psychology of linguistics have recently called into question the reasoning and validity of these regulations. Such restrictions on obscenity constitute a questionable abridgment of free speech in the interest of outdated standards of decency. In order to strengthen American democracy and uphold freedom of speech, these regulations should be revised or removed to allow for greater freedoms, even at the cost of coarsening public discourse.

Anna Showalter
Department of History

The Mennonite Young People's Conference Movement 1919-1923: A Casualty of Church Controversy?

The Young People's Conference Movement (YPC) was a movement of vision and reform in the Mennonite Church initiated by a group of gifted and energetic young adults from 1919-1923. However, the movement struggled to find acceptance in the church and dissolved after only four conferences. The YPC found that their progressive agenda was in tension with other elements in the church and they were unable to find a way to integrate the YPC into the church. Yet, the failure of the YPC to gain a lasting impact itself by no means limited the impact of their vision in the church during the next generation.

Anna Srof
Department of Nursing

Mental Health and Young Adults: The College Years

Mental illness is the leading cause of disability throughout the United States and Canada and is a significant issue among young adults during their college years. Common disorders seen in this age group include depression, anxiety, eating disorders, substance abuse, suicide, self-mutilation, self-destructive behavior and other reckless behaviors. Young adults between the ages of 18-25 are at a higher risk for developing a mental illness due to their struggles with self-identity as well as adjusting to the new stresses of college life, previous backgrounds in the military and lack of adequate coping skills upon entering college. There is a major need for education of students, parents, and faculty and staff of colleges and universities for signs and symptoms of mental illness as well as resources for those suffering from it. The major needs surrounding mental illness on

college and university campuses include helping to decrease the stigma surrounding mental illness, providing affordable services as well as culturally sensitive services and offering educational classes or tools to help people understand the severity and isolation that mental illness can create. By attending to the needs of students can help decrease barriers students face when suffering from a mental illness. Mental health is critical in the well being of students and their success in college. If students are not mentally well it can affect all aspects of their life. By detecting early, educating people and providing students with the tools needed to succeed mentally can all significantly help students thrive personally.

Jessica Steil
Department of Sociology, social work and anthropology

Juvenile Sexual Offenders: The Dynamics in Working with Youth Who Sexually Offend

This paper identifies some of the practice issues that might arise while trying to establish a social work relationship with a client who is a juvenile sexual offender. There are certain issues that a social worker needs to consider when working with this type of client, including a history of family dysfunction, attachment problems, the issue of denial, a history of victimization, and the social workers own beliefs about sex offenders. The paper also discusses ethical issues that might arise and gives some common characteristics of juvenile sexual offenders.

Emily Taylor
Department of History

Defining and Defying the Women's Movement: A Case Study of the Home Economics Department at Goshen College

In America, home economics programs have acquired the reputation of high school “cooking and sewing” classes—a field catered to keeping the idealized nuclear family intact through the stay-at-home housewife. In actuality, it was women who founded home economics as part of the early women’s rights movement to both give women access to leadership and education, and also to bring respect and professionalization to their work in the private sphere. Ironically, it was second wave feminism that redefined home economics as an unacceptable option for women seeking liberation from a patriarchal society. By closely examining the former home economics department at Goshen College, this paper provides an in depth study of how these changing societal movements inspired both the rise and fall of the program.

Emily Trapp
Department of Communication

Is a Picture Really Worth a Thousand Words?

This paper explores the business in which the paparazzi work and their effect on the average American citizen and on major public figures in today's media. It begins by explaining what makes a paparazzo so eager to work with celebrities and why they are often accused of assault, harassment, and other allegations. The paper then asks the ethical questions of why the paparazzi's goal is to twist and manipulate the stories that they report on, but also considers that they are simply demonstrating freedom of expression. Two very different stories are then compared: Mel Bouzad, an experienced paparazzo in Los Angeles who goes to extreme levels to capture his "perfect shot" and the death of Princess Diana of Wales in 1997 in a devastating crash in result of a paparazzi chase. These two cases bring up ethical questioning of why the paparazzi are not regulated or limited more than they currently are to ensure the safety and privacy of those they report on and challenges the reader to take a side on the subject.

Noah Weaverdyck
Department of Physics

A Statistical Thermodynamic Determination of the Chemical Potential of Cholesterol in a Phospholipid Bilayer

Multiple experiments suggest that at certain mol fractions (χ sterol = Cr) sterol molecules, cholesterol (chol) and ergosterol (erg), form superlattice (SL) structures occupying particular acyl chain sites in a phospholipid bilayer. We have successfully tested a model against our own nystatin-erg channel data and fluorescence measurements of sterol concentration [1]. Using Kirkwood's coupling parameter method we previously obtained partial agreement with chemical potential data at χ sterol = 0.4. Here we report the results of a more appropriate statistical thermodynamic analysis to determine the chemical potential for our model. We obtained the density of states (DOS) using a binning procedure and the recently developed Wang-Landau algorithm. The form of the DOS dictated a numerical summation for the partition function. Piecewise linearity of the statistical thermodynamic Helmholtz Energy yielded plateaus in the chemical potential consistent with experimental data for $0.20 \leq \chi$ sterol ≤ 0.60 .

Leah Yoder
Department of Sociology, social work and anthropology

Examining the Factors Leading to the Amish Community's Participation in a Local Grief Center (Ryan's Place)

The purpose of this study was to learn more about which factors led to voluntary Amish participation at Ryan's Place [a local non-profit, peer-led grief center] in Goshen, Indiana. Using case study research, both Amish and non-Amish Ryan's Place respondents (volunteers, staff, board members, past participants, et. al.) were interviewed through focus groups and semi-structured interviews, respectively (N= 5 Amish families, N=18 non-Amish). Additional fieldwork and archival research was conducted for this qualitative study. Overall, the findings displayed that Amish involvement at Ryan's Place was due to the agency's ability to eliminate participation barriers, demonstrate cultural sensitivity and provide a safe environment. These factors, referred to as the "Amish strategy," also included building personal contact with a target group, taking time to build relationships and recruiting members for leadership roles in the agency. Within the data, it was suggested that the "Amish strategy" could be applied to other hard to reach demographics. It was recommended that the emerging concept of the "Amish strategy" be studied further, along with researching its applicability to other demographics.

Crystal Zook
Department of History

Sewing for Community and Worldwide Relief: A History of the College Mennonite Church Sister's Sewing Circle 1908-2010

Through this paper, I am examining the history of CMC's Sister's Sewing Circle which is now known as Mennonite Women. The paper explores both the change and continuity of the group over the past one hundred years. The Sister's Sewing Circle arose out of the Mennonite Quickening of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the start of College Mennonite Church. Since then, it has undergone many changes but three main themes have kept the group going: their faith in God, a desire to serve others, and a love for each other as sisters in Christ. Women have expressed these themes in different ways but through their varied expression have continually shaped the church, their own lives and the lives of others.