

Titles and Abstracts
Goshen College
Tenth Annual Undergraduate Student Research Symposium
March 15, 2008

Elizabeth F. Beachy
Department of English
“Emily Dickinson: Writing for a Reason”

In the past, the work of Emily Dickinson has been approached with the assumption that since she never published her substantial stack of prose, and because of her extremely reclusive nature, she remained less of an agent in her innovative compositions. Critics shake their heads at “poor, miserable, Emily,” concluding that she must have suffered from a chemical imbalance, and was not fully aware of herself, or her abilities as a writer. In this essay, I seek to shed light upon Dickinson’s presumably depressive and timid corner of the world, to disturb the dust of the last century’s psychological analysis, and to reclaim Dickinson’s agency as a writer and “thinker.” This paper will examine Dickinson’s intentionality and purposeful writing through a comparison of two of her poems, “One need not be a Chamber—to be Haunted” and “Some keep the Sabbath going to Church,” as well as their contexts. These contexts include: the ever-present backdrop of the Civil War, and religious revivals bubbling beneath the community where Dickinson grew up and within the school where she attended. Dickinson did not share the same enthusiasm for the religious renewal as the rest of her community, and she was affected by the death and devastation of the war. In addition, Dickinson never sought to publish her work, which was uncharacteristic for female writers of her time. But Dickinson did not write to entertain, or to earn praise. Dickinson wrote to cope with the events taking place beyond her writing desk. Therefore, Dickinson should not be the subject of a psychoanalytic chart, with modern critics check-checking her into boxes. She should instead be considered a poet with a purpose.

Janie M. Beck
Department of Religion
“Thoughts on Love: A Critical Study of Reinhold Niebuhr”

David Bontrager
Department of Religion
“The Crux of Atonement”

In this paper, I explore the meaning, power, and constitutive value of Jesus’ crucifixion. Drawing primarily from R.G. Hamerton-Kelly’s Girardian analysis, Jürgen Moltmann, and J. Denny Weaver, the event of the crucifixion is taken apart, looking at the cross as a central symbol in Christianity, and the different meanings it has come to represent. The primary historical soteriological theories are outlined, followed by more complex interpretations of the cross, and my critiques/additions to these ideas.

Yovana Yoder Bontrager
Department of English
“Motherhood in *As I Lay Dying*: The Anti-Blessing”

When Addie, the matriarch of the Bundren family in the novel *As I Lay Dying*, gave birth to her first child, she knew “that living was terrible” (171) and that its sole purpose was to prepare for death. Addie’s daughter, Dewey Dell, later inherits this same revulsion to her own experience of maternity. Motherhood fills the Bundren women with such disdain because it violates their happiness and authenticity of being. They therefore reject their children and their roles as mothers as a coping mechanism in the face of poverty, mistreatment, illegitimacy, and the systemic oppression experienced by rural Southern women in the early 1900s. This paper examines Faulkner’s twisted and backwards illustration of motherhood, and also discusses other effects of oppression, such as a repressed sexuality, and the rejection of typical female roles as seen throughout the novel. It argues that through the wretchedly pathetic and snuffed presentation of these women, Faulkner proclaims a feminist message that calls for change. The novel can thus be read as a social commentary on the poor conditions facing women at the time, specifically mothers, which raises awareness about the dismal consequences that these conditions inevitably heap onto entire family lines.

Bryce Bow
Department of Bible
“‘Were Not All Ten Cleansed?’ A Samaritan
Leper’s First Hand Account of Jesus”

A narrative written from the perspective of the Samaritan Leper in Luke 5:12-16, the following account attempts to add some background and details to this well-known story in the Bible. The Leper not only recalls what happens, but how he feels throughout the experience. The Bible doesn't give us very much information about the man or the event, and so this is my attempt to fill in what I think some of the missing pieces and details might have looked like back then.

Colin Dyck, Jesse Shirk-Byler, Yovana Yoder Bontrager
Department of Psychology
“The Effects of Anonymity on Competition and Perceptions of Classroom Climate During a
Computer Learning Activity”

Previous research has suggested that competition in classroom environments can be a motivating factor for learning and enhanced engagement in classroom activities. Adding elements of competition to various work and educational activities is encouraged as a motivational-enrichment strategy and is thought to encourage people to perform at the best of their ability. However, other studies have found that team competition may have negative effects on human interactions between competing groups and on communication and processing between members of the same team. Our current study will address these issues by comparing teams of students in different competitive environments. We hypothesize that as students experience higher levels of competition (mediated by anonymity) they will have less favorable perceptions of inner-group

processing, will perceive classroom climate less favorably, and will perform less favorably (by answering fewer correct questions) than the less competitive group.

Chet Everett Franklin
Department of American Sign Language
“Features of American Sign Language Lexicalization and Signs”

In American Sign Language, as well as other languages, lexicalization occurs quite often in native signers’ usage of the language, along with signs that also represent those words being lexicalized. This presentation will cover an in depth study of lexicalization and signs, their uses, and how they are similar and different. This topic is being studied because lexicalization is a difficult process for non-native users of ASL to fluently understand and have the ability to correctly reproduce lexicalized signs. It is also important, as a future interpreter, to understand the different uses and meanings of lexicalized signs versus other signs that represent the same idea. Therefore, it is important for all interpreters to be able to correctly identify the different ideas that are represented by lexicalized signs and other signs that are glossed as the same word. This concept leads to a series of questions that will be answered throughout this presentation: are lexicalized signs used the same as other signs; do they have the same meaning; what nonmanual features are different between the two types of signs; how would one interpret them differently in English; in ASL? Before in depth research was conducted, it was believed that many lexicalized signs are used emphasize the subject more so than using the sign would imply. Another reason lexicalized signs may be used is to specify which English word the sign is meant to convey.

Rebecca K. Friesen
Department of Physics
“Monte Carlo Investigations of Sterol Microstructure Mosaics in Mixed Lipid/Ergosterol Domains at Moderate Ergosterol Mol Fraction”

In planar phospholipid bilayers (membranes) sterols (cholesterol or ergosterol) cluster in sterol-rich regions. At certain mol fractions $\chi_{\text{sterol}} = C_r$ sterol molecules form regular microstructures (superlattices) occupying particular acyl chain sites in the bilayer. These are termed Sterol Superlattice Domains (SSLDs). Monte Carlo (MC) simulations were conducted to determine the distribution and form of SSLDs on lipid bilayers with $0.2 \leq \chi_{\text{sterol}} \leq 0.42$. These revealed that mosaics of SSLDs, with structures strongly dependent on χ_{sterol} , form on the bilayer for all χ_{sterol} studied. Individual SSLDs had structures corresponding to specific C_r -values. Total numbers of SSLD-bound sterols from MC simulations corresponded almost exactly to fluorescent measurements of sterol microstructures between $0.2 \leq \chi_{\text{sterol}} \leq 0.42$. A sharp spike in MC simulation results near $\chi_{\text{sterol}} = 0.25$ corresponded to the formation of a superlattice at $\chi_{\text{sterol}} = 0.25$ in agreement with the interpretation of the fluorescent data. However, a distinct dip near $\chi_{\text{sterol}} = 0.33$ does not correspond to the superlattice predicted at this C_r , but to a densely packed mosaic. Sharpening the MC simulations revealed a variation of the strength of multibody interactions with χ_{sterol} .

Samantha N. Fulton
Department of Chemistry
“Investigation of Two Site-Directed Mutants of Serine Hydroxymethyltransferase from
Escherichia coli”

Two site-directed mutants of serine hydroxymethyltransferase (G67V and F257W), a 95kDa homodimer from *Escherichia coli*, were isolated and characterized. Based on time-lapsed spectroscopy, the G67V mutant binds the cofactor pyridoxal-5-phosphate only upon incubation over time at room temperature. The specific activity of the G67V mutant after incubation is one-third of the wild-type enzyme. Spectral analysis of the G67V mutant shows less bound pyridoxal-5-phosphate and more quinoid structure than in the wild-type. Limited proteolysis determined the monomeric folding of G67V is similar to the wild-type. Using 3D imaging, it was shown that 85% of the surface contacts between the monomers in the wild-type is in the first 67 amino acids and that the mutation at Gly-67 could create steric hindrance with Arg-25. The F257W mutant was shown to be purified to 95% homogeneity and have a specific activity of three-fourths that of the wild type enzyme.

Kelsey A. Eldredge and Jeremy Good
Department of Biology
“E. Coli in the Elkhart River”

Escherichia coli is a common disease-causing coliform bacteria found in many bodies of water, but does not frequently appear in high concentration in the U.S. because of the high quality of sanitation. E. Coli is used as an indicator of fecal contamination demonstrating water quality. To test for the presence of E. coli, the DNA was isolated, amplified using Polymerase Chain Reactions, and identified using the gel electrophoresis process. To observe the quantity of E. coli colonies, water samples were mixed with an EMB agar solution which is specific to coliforms and grown on Petri dishes. Water samples were collected from the Goshen Dam Pond and two locations on the Elkhart River, upstream and downstream from the Goshen Water Treatment Center. E. coli was found in all three test locations with the highest concentration being upstream from the water treatment center.

Sheldon C. Good
Department of Communication
“Introduction” to *Surviving the Khmer Rouge: Stories on the Daily Struggle to Stay Alive*

This is a presentation of the introduction to *Surviving the Khmer Rouge: Stories on the Daily Struggle to Stay Alive*. The book is an accumulation of stories from various Cambodians who have dealt with and suffered under the Khmer Rouge regime. The stories are told through the eyes and ears of Goshen College students who participated in the Cambodia 2007 Study-Service Term. These essays are excerpts taken from the students' journals and include the experiences of the students' relatives and close acquaintances.

Michael L. Honderich and Drew E. Horst
Department of Communication
“[Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com): Friend or Foe?”

As technological advances have proliferated since the turn of the 21st century, previous notions of community have been called into question. The internet has paved the way for communication advancements in the form of instant messaging, chat rooms, forums and blogs. Many have labeled such innovations as impersonal and detrimental to social development—stirring debate and concern for the future of communication in a modern society. This study seeks to explore [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and the extent of its impact on interpersonal relationships. Additionally, researchers will examine the differences between relating via a virtual medium and relating face to face. Finally, this study investigates the dynamics—namely, issues of privacy—of an unregulated world wide web where individuals may publish practically anything imaginable.

Jennifer K. Imhoff
Department of Psychology
“Processes Involved In Establishing Interpersonal Trust”

In nearly all human interactions, there is some level of trust or distrust that occurs between two individuals. The processes involved in making quick, seemingly uninformed decisions concerning the trustworthiness of one’s counterpart are quite intriguing and relevant to understanding human functionality. This paper examines the important role that trust plays in the lives of humans and provides a summary of various findings in this area of study, particularly regarding the role of facial and emotional expressivity in perceived trustworthiness. In addition, suggestions for further research will be discussed.

Ben Jacobs
Department of English
“Interpreting the Franklin: Masculinity and Class in Chaucer's England”

This study focuses on 1) medieval masculinities, 2) the class and social standing of Chaucer's Franklin, and 3) literary criticism on the Franklin's tale. Based on the available scholarship and the Franklin's own attentiveness to social class, I hypothesized that the Franklin's uncertain place in the class structure could possibly relate to an uncertain or unstable gender identity. Essentially, I pictured the Franklin as an outsider, an upstart who did not fit clearly into one of the three estates and the dominant masculinities associated with each. After some research, it seems clear that the Franklin does inhabit an ambiguous space in the class structure, hovering somewhere around the ranks of the upper commoners and the lower nobility. My research focuses less on the tale's ostensible concern for gentillesse and patience and more on how these values and the way the Franklin deploys them reflect on the Franklin and the cultural systems around him. In general, this paper represents a "negative" or "ironic" reading of the tale, since in many ways it does not always address the tale on its own terms. Nonetheless, I believe this approach is valid and can form a basis for further research concerning the Franklin and his tale.

Michelle F. Kaufman
Department of Psychology
“A Cross-Sectional Study of Fear of Death”

Studies have shown a negative correlation between fear of death and aging. Cicirelli suggests that there are four dominant themes regarding fear of death, each of which may not similarly correlate with aging: fear of destruction, fear for significant others, fear of the unknown, and fear of the dying process. Of the three former themes, there is a negative correlation with aging, however the latter theme (fear of the dying process) is positively correlated. This deviation is likely due to the fact that the dying process is objectively experienced within the individual's lifetime, whereas the other three themes are hypothetical ideas that the individual will not personally experience because they are manifested after the individual's death.

Shafkat Khan (and Professor Ryan Sensenig)
Department of Environmental Studies
“Success and Sustainance of Restoration: Looking to Traditional Ecological Knowledge”

Recent papers in the nascent field of Restoration Ecology have expressed concerns about the possible limitations of strictly scientific restoration research. Whether the strict scientific approach alone can promote effective restoration is a concern for any restoration project. We propose that Traditional Ecological Knowledge can provide ecologists with important site specific, ecological and historical information for restoration projects. By helping meet social and cultural demands of effective restoration, Traditional Ecological Knowledge can contribute to Restoration Ecology. Traditional Ecological Knowledge has the potential to significantly aid in fulfilling Restoration Ecology's goal of sustainably restoring landscapes and ecosystems.

Luke Kreider
Departments of Bible and Peace Justice and Conflict Studies
“Honor, Shame, and the New Testament World: Implications for Christian Peace Theology”

Recent studies have catapulted “honor and shame” - the moral framework in which groups regulate behavior and preserve values by assigning honor and/or inculcating shame - into prominence as crucial elements for understanding the context and content of the biblical story. New Testament scholars, in particular, have exhibited that accurate readings of the Gospels and proper understandings of the Epistles require a familiarity with the honor and shame dynamics that shaped the first century world. If honor and shame truly are dominant values in the New Testament world, then the modern Church should take the implications of these deepened biblical understandings seriously as it seeks to sharpen its faith and enliven its ethics. This paper, drawing from recent research on honor and shame in the Gospels and the Epistles, explores the meaning of such research for Christian peace theology, arguing that the Church ought to reassess and renew its preaching and practicing of the Gospel of Peace in light of ever-deepening understandings of the New Testament witness. In particular, this paper contends that the contemporary church ought to model the unique posture to Christianity and culture that Jesus and

the New Testament writers exhibit in their complex approach to ancient Near East systems of honor and shame.

Andrew Gunden Landis
Department of Music
“Monteverdi and the Birth of Opera”

This article explores two of Monteverdi’s early operas, La Favola d’Orfeo (1607, Mantua) and L’Incorazione di Poppea (1647, Venice). The main purpose of this article was to explore the audiences that each opera would have been written for, and how these audiences would have interpreted each opera. In Mantua, the opera was written for a group of nobles. Because of this, the music and drama appeals to this small but elite group. In Venice however, the opera was written for a more common crowd and as a result appeals to a far broader audience.

Jesse Landis-Eigsti
Department of Peace Justice and Conflict Studies
“Peace Building and Reconciliation in Nicaragua: The Sandinista–Contra War and its Aftermath”

The Sandinista-Contra War had a devastating effect upon the nation of Nicaragua. Although the election of candidate Violetta Chamorro in 1991 brought about a cease-fire to the violence, it was clear to all that the Nicaraguan people, who had fought against each other for years, were in need of serious reconciliation. This paper evaluates the successfulness of the reconciliation endeavors undertaken both by the Chamorro government and its successors and by grassroots organizations. It synthesizes a number of studies, books, and articles by Latin American scholars, and, in doing so, holds up some peace-building successes while critiquing failures. In particular, the paper observes the failure of the government to address the economic needs of the wartime participants and victims. It also points to ways that frustration over economic disparities has historically resulted in violence. At the same time, the paper highlights the progress made in Nicaraguan reconciliation attempts. Various forms of reconciliation projects, sometime by the government but more often by grassroots organizations, have achieved real healing, on interpersonal, emotional, and societal levels.

Christina J. Leichty
Department of Nursing
“Uninsured Latino Aggregate: Health Care Needs”

The numbers of people uninsured or underinsured are escalating across the U.S., but of all ethnic groups, Latinos are most likely to be uninsured or underinsured. Elkhart County Indiana is ranked among the top three counties in Indiana as having the highest number of Latinos. Being uninsured or underinsured affects access to health care. Three questions used in this study regard perceived health care needs of this aggregate, what the greatest health care needs are, and how Indiana and the U.S. are addressing these needs. Adults and children suffer in one of the wealthiest countries in the world because of the poor distribution of affordable health care coverage. For this reason, the U.S. needs to offer affordable and accessible health care.

Thomas A. Leischner
Department of History
“Mau Mau: A Peasant Revolt with a Religious Foundation”

In 1952, a group of Kenyans (mostly Kikuyu) started a peasant revolt against the British Empire that would begin the independence of Kenya. Why this group of fighters, the Mau Mau, formed has been the subject of much debate. Though the Mau Mau were motivated by political and economic hardships brought upon the Kikuyu by the British, the Mau Mau were primarily a religious insurgency. The Mau Mau were a further developing of the Kikuyu people's long tradition of prophecy and religious oppositional groups. The formation of the Mau Mau was also influenced by the British banning of female circumcision, an important religious ritual for the Kikuyu.

E. Rachel Meyers
Department of Nursing
“Women of Domestic Violence”

Domestic violence is a universal issue that affects millions of women around the world every year. Statistics show the ongoing prevalence seen in different races, religions, cultures, ages, and classes. Education is a key, upstream approach in preventing domestic violence in patriarchal societies such as the United States. It is estimated that between one third and one fifth of the world's population of women and girls are victims of domestic abuse. In light of this horrifying statistic, this paper attempts to identify and consider women of domestic violence and the current trends and prevalence rates in the United States. Furthermore, this paper intends to discuss current health interventions needed to reduce and eliminate domestic violence against women.

Peter N. Miller
Department of English
“The Interesting Thing”: Language, the Symbolic Order, and a Transformed Middle Ground in
Julia Kasdorf's *Sleeping Preacher*”

In her 1992 collection of poems, *Sleeping Preacher*, Julia Kasdorf navigates between the two competing lives as an urban student in New York and, conversely, as a traditional Mennonite whose geographical affiliation is rural Pennsylvania. In considering this personal dilemma, ideas of the psychoanalyst and theorist Jacques Lacan prove helpful. His theories about a subject's entry into the Symbolic order – modifications of some of Freud's ideas about the structure of the unconscious – provide an interpretive framework that suggests important parallels between these socio-linguistic structures and the everyday realities of existing in a specific culture/society.

Kasdorf's eventual allegiance to both cultures/societies can be explained through a cultural application of Lacan's concept of the Symbolic order. The position that she reaches by the end of her collection effectively mediates between these two forces, and suggests a Christian spirituality that consists of both. The God that Kasdorf worships retains many traditional Mennonite notions of simplicity, community, and humility, but at the same time is recast as a creative, intellectual, maternal, and even sexual God. The “interesting thing” for Kasdorf

becomes the spiritual space created by the overlap of her two worlds.

Elizabeth J. Nafziger
Department of Psychology

“Automaticity: Current Perspectives and Implications on Emotion, Perception, and Behavior”

In the past 25 years, research of automaticity has simply exploded. To begin understanding its implications, automaticity is defined in terms of its four main features as well as the benefits and difficulties that accompany automaticity. The main features are unintentionality, unawareness, efficiency, and lack of control. This paper presents the historical models of automatic processing and their development into today’s perspectives. Contemporary fields of research focus on at least one feature of automaticity and its affects on social perception and behavior. An indepth analysis of emotional regulation, the perception-behavior link, and mimicry is provided after a brief overview of current research of social cognition.

Heather Savage-Maierle
Department of Psychology

“Repressed Memory: Where Culture, Theory, and Science Meet”

The ability of humans to store information as memory and recall it when needed is fundamental to the ways in which we live. Because people rely so heavily on this ability they are naturally intrigued by how it works, specifically when a traumatic event leads to painful memories. This paper will examine how people, in both scientific and cultural spheres, have worked to develop an understanding of the memory response to traumatic events. This paper will further examine how these two spheres have influenced each other leading to an empirically based and culturally acceptable theory. As the psychological response and not the medical processes are this papers focus, the discussion will be on the major psychological theories of memory functioning under stressful conditions. These will include memory repression, memory suppression, memory recovery, and false memories. For the purpose of this paper it will be assumed that any physiological processes needed for each of these things to occur are possible.

Jeffrey Stoesz
Department of English

“The Franklin’s Tale: Chivalric Undercurrents in the ‘Ideal’ Marriage”

Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* contains what George Kittredge called “The Marriage Group.” He proposed that *The Franklin’s Tale* finalized this group with the ideal, egalitarian marital relationship. On the surface the tale seems simple, but, despite his claim, there are numerous complications in this marriage. An understanding of medieval chivalry provided by Gerald Nachtwey is helpful in revealing the ulterior motives of Arveragus, the husband. Arveragus’ need of the public image of sovereignty is deeply problematic for the concept of an equal marriage. His neglect of Dorigen’s needs also points to a power imbalance that is not

explicitly stated in the text. The largest contradiction in the text is Arveragus' threat on Dorigen's life, which points, on some level, to his view of their marriage as hierarchical. The Franklin, in the end, tries in vain to promote equality in marriage as a possibility in a fundamentally chivalric society.

Laura Stoesz
Department of English
"Digital Music Exchange: Stealing or Sharing?"

While recording companies cling to the paradigm of obsessive copyright protection in the music industry, financial success in the music business now lies in the exposure and fan loyalty arising from sharing, not in restricting music to paying customers. Two different views of the issue, the analog paradigm and the digital paradigm, produce divergent models of what is profitable and what should be illegal, leading to lawsuits and aggressive copyright protection. However, innovative artists have hit upon the wealth of free publicity that can come through the free exchange of digital music. A tension between this new model and the CD sales model of record companies leaves music consumers in a quandary: is downloading really stealing? The desire of musicians to profit from their music looks, at first glance, incompatible with the wish for free distribution. However, music shared as a community good benefits more people than music hoarded as a consumer good, while still allowing the artist a modest profit.

Kathy A. Steiner and Christina M. Peters
Department of Physics
"The Effect of Membrane Microstructures on Ion Channel Dynamics"

In planar phospholipid bilayers (membranes) sterols (cholesterol or ergosterol) cluster in sterol-rich regions. Ergosterol (erg) was used in the experiments reported here. At certain mol fractions $x_{\text{erg}} = C_{\text{erg}} / C_{\text{total}}$ erg molecules form regular microstructures (superlattices) occupying particular acyl chain sites in the bilayer. These are termed Ergosterol Superlattice Domains (ESLDs). The antibiotic nystatin (nys) forms channels in membranes rich in sterols. The membranes of vesicles prepared with nys and erg are then filled with erg microstructures and nys-erg channels. When these vesicles fuse with sterol-free lipid bilayers the vesicle membrane is incorporated as a fusion remnant in the bilayer. The nys-erg channels in this fusion remnant cause a spike change in membrane conductance, which decays as erg diffuses into the bilayer.

The experiments reported here determined the detailed form of the erg microstructures by studying the decay of the membrane conductance. Monte Carlo (MC) simulations based on a model in which the nys-erg channels form on the ESLD boundaries provided details. Fusion remnants were obtained from MC simulations of the vesicle membranes. These were covered with a mosaic of ESLDs with superlattices specific to certain C_{erg} values. Fusion experiments were modeled by MC simulations of these remnants in large empty bilayers. Simulated bilayer current was proportional to the perimeter of the ESLDs. Plots of the model ion current as a function of time (MC step) and snapshots of the ESLD decay at regular intervals were obtained.

Model currents show good detailed agreement with experiments and snapshots of MC

simulations provide insight into the sources of experimentally observed details.

Joshua M. Tyson

Music

“The Innovation of Guillaume de Machaut’s *Messe de Notre Dame*”

The fourteenth century witnessed a great deal of change in many disciplines in Europe: religion, in the lessening of the church’s power; politics, in the Hundred Years War and other wars; and health, through the experience of the Black Plague. Music also stood out in response to such rapidly changing realities of the fourteenth century, evidenced by new ways of thinking about rhythm and the use of secular rather than sacred texts in new compositions. One other particular change was the increased use of polyphony, or multiple voices sounding at once, in the liturgy of the Catholic Mass, especially the sung Ordinary of the Mass. Guillaume de Machaut, a composer and canon in the cathedral of Reims, France, took a particular interest in this area, to the point of composing *Messe de Notre Dame*, or Mass of Our Lady, widely accepted as the first complete polyphonic setting of the Ordinary constructed by one composer. However, we must remember that this work stands as the only Mass of its kind that we know of: there may have been other similar works which have been lost. In my presentation, I shall attempt to examine the characteristics of the *Messe de Notre Dame* that suggest a consideration for a truly groundbreaking work. *Messe de Notre Dame* exhibits innovation in its structure and function, both of which had far-reaching impacts on later composers.

Eduardo Vargas

Department of Social Work

"Social work in Colombia: A modern reality of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder"

Colombia, a place known as being one of the most dangerous in the world has suffered a long and devastating armed conflict that has lasted more than fifty years. This conflict has claimed thousands of lives, broken countless families and has drained the country from much of its economic, emotional and social resources. The profession of Social Work has a lot to contribute to this context. With their focus on the value and worth of the person, social justice and empowerment, social workers can contribute to the healing process of the Colombian people. But in order to begin working on the solutions, one must first understand the history, the factors and the processes of the conflict, specially in the way these affect the individuals in the middle of it.

Sarah Wilson

Department of Education

“SSTL: Assessment of a Non-violent Conflict Resolution Learning Unit”

I was an ESL student teacher at a local urban high school last fall, where I conducted a ten-day unit plan on non-violent conflict resolution as the basis for a systematic study of teaching and learning (SSTL). The SSTL was an intensive and hands-on research project that taught me to

plan, differentiate, modify, and adapt plans to meet students' needs via reflection and objective feedback. The latter component was incorporated by way of an extensive pre-test and post-test which were identical and given the day before the unit began and on the last day of the unit, respectively. I chose five students from my tenth grade class of eleven students to be indicators of the unit's effectiveness and the class' understanding, as well as to reveal idiosyncrasies regarding these unique students' academic, behavioral, and social characteristics. I chose a unit on non-violent conflict resolution because my placement was in a high school consumed by racism which frequently erupted into fighting.

I presented the unit plan through a variety of approaches as I stimulated my students' learning on a scale that stretched from introducing vicarious role models such as Cesar Chavez on one end to literary elements such as setting and plot on the other. The results of the unit plan were surprising and ironic, and the implications for my future teaching and colleagues are clear: quality instruction is partly an art that requires a teacher to respond effectively to students' feedback of scores and informal forms of assessment, while also a science that can be systematically evaluated and enhanced through careful, objective observation and reflection. Also, the input of colleagues and mentors and the variety of instructional techniques I implemented were invaluable to this unit, a further implication for educators.

Bethany Winfrey
Department of Nursing
“AIDS Orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Aggregate Study”

Worldwide, there are an estimated 15 million children who have been orphaned by AIDS, 12 million of these live in Sub-Saharan Africa. In fact, it is estimated that 9% of Sub-Saharan African children have lost at least one parent to the disease. Despite the stabilization of prevalence rates of HIV/AIDS, the number of AIDS orphans is projected to grow to 12.7 million by the year 2010. This paper examines the effect that the HIV/AIDS epidemic has had on Sub-Saharan Africa, discusses the hardships faced by the orphans that the epidemic has created, surveys the global and local responses to the issues faced by Sub-Saharan African orphans, and suggests potential nursing diagnoses and interventions related to the orphan crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa.