

## Student Presentation Abstracts:

**Alzeda Roche.** How humans and the environment interact to create communities of Chiltepineros  
(Advisor: Professor Kimberlee Chambers, *Earth and Environmental Sciences*)

Chiltepíns, a small fiery berry hand harvested from the wild are a cultural icon of the desert borderlands and an important species ecologically. Our human-environment research provides a lens to assess the complex interactions of mutually influencing factors that contribute to the commercial chiltepín harvest in the Rio Sonora valley.

We combined qualitative and quantitative data collected through field research and existing databases. The field research portion consists of in-depth interviews and surveys administered to 52 chiltepín harvesters, 16 buyers (representing the majority in the Rio Sonora valley) and 13 property owners (who represent the main areas preferred for commercial chiltepín harvesting) in fall 2009.

Socioeconomic data on 121 indicators and environmental data from the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography) were used to elucidate the factors that make some communities in the Rio Sonora valley more likely to be involved in the commercial chiltepín harvest than others. Our preliminary findings indicate that the most significant variables are land tenure and productivity, roads, and the biogeography of chiltepíns.

**Elizabeth Calixtro.** The Right to Life: Indigeneity and Territoriality in the case of the Maya in Belize  
(Advisor: Professor Megan Ybarra, *Politics*)

This essay examines discourses of Mayan indigeneity in a Supreme Court judgment in Belize. Our analysis identifies the significance of narrating an indigenous identity through language and culture, showing how different ideas of indigeneity are operationalized in territorial claims. The paper employs Warren's "four fallacies of Indianness" to reveal how the Maya had to position themselves against the subtle stereotypes of the indigene. In particular, the case reveals that Belizean debates about the Maya work to produce a broader national identity. In contrast, the paper highlights Maya identities-in-the-making through the proposition of indigenous territoriality as a "right to life" meriting constitutional protections.

**Kimberley Hursh.** Colegio César Chávez: Chicano Activism in Oregon's Willamette Valley  
(Advisor: Professor Cecily McCaffrey, *History*)

Colegio Cesar Chavez, a small college run by and for Chicanos, existed in the small, German Catholic community of Mt. Angel, Oregon between 1973 and 1983. As one of only four such colleges in the nation, the Colegio represents an important facet of not only Oregon's Chicano movement, but of the national movement as well. The Chicano identity crafted by the Colegio is both a product of that national movement and a specifically Oregonian construction.

**Angela Leone.** From Bloomers to the Ballot Box: How Sheet Music Shaped Women's Rhetorical Voices in the 19th Century.  
(Advisor: Professor Cindy Koenig Richards, *Rhetoric and Media Studies*)

Women's rights in America underwent dramatic changes in the 19th century, as advocates fought for progress in realms ranging from fashion to political equality. A rhetorical technique which emerged within this time period is a term coined by Karlyn Koss Campbell as "Feminine Style"- that is, women's establishing of rhetoric as a craft. Women speakers utilized sheet music as a mixed-media means of communication, crafting arguments categorized by a call to action, appeals

These works were completed as part of the Liberal Arts Research Collaborative and supported with generous funding from the Mellon Foundation.

to personal experiences, and the construction of the audience as peers. The conversations and research involved with LARC allowed me to develop this argument from a broader field of research on suffrage-era songs and the private sphere of communication. My LARC project in its ultimate form as my Senior Thesis for Rhetoric addresses the language in songs about bloomers, and tracks the development of this style, how it was implemented, and its effectiveness in progressing a civil rights movement.

**Rory O'Brien.** *Queer Peculiarities : Reading Perverse Intimacies in American Slavery Fiction.*  
(Advisor: Professor Lynn Makau, English)

An analysis of fictional depictions of master-slave intimacies in antebellum America that exist outside of heteronormative structures. These circumstances of sexual violence, which were endorsed within the peculiar institution of slavery, were commonly made invisible due to the queer forms of violence committed. Modern fiction provides a modum to analyze and question these forms of violence and resulting traumas.

**Haley Williamson.** *A Loud Silence: Abolition and Anti-removal Efforts in Early 19th Century America*  
(Advisor: Professor Seth Cotlar, History)

This project explores the relationship between anti-removal and abolition movements in early 19th century America. It focus primarily on the years 1815-1837, and attempts to better understand the connection between fighting for Native American rights and African American freedom, taking into account the complexities surrounding this topic including Cherokee slave holding.

**Laura Curtis.** *A Real "Mamma Grizzly" : Sarah Palin and the Construction of an "Authentic" Political Persona Through Media.*  
(Advisor: Professor David Gutterman, Politics)

This paper first develops a working definition of the ideograph "authenticity" and then examines how this idea/impression is established by modern-day politicians and how it "works" to connect them with them with constituency. The second portion of the paper uses Sarah Palin as a case study, focusing on her efforts to achieve authenticity by referencing certain "markers" such as: God, nature and family and how these attributes are communicated though her pervasive media presence.

**Maxwell Mensinger.** *It Gets Better: Online Fraternity and Interpersonal Connection in the Digital Age.*  
(Advisor: Professor David Gutterman, Politics)

Throughout the ages, communication has impacted human interactions and relationships. The dawning of the digital age has changed communication, facilitating individual and group interaction in previously unimaginable ways. However, has such transformation fundamentally changed human relationships, or more specifically, the establishment of fraternity amongst people? This study of the *It Gets Better* project will investigate the nature of online fraternity, and interpersonal connection in the digital age.

**Stephen Yamada.** Branding without Profits: Building a Visual Identity for Willamette Academy.  
(Advisor: Professor Amber Davisson, Rhetoric and Media Studies)

My research this summer has centered around this fundamental idea of outlining and solidifying Willamette Academy's visual identity. This ongoing process must take into account the various messages, audiences, and programs that will be involved in the various print and web materials the Academy will put out. In addition to developing Willamette Academy's identity in a document called a "style guide," I have created various posters, flyers and brochures for Academy events and programs. As the style guide was developed it began to assist in dictating the visual components and styles that will become standard for Willamette Academy. This process is one of many that feed into a brand, and as the Academy continues to grow my hope is that this research and development has set the stage for a better communications platform and successful future.

**Eoin Sinclair.** Author Unknown: Facebook Discussion Pages and Public Authorship.  
(Advisor: Professor Amber Davisson, Rhetoric and Media Studies)

Utilizing Warner's conception of the public body, this paper looks at how the public body is voiced through user-submitted copy on Facebook. The process of a text bringing a public into being interacts with members of a public bringing a text into being through the reflexive process of intertextuality. Through consideration of an abnormally highly trafficked page on Sarah Palin's Facebook, questions of authorship already raised in print media are expanded in the examination of a digital medium. Contrasting Warnick's scholarship on user contribution on web sites and Barthes and Bakhtin's thought on multiple authorship, this paper explores a specific avenue through which digital media can contribute to communication theory. Contemporary thought on the public sphere, the nature of online texts, and theoretical perspectives on authorship converge in this specific digital text. User contributions online invite the interpretation of multiple authorship. Considering this, the source of the public voice is explored in the comparison between speech from a public figure and that of members of the public in question.

**Adrienne McCarthy.** Cyber Racism: Intellectual Authority and White Supremacism.  
(Advisor: Professor Stas Vysotsky, Sociology)

White Supremacism is a growing ideology despite globalization and White Supremacism's highly stigmatized nature. In order to better understand how White Supremacism has remained a growing ideology, Chip Berlet and Stanislav Vysotsky have proposed that White Supremacists operate in three distinctive categories: religious, youth cultural, and political. This study proposes a third intellectual category in addition to the three proposed by Berlet and Vysotsky. Utilizing the culturally understood authoritative nature of science and technology, 'intellectual frames' are crafted to normalize White Supremacist arguments.

**Kelly Tanner.** YouTube Testimonials and the 2008 Presidential Campaign.  
(Advisor: Professor Stas Vysotsky, Sociology)

Taking a detailed look at the testimonials posted to the YouTube channels of Barack Obama and John McCain we can not only see a disparity in numbers but in content as well. While McCain chose to focus mainly on his supporters with celebrity (whether that be political or social) Obama chose to feature average people, dare I say Joe the Plumber, on his channel. This imagery of everyday people then created a populist frame for Obama's campaign, a frame that people could relate to and a frame that was ultimately successful.

**Gunnar Paulsen.** *The Nature of Connection: Salmon, The Northwest, and the Wild.*  
(Advisors: Professors Mike Strelow, English and David Craig, Biology)

In this project I use creative nonfiction to explore the persistence of salmon as a talisman in the Pacific Northwest. Why is its imagery so prevalent, what does it say about our identity, and how do threats of extinction or diminishment affect this relationship? I try to answer these questions through an examination of the natural and cultural history of salmon in the region, focusing on my own personal connections to that story as well. I investigate these topics as told through adventures I had with fellow LARCers this summer: boating in the Columbia River estuary, observing terns on E. Sand Island, and touring the inner workings of Bonneville Dam.

**Sarah Greiner.** *Living by Water: Communities and Conduits.*  
(Advisors: Professors Mike Strelow, English and David Craig, Biology)

This project is an exploration of the behaviors of brown pelicans, and how their communities and social lives relate to human families and groups. I used my own relationship with my grandmother as a contrast to the close-knit pelican flocks I observed this summer at the Columbia Estuary. Through my writing process I discovered a lot about what it means to be a member of or excluded from a group, and examined the emotions connected with both experiences.