Welcome to the 2020 Conference of the Chapman University Honors Program. This annual conference is designed to showcase and to celebrate the academic achievements of our graduating seniors. An important gauge of these achievements is the Honors capstone project. Today our seniors will present their projects to you – family and friends, university faculty and fellow Honors students.

During the past year, the Senior Honors Capstone classes, which were instrumental in the completion of the projects to be presented, have served at least two purposes. On the one hand, they were organized as writers’ workshops, where students presented, discussed, and refined their work. Second, and perhaps more importantly, it was hoped that through such discussions the class members would become a conversation community which embodied ever more deeply what the Honors Program aspires to be, namely, an intellectual community of friends who value excellence. Thanks to all class participants who contributed to the realization of these purposes.

For our graduating seniors, the process of designing their capstone projects may have been long, and the effort required for their completion may have been considerable. However, in the background of the successful completion of any exceptional project stands a faculty mentor who has been generous with their time and patient with their counsel.

We are deeply grateful to the Chapman faculty who year after year agree to mentor our students, and whose only reward is their pride in what their mentees accomplish.

The Honors Program is also grateful to those faculty members who kindly agreed to attend today’s presentations and to evaluate them: Professors Ian Barnard, Alex Bay, Jocelyn Buckner, Gordon Babst, Julie Jenner, Barney McGrane, Domenico Napoletani, Federico Pacchioni, Morgan Read-Davidson, Justine Van Meter, Jessica Walker and Michael Wood.

No expression of gratitude would be complete without the acknowledgement of Ashley Cosgrove, the Program Coordinator of Honors, who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this year’s conference as she has done all year long to ensure the general success of the program.

Thank you for your attendance and for all the ways you have supported our seniors through the years. We hope you enjoy their presentations.

Last but not least, to our graduating seniors, our heartiest congratulations!

Carmichael Peters, Ph.D.
Director, University Honors Program
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<p>|              | <strong>Title</strong>[Title]                                                          | <strong>Title</strong>                                                                  |
|              | Jacob Shivers: Keeping Faith                                               | Alex Ballard: Drawing the Line: Columbine and School Shootings Tourism     |
|              | Lilly Bourquein: Separation of Church and State: Atheism is not a Religious Minority | Maddie Barrett: Why Does Hensley Sing?: An Exploration into How Canine Beings Experience Music |
|              | Kina Wong: It May Not Meme What You Think It Memes: How the Evolution of Memes Have Shaped Political Discourse | Emily Cylter: Comedians and Depression: Masking the Pain                   |
|              | Maithu Koppolu: An Examination of Postcolonial South Asia: Bollywood, The Border Crisis, and the In Between | Kylie Miller: “It’s an imperfect world, but it’s the only one we’ve got.” Exploring and Redefining Sovereignty through examples from the Marvel Cinematic Universe |
|              | Anna Graziano: The Vampire: Ancient Monster or Omen of the Future?         | Christian May: A Social Understanding of Film                              |
|              | Kalee DeHamer: On Being an Ethical Visual Storyteller                      | Amy Sara Lim: Voices of Mixed-Race Asian Students                           |
|              | Kenzie Phelps: Lady Killers: The Deadly and Forgotten                      | Hanna Rosenheimer: American Public Opinion Horror Story                     |
|              | Hollis Rigney: The Modern Eunuch: How Game of Thrones Reflects Issues of Gender Essentialism, Transgression, and the Body | Alysa Buckler: It’s Lit! The Need for Media and Information Literacy Programs in a Post-Truth Era |
|              | Robyn Wrey: Cape Town: A Drought of Equality                               | Carolyn Davio: Death through Doula Eyes                                    |</p>
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<td>Why is Going “green” Unmanly? How Businesses Can More Efficiently Market a Sustainable Lifestyle to Men</td>
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<td>Education Overhaul: Shifting National Priorities in Education from Economic Prosperity to Democratic Citizenship</td>
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<td>The Final Girl: Virginal Hero or Vicious Construct?</td>
<td>Brynne McKee</td>
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<td>Lexie Nguyen</td>
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<td>Samantha Mbodwam</td>
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<td>Austin Bohannon</td>
<td>The Rights Implicit In Internet Protocols</td>
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Session #1
9:30 - 10:10 a.m.

Separation of Church and State:
Atheism is not a Religious Minority

The United States has long been known as a feverously religious nation. In spite of this, secularity continues to be a growing trend in the fabric of our country. This is surprising since being an atheist in America comes with unexpected costs that would usually hinder the growth of this minority group. Yet researchers estimate that by 2050 one third of the country’s population will be secular.

Mentor: Laurence Iannaccone

Lilly Bourquein
BA Economics

Session #1
9:30 - 10:10 a.m.

The Science of Beauty: How Neurology and Sociology Affect Our Perception of Aesthetics

I will be analyzing the human conception of universal beauty. What compels us to find a butterfly more beautiful than a spider, or a flower more beautiful than grass? Beauty standards in fashion vary across the globe, yet there are a few ever-present examples of universality in what we, as humans, find beautiful. Why do we like the art we like and dislike the art we do not? I will be evaluating this from an artistic and scientific basis. I am going to look into the psychological aspect of what we find beautiful to determine the influence of nature and nurture on the concepts. If we were taught in school that spiders are beautiful and butterflies were creepy, would we truly hold that belief? Or is there something in us, evolutionarily, that tells us what is pretty and what is ugly and/or dangerous?

Mentor: Barney McGrane

Dara Feller
BA Art

Session #1
9:30 - 10:10 a.m.

On Being an Ethical Visual Storyteller

What is ethical visual storytelling? What does it mean to be an ethical consumer or creator of stories in a global society? How does one determine what is ethical in the first place? How do all of these questions tie into representation, creative collaboration, global citizenship, the power of an image, empathy, awareness, happy endings, and business? What do Hayao Miyazaki, Chimamanda Adichie, and Carmichael Peters have to say on this topic? The answers to all these questions and more are in this explorative talk about the power of visual narrative.

Mentor: Julie Jenner
Walter Santucci

Kalee DeHamer
BFA Animation & Visual Effects

Session #1
9:30 - 10:10 a.m.

The Vampire: Ancient Monster or Omen of the Future?

Over the centuries, stories have been told about the fearsome vampire across mediums ranging from voyage logs in the 1700s to our modern Netflix series. From a monster who can only sleep in the dirt of a graveyard to sexual deviants that corrupt young women, vampires have done it all. Every culture has had its own variation of the blood sucking demon, each reflecting the fears and anxieties present in that culture. By analyzing different tales of the vampire, we can gather a greater understanding of the society in which that vampire was born. What do these depictions tell about the evolution of our society, and more importantly, can they predict where we are headed?

Mentor: Justine Van Meter

Anna Graziano
BA Public Relations & Advertising
Session #1
9:30 - 10:10 a.m.

An Examination of Postcolonial South Asia: Bollywood, The Border Crisis, and the In Between

By examining Bollywood filmography and the media models that surround it, as well as the effect they had on the society around them, we will look further into how Bollywood, being both a catalyst and reflection of South Asian society, employs postcolonial ideologies in most, if not all, of its films and thus functions as one of the largest contributors to the Indo-Pakistan border crisis and the overall identity of the "in between" postcolonial citizen.

Maithu Koppolu
BFA Creative Writing
BA Public Relations & Advertising

Mentor:
Pavel Jech

Session #1
9:30 - 10:10 a.m.

Keeping Faith

A reflection on the beliefs I hold and have held. This project is part autobiography, part research essay, and part journalism. Drawing from ethics, religion, and philosophy of mind, I illustrate the ways in which my education led to a shift in my personal beliefs. The latter half of the project then demonstrates a practical application of these newfound beliefs within context of the global coronavirus pandemic. Through extensive research on international coverage of the pandemic, I have done my best to extract truth from extensive misinformation, and have perhaps found something to put my faith in.

Jacob Shivers
BFA Screen Acting

Mentor:
Jessica Walker

Rethinking the United States Healthcare System: Its Oppressive Nature to those of Lower Socioeconomic Status

Can you afford to live a healthy life in the United States — a country full of opportunity where people die to get a chance at the American Dream? “The greater one’s income, the lower one’s likelihood of disease and premature death”. The health disparity among Americans is driven by two very materialistic factors: income and wealth. The concept of cultural health capital and the fundamental cause theory prove our healthcare system is truly broken. While I aim to “out” the healthcare system and its many flaws, there may be hope for the future and a way to level the playing field for the average American.

Priya Mistry
BS Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Mentor:
Ashley Kranjac

The Modern Eunuch: How Game of Thrones Reflects Issues of Gender Essentialism, Transgression, and the Body

For some non-Western cultures and countries, eunuchs are a familiar cultural and religious image, one which is tied inextricably to emasculation, disability, sexuality, and gender identity. For contemporary Americans, the eunuch was a largely unfamiliar concept until the publication of George R.R. Martin's groundbreaking fantasy series, A Song of Ice and Fire, and the subsequent television series, HBO's Game of Thrones. For many fans, the modernized/Westernized eunuch's connection to non-normative gender identities, transgressive/queer sexualities, the disabled body and disability rights is hidden from view. Through my research and analysis, I aim to fully explore the way in which the historical role of Eastern concepts of eunuch have been misappropriated and altered to reflect modern cultural fears of gender and sex transgression and colonial images of the non-white, non-normative, queered, and disabled body. Furthermore, through the lens of queer theory, postcolonial theory, psychoanalytic theory, and disability studies, I aim to investigate modernized/Westernized versions of the eunuch, primarily the eunuch of Game of Thrones, and expose the cultural and social consequences of their appropriation.

Hollis Rigney
BA English Literature

Mentor:
Justine Van Meter
Session #1
9:30 - 10:10 a.m.

Lady Killers: The Deadly and Forgotten
Do you like scary movies? If so, there’s a good chance you prefer one of two schools of horror: social-political oriented thrillers or more concrete and violent gorefests. Both schools exist for one purpose—to terrify audiences—but why is there such a divide between approaches? To understand, we’ll dive into topics like why audiences enjoy horror and how cinematic horror provokes a fear response. But in addition, we will examine how real-world influences like evolving genre expectations and the rise of the news media have affected the dominant horror that’s produced. Using this information, we will critically analyze how horror reflects our society and try and predict what form of horror might come next.

Kenzie Phelps
BFA Creative Writing
Mentor: Ian Barnard

It May Not Meme What You Think It Memes: How the Evolution of Memes Have Shaped Political Discourse
DANK MEMES. Did I get your attention? Memes are units of culture that share similar characteristics, are transformed, and spread at usually a viral rate. They present a defining aspect in the digital age in the way individuals communicate, behave, and share opinions about life. Specifically, political memes play a significant role in political discourse and participation in political and social issues. As technology advances, delving into the way memes work and their effect on democracy proves an important consideration. The ways memes shape society’s idea of community and influence culture itself will become increasingly vital to understanding and influencing the future of politics in the United States.

Kina Wong
BS Business Administration
Mentor: Michael Wood David Berkovitz

Session #1
9:30 - 10:10 a.m.

Cape Town: A Drought of Equality
The story of Cape Town’s 2017 drought, like most of Cape Town and South Africa’s history, can be told from two completely different lenses. Such is the legacy of apartheid that, for poor blacks, the prospect of ‘Day Zero’ (the point where Cape Town would be forced to turn off water taps) is shockingly close to business as usual, as many live their lives in the reality of what for whites is international news, living without running water. On the other hand, rich whites confront the results of a system they uphold; a system riddled with mismanagement, discrimination, and misuse. Like all crises in formerly colonized parts of the world, Cape Town’s water emergency highlights underlying issues of post colonialism. The drought in South Africa is fundamentally an issue of human rights and, like the water crisis, will not end with rain, but equality.

Robyn Wrey
BA Economics
Mentor: Crystal Murphy

Corporate Social Responsibility: Why Jeff Bezos Should Pay His Taxes
I will discuss the ethical implications of tax avoidance by looking at the history of taxation in the United States and comparing Amazon’s tax practices to that of Patagonia’s.

Kasandra Zavala
BS Business Administration: Marketing Emphasis
Mentor: Veselina Vracheva
### Session #2
10:15 - 10:55 a.m.

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<tr>
<th>Drawn Line: Columbine and School Shootings Tourism</th>
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</table>
| **Alex Ballard**  
| BA Political Science  
| BA Economics  
| BA History  
| Mentor: Justine Van Meter |

In 1999, the massacre at Columbine High School in suburban Colorado shook the U.S. to its core, and some argue this was the most significant school shooting to ever occur in the United States. Yet, this was not the first school shooting nor the largest, so why has Columbine held a larger cultural significance for the past 21 years? This project will explore a subfield of “dark tourism”, seeking to understand how the physical space of Columbine itself as well as different forms of memorialization are both impacted by tourism and reflect ongoing inaction regarding gun violence. This analysis will also be considered in the context of how Congressional partisanship has increased on this issue in the past decade, reflected in data on NRA contributions and ratings. Lastly, I will propose possible solutions to the issues of mass shootings to mitigate these tragedies going forward.

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<th>Comedians and Depression: Masking the Pain</th>
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| **Emily Cyrier**  
| BFA Theatre Performance  
| Mentor: Nick Gabriel |

Sometimes the funniest people we know are hurting the most inside. After Robin William's tragic passing in 2014, the world truly began to realize the struggle of mental illness in the entertainment industry. My presentation will be exploring how and why some comedians use comedy as a form of self-medication, which ultimately ignores and adds to their suffering.

| Why Does Hensley Sing?  
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<th>An Exploration into How Canine Beings Experience Music</th>
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| **Maddie Barrett**  
| BM Music Composition  
| Mentor: Sean Heim |

Every time I practice piano at my parents’ house, our dog, Hensley, howls as if singing along. He howls differently depending on the music being played. He was not the only canine being that I had witnessed seemingly ‘singing along’ to acoustic music, leaving me asking the question: Why? In this capstone, I hope to answer the following questions: What do canine beings hear when acoustic instruments are played? What about acoustic music triggers a response of howling or barking? Do different combinations of pitches create different responses? Are canine beings’ experiences of music similar in any way to ours? This capstone explores the realms of biology, psychology, and music in order to answer these questions.

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<th>World Building in Modern Media</th>
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| **Hayley Anderson**  
| BS Computer Science  
| Mentor: Kent Lehnhof |

Have you ever experienced the universes of The Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, or Avatar? If you’re a fan of any of these stories, you aren’t alone. In this presentation we will define the term “world-building” and discuss what classifies a universe as “world-building,” including examples that are commonly included in this category but do not belong. We will discuss the commercial success that puts these worlds into a league of their own, and offer some thoughts to what makes world building stories so compelling. We will explore why we as an audience are drawn to stories with a fully developed universe and examine several universally loved movies, books, and games to discover what attracts fans to these titles in droves.
Session #2
10:15 - 10:55 a.m.

It's Lit! The Need for Media and Information Literacy Programs in a Post-Truth Era

More and more, misinformation and fake news play critical roles in our lives. Through the internet, we have access to more information than ever before, but not all of it is good information. In this post-truth era, how can we ensure that people learn how to find trustworthy information? Moreover, how do we address the spread of viral and misleading claims on social media, especially as they deal in our health, our news, and our government? To answer these questions, we must examine the efficacy and goals of these media literacy programs, and address how we can actually implement them on a nationwide scale.

Alysa Buckler
BA Psychology
Mentor: Jessica Walker

Death Through Doula Eyes

Americans are death phobic. Death doula’s are a part of a movement to reclaim control at the end of our lives.

Carolyn Davio
BFA Ethnographic Documentary
Mentor: Barney McGrane

Session #2
10:15 - 10:55 a.m.

Voices of Mixed-Race Asian Students

Research suggests that there are a growing number of people who identify as mixed-race Asian Americans, and thus there is a growing need to understand and document their experiences (Literte, 2009; Sims 2010; Tamai, Nakashima, Williams, 2017). The central question of this study is: how do mixed-race Asian students’ racial identities affect their identities as learners within social, emotional, academic and physical contexts? The goal of this research project is to explore the educational experiences of mixed-race Asian students at Chapman with the intention of developing a critical mixed-race pedagogy for educators and scholars. Through mixed methodologies involving surveys and interviews, this project analyzes and draws themes from data that shows a fragmentation of identity and the need to create space for mixed-race Asian American students. This project seeks to use the themes from this mixed-race study to inform educators, students, and parents of a pressing need for a diverse and progressive approach to education.

Amy Sara Lim
BA English Literature, Rhetoric, and Cultural Studies
Mentor: Michael Wood

Empathy as Action: A Framework for Productive Conversation with the American Far Right

Far right extremism threatens the tenability of America’s future as it births domestic terror plots increasing in violence and frequency over the recent decades. Stemming from unequal economic institutions and the scapegoating of civil rights movements, the far right attracts vulnerable Americans primed to hate; however, those who leave its extremist sects claim that far rightists crave individual purpose, belonging, and fulfillment before they turn to hateful ideology. Most Americans nevertheless enmesh their moral and political values. Empathizing across politics, especially toward bigotry and violence, is not instinctual. But what if empathy was redefined as an actionable expression of politics? Could Americans use this definition to engage far right extremists in fruitful conversation, deprogramming their ideology and dismantling its threat?

Grace Zoerner
BFA Creative Writing
Mentor: Gordon Babst
### Session #2
10:15 - 10:55 a.m.

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<td><code>Tiger Moms</code>, Dragon Dads, and Baby Pandas: Confucian Influences on Cultural Expectations of Success Among Asian-American College Students`</td>
<td>Corinne Tam</td>
<td>Edson Cruz</td>
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<td>Film, like any other artform, can be understood in the context of the greater societal or cultural climate it finds itself in. Filmmakers and audiences alike are inherently tied together in a complex network of belief systems and practices that have defined the moviegoing experience since its inception. As cultures are perpetually in a state of change, so too is the rise and fall of certain types of films. By understanding how a film, the creative team behind it, and its reception can be tied to a given socio-political background, one can have a better understanding of the components that make up a given zeitgeist.</td>
<td>Christian May</td>
<td>Scott Arundale</td>
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<td>American Public Opinion Horror Story</td>
<td>Hanna Rosenheimer</td>
<td>Justine Van Meter</td>
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<td>Fear is a strong emotion with the power to drive ticket sales as well as voting behavior. Horror movies often reflect real-world fears in an exaggerated or monstrous way. This presentation uses postcolonial film theory and criticism to analyze top-grossing American horror films of the last fifty years as they apply to broad public opinion regarding current and historical social issues.</td>
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<td>Kylie Miller</td>
<td>Carmichael Peters</td>
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<td>Superheroes, Sovereignty, and Saving the World! Oh My! This presentation will interrogate the traditional concept of sovereignty as being tied to territory using examples from the Marvel Cinematic Universe. After showing why the term is overly simplistic and arguably false, we will then seek to redefine the term in order to make it possible to create policies that more accurately reflect reality in an increasingly globalized world.</td>
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Session #3
11:00 - 11:40 a.m.

The Rights Implicit In Internet Protocols

Computers, and their ability to network together, have dramatically shaped the modern world. The design of these systems is largely seen as a technical process with purely pragmatic constraints. However, this ignores the political process inherent to the design and implementation of internet protocols, with power wielded by some people over others. As people debate the technical merits of new protocols, it is important to determine their political ramifications as well. In this project I analyze the HTTP, Dat, and Bitcoin network protocols through the lens of political philosophy, identifying the agents, rights, and political structure at play in each.

Austin Bohannon
BS Computer Science
BA Philosophy
Mentor: Keith Hankins

Dance: More Than Just Movement

My capstone presentation asks the question of what dance can cultivate in those who participate in it, beyond just dance training. Through the artistic process, imagination, and human connection, dance can have transformative powers. In this presentation, I will explore how dance affects one’s cognitive functioning, social and emotional learning, sense of community, physical health, and capacity for empathy.

Alli Esposito
BFA Dance
BA Psychology
Mentor: Robin Kish

Session #3
11:00 - 11:40 a.m.

Transgressing the Edifice of Modernity: Transgender Narratives in Discursive Ontologies

This project utilizes a poststructural lens to investigate how gender emerges from a network of various discursive relations. Transgender narratives and policies of the state are examined to reveal the negotiations of power-knowledge being inscribed onto the body.

Danielle Espiritu
BA Political Science
Mentor: Michael Wood

Murder They Wrote: The Effects of True Crime Media On Psyches and Societies

Over the past few decades, true crime has grown from a niche subgenre with a minimal cult following to one of the most commercially successful genres of film and literature. Major Netflix docuseries and podcasts have seemingly turned true crime media mainstream, but what happens when we put this emerging form of storytelling under a magnifying glass? True crime enthusiasts believe the related media to be educational, healing, and even foundational for the building of friendships and communities. For the skeptics, true crime media is little more than an exploitation of tragedy that sensationalizes perpetrators and erases the experience of the victims. This capstone will critically examine the effects of true crime media from a psychological, sociological, and philosophical perspective.

Avery Cardosi
BFA Creative Writing
Mentor: Barney McGrane
### 11:00 - 11:40 a.m.

**Education Overhaul: Shifting National Priorities in Education from Economic Prosperity to Democratic Citizenship**

In 2010 Martha Nussbaum published *Not for Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities*. This book tackled the American Education System from a refreshing and much-needed perspective. Nussbaum contends we overwhelmingly view our education system from a for-profit lens and educate students to bolster our national economy. However, she argues that students should instead view themselves as participants in a democratic society and educate them for this responsibility. Nussbaum asserts that we can do so by emphasizing the arts and humanities in schools.

I take Nussbaum’s argument and demonstrate how this emphasis is beneficial and practical, specifically in an elementary setting, by discussing implementation strategies for social and emotional learning (SEL), art education, inquiry-based learning (IBL), social studies, and play.

*Kayla Holder*

BA Integrated Educational Studies

*Mentor: Carmichael Peters*

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**High Brow Hip Hop in the Political Sphere**

In recent years, hip hop, a cultural product of traditionally low-status groups, has gained massive popularity and become visible in the political sphere. Especially since the election of Barack Obama to the presidency, there has been significant reciprocal interaction between hip hop and political actors. It is important to understand how hip hop is perceived by different social classes in order to understand how this interaction occurs. I explore how hip hop is perceived by the dominant class and argue that the way a social class perceives hip hop reveals its racial politics.

*Matt Joy*

BA Political Science

*Mentor: Gordon Babst*

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**The Final Girl: Virginal Hero or Viscous Construct?**

The Final Girl is the last character standing in a horror film after a vicious bloodbath. The Final Girl is brave, kind, charismatic, smart, perseverant and, more often than not, a virgin. My capstone will look into the concept of the Final Girl as a mirror for societal standards. However, American society no longer holds virginity up on a pedestal as it has in the past, and has rather become more accepting of sexuality. Final Girls are a mirror for society’s ideal woman, so with the progression of social constructs and sexual mindsets, I will be charting whether Final Girls have evolved alongside society, or if sex still equals death.

*Hunter Turney*

BFA Screenwriting

*Mentor: Paul Wolansky*

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**On the Maintenance of Oppressive Structures**

Oppression, or the harms done to one social group for the benefit of another, has existed in every human society and is a serious problem in ours. But how does it keep sticking around despite our best efforts? What are the psychological, linguistic, ideological, economic, and violent mechanisms that allow it to be perpetuated? I discuss answers to these questions and more at *White Man Talks Social Injustice: UHC Edition!*

*Sam Kagan*

BS Computer Science

*Mentor: Jessica Walker*
Session #3
11:00 - 11:40 a.m.

A Postcolonial Galaxy: 
Looking at Government and Race in Star Wars

The Star Wars franchise is full of creative representations of weird aliens, fun characters, and sci-fi governments. But how have these all changed over the decades? This presentation will use postcolonial theory to look at three different eras of Star Wars and compare how each of the eras represents government and race in the galaxy.

KJ Minzner
BFA Television Writing & Production

Mentor:
Justine Van Meter

Session #3
11:00 - 11:40 a.m.

Healthcare in America Through an Economic and Mental Health Lens: Why is it a Privilege not a Right?

We are living in precarious times, where health disparities are starting to rear their ugly heads in a tangible way. African Americans are being disproportionately affected by COVID-19 across different states. This is not surprising given the state of America’s healthcare system. Most industrialized countries in the world have some version of a public healthcare system, helping groups who cannot afford healthcare but need it the most. Instead, America has no public healthcare system and has the highest healthcare expenditure of any industrialized nation, even if Medicare and Medicaid exist trying to fill that gap. In addition to this, mental healthcare is even more difficult to come by, as it is often not covered by insurance. Why is this? Tune in on zoom to find out!

Kinnera Reddy
BS Health Science

Mentor:
Jessica Walker

Session #3
11:00 - 11:40 a.m.

The War at Home: 
Mental Health, Masculinity and the Marine Corps

The young men of the Marine Corps have chosen a heterocline journey in respect to American norms. Joining entails a career of institutional servitude, asceticism, self-sacrifice and violence. However, America raised Marines on the same cultural diet that it fed its civilian population; these influences find salience in the intersection of masculinity and mental health.

In 2018, the year I entered Marine Corps basic training, 77 Marines committed suicide. This figure surpassed the American military’s combined combat deaths from the previous three years in Afghanistan. Young men like me comprised most of these suicides. This project studies the emotional climate in which Marines operate. It tackles the question: how do we prevent the world’s most effective fighting force from killing itself?

Sawyer Montgomery
BFA Public Relations & Advertising

Mentor:
Veston Rowe

The Pill that Changed the World: 
How the Positioning of Birth Control Paved the Way for Revolution

Human beings, generally, love to have sex - for pleasure, intimacy, excitement, stress relief, money, power, curiosity, and of course procreation, though the fact that sex leads to children is an inconvenience for many. With the invention of the birth control pill, people finally had a convenient, effective way to prevent pregnancy. It faced an onslaught of opposition, but despite this, the birth control pill became ubiquitous and is commonly referred to as “the pill.” It inspired changes that were only possible because they were underplayed while medicine and family were emphasized. Through strategic medical engineering, a world-class collection of great minds, and resourceful marketing, the pill’s creators successfully introduced it to the world and revolutionized human reproduction forever.

Bella Tomasello
BS Business Administration 
Marketing Emphasis

Mentor:
Barney McGrane
Session #3
11:00 - 11:40 a.m.

Beyond the Green Consumer: Why Sustainable Clothing is Not the Answer

Individual behavior change is necessary in producing a widespread and effective shift toward a resource-constricted future. Yet in consideration of individual consumption patterns, the dominant resolution tends to remain within the decades-familiar domain: the bounds of the consumer. Businesses have simply capitalized upon another shift in macroenvironmental trends in order to advance economic activity and reinforce means in achieving sustainability through the purchase of “green” products. Meanwhile, individual consumption and carbon emissions continue to climb at alarming rates. How does one remediate environmental destruction by pursuing that which instigated the issue in the first place? Find what it means for individuals and businesses to extend individual roles beyond the green consumer to that of the green citizen. Challenging the culture of consumption is not an easy task; it is necessary, however, along with the discovery of the green citizen within each of us, to ensure a planet that is habitable for future generations.

Madison Hanley
BS Business Administration
Mentor: Carmichael Peters

Madison has graduated as of December 2019 and will not be presenting during the virtual conference. You can contact her at hanle108@mail.chapman.edu with any questions.
Session #4
11:45 - 12:25 a.m.

DMT and the Realm of Consciousness

DMT is known as the most powerful substance in the universe. It is found almost everywhere: trees, flowers, animals, and most importantly the pineal gland of the human brain. DMT is secreted at birth and at death. Those who go on a DMT trip report time dilation, a separation of body from spirit, and images strongly paralleling the near-death experience. World religions have described the transcendental realm of the divine, and the fundamental truths learned on the trip do not contradict these beliefs. In this presentation, DMT is argued to be the catalyst that takes the soul to and from the afterlife. Through studying anatomy, physiology, philosophy, world religions, neurology, and biology, DMT confirms the existence of an ultimate reality. It proves the theory of reincarnation as well as explains metaphysical phenomena.

Mentor: Jessica Walker

Melissa Coyle
BS Biological Sciences

The Effect of Stress on Telomere Length

Stress is an unavoidable reality that is part of everyday life. While acute stress can be managed quite easily by most people, chronic stress can leave behind major damage for an individual. One of the markers of chronic stress is shortened telomeres. Telomeres are vital for the protection of DNA and overall health of an individual. Learning how to manage chronic stress could lead to better health starting at the genetic level. This presentation explores how stress coping mechanisms and healthy lifestyle practices are related to telomere length and the disorders caused by critically short telomeres.

Mentor: Marco Bisoffi

Kathleen Glasser
BS Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Session #4
11:45 - 12:25 a.m.

Mechanical Menace or Bro-Bot: An Analysis of Robots and AI in Fiction

What counts as a living being? What happens if the machines we trust turn against us? Is sentient AI even plausible within the limitations of our universe? These are the questions often posed by the media we consume, from film to literature to video games. This presentation will shed light onto these questions, in a discussion of how our fictional robots and AI represent the hopeful yet fearful relationship we have with technology, society, and each other.

Mentor: Adam Rote

Isy Barrett
BA Animation & Visual Effects

Legalizing Xenophobia: The Political and Social Parallels of the Chinese Exclusion Act and the Muslim Travel Ban

Despite having the most immigrants of any other country in the world, the U.S. has not always extended an equal welcome to all newcomers. On January 27, 2017, President Donald Trump introduced Executive Order 13769 entitled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States,” more commonly known as the Muslim Travel Ban. Although years apart, Trump’s executive order parallels the rhetoric and implications of another historic piece of legislation: the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 – the first law in U.S. history to ever restrict immigration based on race and nationality, thus, banning a specific ethnic group from becoming U.S. citizens. This study will address the racism and discrimination that continues to impact racial and religious minorities in the U.S., specifically Muslims as well as Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), who are the fastest-growing racial and ethnic group in the country. This study will also analyze and compare the contexts and outcomes of these policies, and offer solutions to prevent these injustices.

Mentor: Marisa Giancarulo

Cala Gin
BA Integrated Educational Studies
### Session #4
11:45 - 12:25 a.m.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Warrior Mom: Raising a Child on the Autism Spectrum</th>
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| Nina Hatton  
BA Communications  
Mentor:  
Michelle Miller-Day |

To explore the experience of having a child on the Autism Spectrum (ASD) in the United States. Posing the question, "How 'well' are mothers of children with ASD"? With this, I will be investigating potential threats to wellness from an individual and broad perspective. For the individual, I will be looking into the societal idea of motherhood, coping mechanisms and the effects of social stigma. Broadly, I will be looking at the availability of healthcare professionals, difficulties in diagnosis (early intervention) and government support/aid. My research will include a case study on the Yukoye family and two education professionals. Finally, I will propose solutions to these problems.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Harnessing the Power of “Self Interest”: Why Capitalism is the Optimal Economic School of Thought</th>
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| Jacob Pace  
Business Administration, Emphasis in Finance  
Mentor:  
Candace Ybarra |

Capitalism—a trigger word for some, yet a source of inspiration for others. Research shows heightening skepticism among younger Americans towards the economic system of ideals that has elevated countless nations to unprecedented levels of growth over the past century. The intensifying political climate of the United States has compelled a resurgence in popularity for socialism. Capitalism’s reputation has been defamed by corporatist elites who abuse economic power. To some, this school of thought is portrayed as immoral, destructive, and fundamentally unequal. In reality, this assumption is radically false. Although inherently imperfect, capitalism engenders creativity, innovation, competition, cooperation, and prosperity.

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<th>Hunger is widely regarded as a biological mechanism that allows us to maintain a steady energy balance (homeostasis). The remarkable prevalence of obesity and disordered eating around the world, however, suggests that there may be more to appetite regulation than simply eating when hungry and stopping when full. The overarching objective of this project is to explore the biological, psychological, and social factors that contribute to this discrepancy. It will primarily focus on the interfering role that higher order cognitive functions, specifically episodic memory, may have in overriding homeostatic appetite regulation in populations who either over or under-eat.</th>
</tr>
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| Nicole Karmann  
BFA Screen Acting  
Mentor:  
Jocelyn Buckner |

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<tr>
<th>Power-less Girls: Applied Feminist Theory and The Oxymoron of the “Strong Female Lead” in Early 2000’s Children’s Cartoons</th>
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| Brynne McKee  
BFA News & Documentary  
Mentor:  
Christine Fugate |

This project analyzes the portrayal of the “strong female lead” in children’s cartoon television series during the early 2000’s, the beginning of what is described as the Second Golden Age of Television. Through a visual, anecdotal, and theoretical media review of three popular animated cartoons - The Powerpuff Girls, The Winx Club, and Kim Possible - this project utilizes relevant feminist theory to highlight the problematic nature of the “strong female lead” character trope and offers considerations for the apparently oxymoronic nature of cartoon shows often attributed to female empowerment. Taking into account the complex history of the woman in television since the 1950s, this project showcases how female-led children’s content claims to portray young women as powerful, while in actuality leaving them powerless.
Session #4
11:45 - 12:25 a.m.

**Down the Rabbit Hole:**
A Postcolonial View of the Effectiveness of Fairy Tales Within Adolescent and Adult Education

Who’s afraid of the big, bad wolf? We all thought fairy tales were just the narratives of our childhood, but it turns out that they are a very essential aspect of modern adolescent and adult education. In this presentation, we will explore various elements of the fairy tale genre and analyze them through a postcolonial literary perspective, allowing us to understand how people are not only segregated but can be brought together by the fairy tales that Disney has brought to life.

Samantha Mboodwam
BA English Literature
Mentor: Justine Van Meter

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Session #4
11:45 - 12:25 a.m.

**We’re Gonna Sing It Again:**
Anais Mitchell’s HADESTOWN and Mythmaking in Modern America

Anais Mitchell drew from the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice for her concept album, HADESTOWN, a project which eventually became a Tony award winning musical and critical darling of Broadway. In Mitchell’s retelling of the myth, the music, staging, and costumes are inspired by a post-Apocalyptic New Orleans, placing the musical in an ambiguously American setting. The musical tackles pressing current political dilemmas from climate change to American capitalism to the wall. In doing so, Mitchell forces her audience to contend with our own American mythologies and how they prevent us from achieving the world as it could be.

Pippa Russell
BFA Television Writing & Production
Mentor: Kent Lehnhof

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**Adderall and Friends: Academia’s Blood Doping**

This presentation seeks to help people understand the issues and reasons of college students taking prescription stimulants non-medically in order to enhance academic performance.

Lexie Nguyen
BS Business Administration
Mentor: Jessica Walker

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**Gender Bias in Artificial Intelligence:**
Are Search Engine Results Reliable?

Gender bias has existed in many forms throughout history, from being blatantly discriminatory to becoming largely unconscious in the modern age. It is exceedingly important to examine how technology shapes or is shaped by these biases. In computer science, artificial intelligence allows computer systems to learn by processing large amounts of data, which could ultimately cause search engines to reinforce existing stereotypes or biases in our society. Are search engines like Google sexist or racist? In contrast, data are not always representative of all demographics, and men are commonly labelled as the “default.” This gap in data could erase women or minorities’ experiences and accomplishments, which highlights an underlying issue of unconscious gender bias in our social and technological system.

Ananya Vittal
BS Data Analytics
Mentor: Elizabeth Stevens
The University Honors Program is a broad interdisciplinary course of study based on great books and events from cultures around the world. Students and faculty concentrate on mutually critical exchanges between the classics of human cultures and the contemporary world. The goal of these dialogical exchanges is collaborative and intentional learning in which students and faculty together connect enduring and emerging ideas, drawing on shared texts, lectures, seminar discussions, and cultural experiences. Students in this university-wide program are required to complete a minimum of 24 credits.

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