



CONNECTICUT COLLEGE  
**ALL-COLLEGE  
SYMPOSIUM**

## 2024 Abstracts

Presented by seniors in  
Pathways, Centers and  
Certificate Programs at the  
All College Symposium,  
November 7, 2024

# AMMERMAN CENTER FOR ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS

## Lauren Anatol

Afrofuturism: A Less Dystopian Future?

I'm interested in how language "evolves" in stories of the future and how that represents the priorities of the present in terms of a lack of diversity on screen. Part of researching that interest has led me to explore how machines are racialized in sci-fi media but also how they display what we perceive as "formal language." My project involves writing a potential future that centralizes Afrofuturism, visually and audibly, by utilizing Afro-Diasporic language features to imagine what a future version of English may sound like and change how we view different forms of modern day English.

Global/Local Engagement: This summer, I received the Pozen fund and mainly in NYC, researched afrofuturism, dystopian stories, and the racialization of machines.

## Owen Avery

HREFLAND

HREFLAND is a film that seeks to encapsulate the beautiful yet horrific experience of being online. Through experimental sound, form, and image, I hope to defamiliarize the viewer from their typical mindset when online, creating a space where the internet can be seen as it truly is, divorced from the cultural discourses that surround it. With HREFLAND, I seek to capture the ephemeral, non-material world of the web that is everywhere and nowhere.

Global/Local Engagement: This past summer I was an editorial intern at the independent publishing house Akashic Books, located in Gowanus, Brooklyn.

## Patton Balzebra

LAST WORDS of a DYING DOG

This project delves into the dynamic interplay between curated data, AI, and the participant. By offering a fortune-reading experience with minimal personal input, it raises intriguing questions about how accurately an AI, trained on selected imagery, can interpret and predict one's future. The interaction between the participant's responses and the computer's generated interpretations creates a unique blend of data-driven mysticism. Through this digital oracle, we explore the boundaries between human intuition and artificial intelligence, transforming a simple exchange into a captivating and spiritual experience.

Global/Local Engagement: Internship at the Rubell Museum, Miami, FL

## Ethan Chin

From Another Pair of Shoes

An audience will watch a narrative unfold twice, both from a unique perspective that will influence one's perception of the situation. The performance will showcase theater, dance, and multimedia support

including projection, lights, sound, etc. The experience pushes the idea that we cannot be so quick to judge someone in this day and age.

Global/Local Engagement: Internship at White Plains Performing Arts Center, Summer 2024, Summer Technical Associate

## **Penny Doyle**

Harris Haven: Redesigning the Sensory Experience

What is the future of architectural design? To me, it's ensuring that everyone can experience the joy of being in a space that is gentle and kind to us—starting at the basic spaces fundamental to wellbeing. This is especially critical for individuals with sensory sensitivities, for whom finding spaces that accommodate them can be a challenge. In my project, I am redesigning Conn's dining hall, Harris, and conceptualizing through design how we can account for everyone's unique ways of processing sensory information.

Global/Local Engagement: Spring 2024 - study abroad and internship in Florence, Italy.

## **Grace Flynn**

A Place to Sit and Talk: The Social Need for Third Spaces

This research-based project will identify the most attractive qualities of third spaces and investigate the decline of these spaces in the last 35 years. I will be interviewing Gen Z participants and participants 32+. This distinction accounts for the generation's differing experiences with third spaces. I plan to creatively display the data by designing a space that reflects the ideal qualities of third spaces discussed by interviewees. This space will include illustrations from participants and possibly an opportunity to hear some of their responses as they relate to the design of the space.

Global/Local Engagement: Portland, ME, May-August 2025 with Youth LED Justice, a restorative justice organization using community spaces to help struggling youth.

## **Timothy Friend**

Sam I Am, But Who Are You? (An Animatronic Experience)

Through my Ammerman Senior Integrative Project, "Sam," I explore the way that human emotion is conveyed through non-human characters and how people form connections or invested interests. Sam is an animatronic (electro-mechanical) puppet constructed to express sadness, happiness, and potentially a tinge of anxiety.

Global/Local Engagement: Groton MA, CJS Workshop, Summer 2024: I aided in the creation of large-scale animatronics for Universal Studios

## **Jun Yi He Wu**

Echo Chambers: An Analysis of Anti-Asian Narratives Through LLMs

This art installation explores the formation and persistence of Anti-Asian/Immigrant narratives, their amplification and reinforcement through media echo chambers, and their impact on real people. Using Large Language Models trained on various articles, journals, and newspaper, the installation demonstrate

how media can create narratives of “the Other.” It draws parallels between the internet user and LLMs tokenizing text, contrasting the radicalization of LLMs (or internet users) with portraits of Asian hate victims. Beyond demonstrating the effects of racism, xenophobia, and bigotry, the installation aims to ignite essential conversations in today's polarized media landscape.

Global/Local Engagement: Literature spanning primarily in the United States in reference to East Asia and colonies (1800s - Present)

## **Charlotte Leigh**

Universe! Show Me How Good It Gets to Be

In pop culture, we have been hearing more and more about the idea of manifestation, and how our thoughts shape our realities. My research on Albert Bandura's theory of Self Efficacy has become key in finding quantifiable data related to positive manifestation. Self Efficacy suggests that an individual's belief in their capacity to execute their goals can increase the likelihood of a positive outcome. Using research backed methods inspired by the theories of Self Efficacy; I have begun developing an interactive, narrative gaming experience to increase the rate of positive manifestation by its players.

Global/Local Engagement: Florence, Italy (Spring Semester 2024) Internship: Artreach in Norwich CT, teaching art classes

## **Alessia Pellegrini**

Imagining Immersive Worlds: Cities in Dust

In my project, I explore worldbuilding, storytelling, and character design through an immersive, first-person experience. This experience involves placing the player/participant in a 3D environment using VR, which will include 2D animated characters based on an original story of mine – a desert-like dystopian world that explores human adaptation to an extreme environment and how systems of oppression might replicate in a hypothetical future world. Through this experience, I hope to examine the player/participant's feelings of identification with particular characters and the psychology behind this.

Global/Local Engagement: Studied away at the American College of Greece (Spring 2024). Learning & Engagement Intern at the Lyman Allyn starting this semester.

## **Arianna Pellegrini**

Yesterday Once More

An immersive, introspective audiovisual installation that explores and confronts impermanence in life, how things change as you grow up, the emotions behind these things, and that it's important to accept change.

Global/Local Engagement: Funkadelic Studios, Manhattan, NY. June-August 2024. Intern/recording assistant for certain recording weeks/shifts.

## **James Serhant**

Inevitable

My project is a movie about Peter, a troubled, alcoholic tennis player who is enlisted by his eccentric former coach to save the world from a monstrous villain. Along his Journey, Peter battles his inner demons and is met with many bizarre characters and absurd situations. The movie is meant to explore themes of redemption, self-discovery, and inevitability.

Global/Local Engagement: Worked for a social media brand marketing company called Pugs Media. I specialized in researching Snapchat algorithms.

## **Caroline Skrebutenas**

I Hear the Dinner Plate Sing

Food is a portal into our personal histories. My SIP will explore this idea through an immersive sound and media installation, exploring how food can be used as a form of cultural resistance among communities, creatives, and human beings. How does community-supported agriculture challenge destructive capitalism in our society, and reinforce the cultural fabric of love, life, and community in neighborhoods? How can music aid the process of this discovery?

Global/Local Engagement: Summer Agricultural Internship in Malmö, Sweden, at Botildenborg Farm and Kitchen

## **Althea Tierney**

Living Architecture: Illustrating the Future of Design

Architecture is designed to separate and protect humans from the “natural” environment, but imagine a world where architecture and natural structures are one. Rather than building to last and eventually facing obsolescence, what if we developed architecture that undergoes a life cycle of growth and decay, similar to other living organisms? What if, instead of separating ourselves, we collaborated with nature, combining technology, design, and science to create structures programmed to change and adapt alongside us and our needs? This Senior Integrative Project envisions a world of living architecture and explores the societal and environmental impacts through a visual manifesto.

Global/Local Engagement: I studied architectural design and history at the Pantheon Institute in Rome for a semester.

# **CCSRE (Center for the Critical Study of Race and Ethnicity) SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS**

## **Alexis Henry**

Racial Trauma, Diminished Racial Pride, and a Potential Role of Racial Identity

Emerging research on race-based trauma highlights the detrimental effects of repeated exposure to racial discrimination. This research has found negative psychological and physical health outcomes associated with racial trauma. My study elaborates on this research by investigating the relationship between racial trauma and racial pride, as well as the potential moderating role of racial identity. Specifically, I investigate the hypotheses that high levels of racial trauma will be correlated with diminished pride in one's own racial group, and that internalization identities will weaken this relationship, while conformity and dissonance identities are amplifying.

Global/Local Engagement: Developed research through independent study + honors study, Spring 2024-Spring 2025

## **Farah Najjari**

Decolonial Empowerment: Arabic Poetry and bell hooks' "All About Love" Explored

This project explores the transformative power of poetry in telling the stories of Middle Eastern women. By examining contemporary poets like Saniyah Saleh and Mona Kareem, it highlights how their work addresses themes such as love, anger, and struggle—topics often silenced in their communities. In societies where discussing personal emotions is taboo, poetry becomes a crucial tool for expressing complex feelings and resisting colonialist and patriarchal norms. Using bell hooks' insights from *All About Love*, this study examines how poetry fosters self-expression and challenges systemic injustices, offering a space for healing and empowerment for Middle Eastern women.

Global/Local Engagement: Sadie Nash Leadership Project 2024 Summer Institute facilitator, NYC; teaching youth about identity, self-love, and poetics.

## **Bella Stewart**

Weaponized Whiteness and Streamlined Intersections: Historicizing *Get Out*

This presentation analyzes Jordan Peele's *Get Out* and its symbolic parallels to Jim Crow, investigating race and gender constructs within the context of American history. This presentation argues that the film's cursory representation of intersectionality joins a history of hegemonic White Femininity to expose the horror of being Black in the US. In so doing, Peele alludes to W.E.B. Du Bois' double consciousness theory and Ida B. Wells' seminal essays. With attention paid to audience responses, this presentation contextualizes Peele's balance between satire, subversion, and outright horrific depictions of the uniquely American Black-White dynamic.

Global/Local Engagement: Independent research on the film industry and the evolution of race and gender constructs throughout US history.

# **CISLA**

## **(Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and Liberal Arts)**

### **SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS**

#### **Meiling Bottan**

Considering Mental Health in Japan

This presentation examines how Japan's demanding work culture contributes to stress, depression, and high suicide rates, emphasizing the cultural stigmas that prevent individuals from seeking help. I will explore how biological differences in stress responses between Japanese and American populations may impact the effectiveness of mental health treatments, shedding light on why interventions developed in the U.S. might not be as effective in Japan. Drawing from personal stories during my time abroad, I will discuss how these experiences shaped the current direction of my SIP, which seeks to understand the intersection of culture, biology, and mental health.

Global/Local Engagement: I worked alongside IRCN at the University of Tokyo in Japan.

#### **Eliaris Brito-Castillo**

Bachata: Preserving Afro-Dominican Roots in a Globalized World

My SIP explores Bachata's cultural and historical significance, a vibrant music and dance style originating from the Dominican Republic, emphasizing its deep connections to the country's Black population. Tracing Bachata's evolution from the colonial era through periods of oppression to its global recognition, I hope to highlight the contributions of Afro-Dominicans to this art. As well as, examine the racial dynamics, societal challenges, and the legacy of Bachata, in hopes of fostering a deeper understanding of its roots and its role in shaping Dominican national identity.

Global/Local Engagement: Summer 2024 Internship in Tokyo, Japan in a Dance Company. Living and Visiting in the Dominican Republic throughout my life.

#### **Maya Bruno**

Balancing Sustainability with Preservation in Historic Italian Architecture

Italy's rich architectural heritage presents unique challenges for implementing modern sustainability measures, as many buildings are protected by strict preservation regulations. During my internship at the sustainable architecture firm Weber Architects in Florence, I gained insight into how stakeholders approach sustainable renovations within these constraints. I plan to use the transformation project of the ex-STA.VE.CO military complex in Bologna as a case study to explore this dynamic. My project aims to examine how Italian architects and contractors balance preservation and sustainability while integrating energy-efficient technologies and complying with laws that protect cultural heritage.

Global/Local Engagement: The summer internship at Weber Architects, a sustainable architectural firm in Florence, Italy, helped me research sustainable architecture first hand.

#### **Austin Cheng**

Navigating Cultural Differences in Community-Based Conservation: A Malagasy Case Study

Through my SIP I am exploring the tension between avoiding cultural imperialism and remaining true to ideals, particularly of gender equality in the creation and funding of community-based conservation organizations in patriarchal societies. To tether these loftier ideas to practice, I will be using my internship with Planet Madagascar in Ankarafantsika National Park as a case study. In this presentation I will be discussing my experience using the lenses of feminist, pragmatist, and post-colonial philosophers.

Global/Local Engagement: Summer 2024, Ankarafantsika, Madagascar, collected data and worked with reforestation and fire prevention.

## **Emma Dinkelspiel**

Reading and Writing Identity in German Literature

In my presentation, I will discuss how my Funded Sophomore Research Project, Support Courses, Study Away experience, and international internship all contributed to my current Honors Thesis exploring how shifting national borders in 20th century Germany impacted the creation of the literary works of Christa Wolf as well as how they were received and translated, particularly in the Soviet Union. While working at the Carl-Schurz-Haus for Transatlantic Relations in Freiburg im Breisgau, I became particularly interested in how my own identity impacts how I read literature, which has facilitated and directed my literary research on Wolf.

Global/Local Engagement: Internship at the Carl Schurz Haus in Freiburg im Breisgau and Study Away in Konstanz

## **Leila Hernandez-Webster**

Multimethod Analysis of Climate Change Effects on Latin America's Food Security Challenges

My Senior Integrative Project explores the intersection of climate change and food insecurity in Latin America, inspired by my personal experiences working in Costa Rica. The research focuses on the critical role of alternative agricultural methods, such as agroforestry, in mitigating the severe effects of climate change-induced food insecurity. By examining both quantitative and qualitative perspectives, this project will aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of how different regions in Latin America are affected by climate change and will explore potential solutions to alleviate food insecurity through sustainable agricultural practices.

Global/Local Engagement: This past summer, I worked in Cochabamba, Bolivia as a community garden assistant while researching food insecurity and sustainable agriculture.

## **Claire Hoffmann**

Examining Regenerative, Biodynamic, and Organic Agricultural Methods and Principles in German Viticulture

This project is focused on regenerative agriculture practices within German viticulture among fine wine producers, specifically in the Rheinhessen wine region. By increasing biodiversity, improving the water cycle, enhancing the ecosystem, and supporting carbon sequestration, regenerative agriculture boosts soil health and resilience to climate change. Through incorporating regenerative methods such as cover cropping, vineyard managers and winemakers strive to strengthen vine resilience while improving wine



quality. The study will examine the initial adoption of regenerative methodology in viticulture, the current methods and experiences of Rheinhessen fine wine producers, and the future of the German wine industry regarding climate change.

Global/Local Engagement: 9-Week Winery/Cellar Internship at Weingüter Kühling-Gillot & Battenfeld-Spanier in Hohen-Sülzen, Germany

## **Abdullah Khan**

Adaptive Strategies: Italian Conservation Approaches for Pakistani Architecture

This project is a comparative analysis of conservation techniques used in Italian and Pakistani architecture, as a mode to implement those techniques in Saraiki-Pakistani structures amidst climate change. It examines how developed nation-states like Italy are conserving their architecture that is vulnerable to damage- highlighting the role of architectural preservation in maintaining cultural visibility and the social fabric. By comparing these techniques, the project explores the visual and structural features of select heritage sites in both countries and emphasizes the need for technological, legal, and community efforts to ensure the structural viability of historical sites amidst climate change.

Global/Local Engagement: ACI, Italy/Greece: 4-week summer program (2023) for archaeological-fieldwork. Innovative Dimensions, Pakistan: winter/remote architecture internship (2023-24).

## **Stella Koenig**

The 'Othering' of Labor Migrants in Japan: Japan's Hospitality Industry

As Japan's working-age population continues to age, the imperative to attract labor migrants grows; despite this impending need, migrants are still viewed as temporary and disposable labor. My research, based on fieldwork I conducted at a small boutique hotel in Kyoto, explores the experiences of labor migrants in Japan's hospitality industry. By examining how they navigate the Japanese workplace in a fast-paced hotel environment, I aim to shed light on why labor migrants choose to work in Japan despite significant obstacles such as language or cultural barriers.

Global/Local Engagement: Interned at a restaurant in a hotel in Kyoto, Japan during the summer of 2024 for 8 weeks.

## **Samantha Lamontagne**

Impacts of Stigma: Access to Mental Healthcare in the US and France

There are many factors that can inhibit access to mental health care or treatment, including complications with insurance and lack of information about mental health and mental health resources. These barriers are all influenced by the stigmatization of mental health. In this presentation, I will examine my experiences thus far in the US and France that show the influence stigma has in creating barriers to helpful resources. When I complete my CISLA project, I hope to expand my knowledge about the mental healthcare system in both countries and ways that we can destigmatize getting help for our mental health.

Global/Local Engagement: Study away in Nantes, France (Spring 2024); Mental Health Education Internship in Nantes, France (Spring 2024)

## **Wonkyung Lee**

The Political Economy of Japan's Startup Ecosystem

In 2022, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida unveiled a “new form of capitalism,” aimed at boosting investment in startups. When people think of major Japanese firms, they often envision corporations like Honda and Sony. However, Kishida highlights that these giants were once startups founded by young entrepreneurs, and emphasized the necessity of cultivating such innovation in Japan today. Furthermore, the introduction of a startup visa in 2015 has made it easier for foreign entrepreneurs to establish businesses in Japan. My research will investigate the experiences of these foreign entrepreneurs and the implications for the globalization of the Japanese startup ecosystem.

Global/Local Engagement: I did an 8-week internship with STARTUP HOKKAIDO in Sapporo, Japan from January to March 2024.

## **Ilan Listgarten**

Pluralism and Universalism: Comparing U.S and French Plans to Counter Antisemitism

In 2023, France and the U.S. released national plans to counter anti-Semitism. The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism and France's Plan national de lutte contre le racisme, l'antisémitisme et les discriminations liées à l'origine reflect their distinct political frameworks: American multicultural pluralism and French Universalism. This project explores the origins of Jewish history in both nations to contextualize each plan. Through comparative analysis, it assesses how each plan reflects the political ideologies of its respective country and how this affects modern manifestations of anti-semitism.

Global/Local Engagement: Summer 2024. Paris, France. Internship and Research conducted at Alliance Israelite Universelle.

## **Kayla Mateo**

Impact of People of Color Choosing Non-Traditional Career Paths

My project explores how people of color in the Dominican Republic navigate career choices, inspired by observing my family, where traditional stable jobs were prioritized. Many low-income individuals are steered toward conventional careers, yet I became curious about how they overcome economic challenges to pursue their passions. During my internship with AMADC, a Dominican non-profit, I witnessed free training and certification in traditional careers for low-income individuals. My project investigates how, despite internal and external struggles, they rise above obstacles to follow their career dreams.

Global/Local Engagement: Dominican Republic, AMADC Non-Profit Organization, May-August 2024

## **Nora Pulsifer**

Police Abuse of Refugee Women and Children in Northern France

This presentation examines how women and children face abuse from the French National Police at the EU border in Calais, France. As people continue to die during the treacherous journey crossing the

English Channel, I hope to better understand the history of the Calais “Jungle” and the role of police abuse on the refugee communities, and the heightened dangers posed towards women and children surviving these conditions. As a humanitarian aid volunteer, I am deeply interested in exploring the legal measures taken to make our jobs as difficult as possible.

Global/Local Engagement: For two months, I worked at the Refugee Women's Center in Calais, France, providing humanitarian assistance to female refugees.

## **Corinne Robbins**

The Effects of Post-Dictatorship Politics on Argentina’s Legalization of Abortion

My project focuses on the trajectory of the legalization of abortion in Argentina. The pro-abortion movement in Argentina is distinctive from other similar movements because of the challenges it has faced from the effects of its last military Dictatorship and the current political influence of the Catholic Church. In order to improve maternal health and safety, pro-abortion activists in Argentina have fought to see through multiple successes, including the federal law that legalized abortion in 2020. This research underscores the significance of Argentina’s fight to legalize abortion and how activists are maintaining the movement to this day.

Global/Local Engagement: Spring 2024 study away in Buenos Aires, Argentina; summer 2024 internship with FEIM in Buenos Aires, Argentina

## **Blake Rogers**

Has Spain Recovered from the European Financial Crisis of 2008-2009?

The Financial Crisis of 2008-2009 was a worldwide event that affected every country. Spain was no different as their housing bubble popped and loans defaulted. Pedro Sanchez and the current government believe the crisis is over. While in Spain, I interacted with students, professors, friends, and adults from all walks of life, and their message was in unison and clear: the crisis is not over, and issues persist. In Spain’s 15 years of austerity, the Spanish people have become resentful of the government. Is this warranted, or an overreaction?

Global/Local Engagement: I worked at an NGO in Granada, Spain focusing on relations between Spain, Portugal, and Latin America.

## **Alejandra Romero-Sanchez**

Undocumented Immigrant Families: Sacrifice, Separation, and Well-Being

According to Pew Research Center, there are currently over 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States. Examining this topic allows us to understand how sacrifice and separation contribute to generational trauma and enables us to offer socio-emotional support to those impacted, especially in a community where mental health is very stigmatized.

Global/Local Engagement: Casa Ronald McDonald keeps families close through difficult moments (San Juan, Puerto Rico January-June 2024)

## **Noa Schmid**

## Non State Actors Negotiate: Comparing Israeli-Palestinian & Moroccan-Western Saharan Ceasefire Proposals

This comparative study examines the leverage of nonstate actors in negotiations, using recent Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire proposals and the Moroccan-Western Saharan peace treaty as case studies. By incorporating GIS analysis (similarly to artists Miki Kratsman & Shabtai Pinchevsky) I plan to analyze how buffer zones and settlement expansion create geographic and demographic pressures, shaping nonstate actors' leverage in negotiations. Special focus is placed on third-party diplomatic efforts to secure lasting agreements in asymmetric conflicts. Insights gained from an internship at the German embassy in Rabat provide a practical understanding of the diplomatic tools available in these peace processes.

Global/Local Engagement: Spring study away in Paris, France & Summer Internship in Rabat, Morocco

## Aiden Shiell

What Makes a Tourist Location? Analyzing Tourist Locations Through Japan

COVID-19 prohibited travel in countries for over two years, leading to one of the greatest upticks in travel around the world. In Japan, the number of tourists has increased exponentially each year since. As tourism becomes more prevalent, I plan to investigate how tourist locations are created in intentional and unintentional ways and the effects of tourism on locations in Japan and my home communities.

Global/Local Engagement: Interning in Sumida City, Tokyo, Japan researching tourist locations and gauging interest 5/20 - 7/20

## Jazmin Villalba Gimenez

Comparative Analysis of Gut Microbiota and Dietary Impact Between USA and Brazil

This research highlights how regional dietary patterns contribute to variations in microbiota composition. Dietary patterns differ around the world due to food regulations, cultural practices, and climate composition. Different gut microbial compositions have Implications for Health and could explain public health patterns in certain areas. The western American diet is known for their refined carbohydrates and added sugars associated with reduced microbial diversity and poorer gut health while the Brazilian diet is higher intake of fruits, vegetables, and legumes. These differences may explain regional variations in health outcomes, which plays a pivotal role in metabolic disorders and immune function.

Global/Local Engagement: During the summer of 2024 I had an internship in Lisbon at the Institute of Medicina Molecular.

## Torrance Wagner

Campesino Communities: Social Collaboration as a Means Towards Regional Food Sovereignty

I have spent the past two summers working on small-scale commercial farms. During the school year, I regularly volunteer at FRESH New London. Combined, these experiences were a way for me to deepen my understanding of food systems and explore how they are related to social justice. In Mexico, I had the opportunity to expand my awareness of these topics by working with campesinos (small farmers) and

getting to know their history and culture. The result was a question: what role does systematic collaboration between members of a community play in the formation of regional food sovereignty?

Global/Local Engagement: Spring 2024 study away in Puebla, Mexico and Summer 2024 internship in Oaxaca, Mexico

# **CREATIVITY PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS**

## **Lauren Carey**

Travel: A Catalyst for Creativity, Connection, and Reflection of Life Priorities

In my presentation, I explore my initial interest in travel and discovery of my creativity. This passion was deepened by my coursework in psychology, art, and sociology. I will next discuss how my study away experience in Denmark reinforced my commitment to travel as a catalyst for growth and innovation. Finally, I will share how these experiences have shaped my future goals, highlighting the importance of travel in my personal and professional development.

Global/Local Engagement: Copenhagen, Denmark (Fall 2023 Study Away)

## **Katharine Caviness**

Fractured Melodies: Merging Mental Illness and the Performing Arts

This presentation examines the intricate relationship between mental illness and the performing arts. Through personal experiences, academic research, and artistic exploration, I will explore how mental health challenges shape artistic expression and how the arts provide a medium for understanding mental illness. Reflecting on my journey as a psychology and music student, I will discuss how these insights have informed my creative practice and how I plan to synthesize these influences in my future endeavors.

Global/Local Engagement: Queen Mary University of London, Fall 2023, took courses relating to my question, allowing deeper exploration of my topic.

## **Bianca Falcone**

How Can We Enhance Accessibility and Engagement Across Galleries for Neurodiverse Audiences?

As a Studio Art and Psychology Double Major, I am fascinated the artistic and psychological factors that go into creating gallery spaces. During my first year, the course Decoding Color sparked my initial interest in color theory and perception. Over my study away experience in Rome, I continued my interest in the design of exhibitions through an art history course specializing in the galleries of Rome. Through this course, my interest expanded to how exhibitions address issues of accessibility, especially for neurodivergent individuals. My presentation will touch on the factors at play when creating accessible neurodivergent-friendly gallery spaces.

Global/Local Engagement: Queen Mary University of London, Fall 2023, took courses relating to my question, allowing deeper exploration of my topic.

## **Nadia Hopkins**

Shakespeare as a Vehicle for Shared Humanity

My presentation explores how my relationship to Shakespeare's plays has changed over my college career, and investigates the transformative power of Shakespeare's works within a criminal justice system. My presentation looks specifically at the influences of programs such as Shakespeare in Prison

to understand how Shakespeare's language can be addressed in new and radical ways to cultivate a sense of humanity in a dehumanizing environment. Through my English classes and studio theater courses both at Conn and abroad, I investigate the potential and limitations of embodiment as a form of expression and justice.

Global/Local Engagement: I studied Shakespeare abroad in London for the spring semester of my Junior year

## **Zoey Kolligian**

Self-Dialogue Through Art: Illuminating, Processing, and Resolving Unconscious Conflicts

In this presentation, I explore how creating art can be a medium of communication not just with others, but with oneself. I trace my commitment to art as a form of healing through my personal history, recalling the dragons of my childhood, my debilitating illness, and my therapeutic recovery. I then show how my coursework and Funded Sophomore Research were shaped by my pursuit of the self-concept and its relationship with art. Finally, I demonstrate current work in my senior art studio, and illuminate its connections with my animating question - the power of art to make the unconscious tangible.

Global/Local Engagement: In Princeton, NJ, I spent ten weeks exploring art mediums and creating pieces intended for therapeutic self-dialogue.

## **Grace LaFleche**

Stories We Can't Relate to: What I learned from Narratives of Counterculture

This is a story about stories. Narrative construction has become both an academic and creative interest for me. In my Sophomore Summer Research Project I explored narrative writing. From the vulnerability of Jack Kerouac's stream of consciousness, to the cynical intimidation of Hunter Thompson, I witnessed the Beatniks become the Hippies. My effort to live on the narrative edge devolved into crashing realizations during my study away semester. Counterculture gets attention, but is often unproductive. Returning home, I was challenged by the narrative of a new subculture, a classical arts nonprofit. Now, I begin to construct a positive narrative.

Global/Local Engagement: I received a Pozen Grant to research Beatnik Generation authors. From this, I created written works using learned narrative technique.

## **Isabella Laria**

The Confines of Creativity: How Different Academic Environments Influence Student Creativity

My research focuses on exploring the question of how various academic environments influence student creativity. I reflect on my own experiences as a student from kindergarten to college that meaningfully inspired my research. My research draws upon my experiences working in pre-college programs, tutoring students virtually, creating a documentary on post-pandemic education, and independent research conducted while studying abroad in India. Through these experiences, I've observed how different sociocultural contexts, technology, and the COVID-19 pandemic intersect in academic institutions and influence creative development and critical thinking.

Global/Local Engagement: During the Spring 2024 semester of my junior year, I studied public health in India and completed independent research.

## **Haley Lowenthal**

Creative Spaces: Artistry as a Haven

Seeking groundedness and community within artistic spaces of any medium, I have entered and embraced a wide range of creative environments. As an English and Dance major, I have been immersed in spaces of artistry and where they may intersect. Reflecting on some experiences, including my internship as a Dance Photographer, and my time sculpting and dancing in Greece, I have learned that communities of artists make me feel grounded in myself. These are meant for everyone and they are an invaluable gift that should not be taken for granted.

Global/Local Engagement: Dance Photography Internship at Bates Dance Festival (Summer 2024) and Study Abroad in Athens, Greece (Fall 2023)

## **Molly Monzeglio**

How Can Evaluative Language Directed Towards Our Art Hinder Our Creativity?

As a Psychology major and Art minor, I will first discuss the origins of my interest in the relationship between art and one's sense of self. I will show examples of my own art that reflects further on the role art can play in psychological development. I then explain how my animating question began to emerge through opportunities to take art courses while studying abroad and also through my summer internship experiences. I will elaborate on the courses I have taken here that deepened my understanding of this question, and finally, I will discuss its role in my future plans.

Global/Local Engagement: Intern art teacher at Wethersfield Academy for the Arts, assistant teaching youth summer classes (Wethersfield, CT, Summer 2023)

## **Jane Park-Stettner**

What are Current Innovations in Healthcare Outreach?

This project explores current creative innovations in healthcare outreach, particularly in the context of marginalized communities. Drawing from my research abroad on period poverty in India, I focus on how effective outreach can bridge the gap between advanced healthcare solutions. My topic centers on how to tailor education and resources to meet communities where they are. I observed both the limitations of traditional outreach methods, often with a lack of social media, and the potential of approaches using social media. This dual perspective highlights the need of integrating creative communication strategies to enhance healthcare accessibility and education.

Global/Local Engagement: SIT Abroad India: Public Health, Gender and Sexuality, Spring 2024.

## **Leif Payne**

Deconstructing and Reshaping Identity: Creative Approaches to Exploring One's True Self



This poster will chart my journey through art, literature, and astronomy to reconceptualize how I think about aspects of my identity. Beginning with coursework, it illustrates literary theories of self-perception. It documents a breakthrough in self-understanding in my Large Painting course. I started to work in abstract art, using societal labels and abstracting them, attempting to break free from the shackles of external perception and validation and finally, illustrating how one can gain self-understanding through a study of astronomy and re-orienting one's perspective on human beings by contemplating their relationship to a broader universe.

Global/Local Engagement: Pattagansett Art Center based in downtown New London. PAC prioritizes Art, Wellness, and Environmentalism for women and nonbinary people

## **Gemma Savitz-Vogel**

How Might Art Reduce the Stigma and Fear of Breast Cancer Treatment?

In this presentation I discuss how my studies in art and medicine lead to my interest in this question. I am influenced by the course, "Theater of the AIDS Epidemic," which highlighted creative responses to world health crises. Inspired by artists like Prune Nourry and Hannah Wilke, I aim to investigate how artistic expression can destigmatize the physical and emotional challenges of receiving breast cancer treatment, particularly the societal pressures surrounding femininity. I explain how my experience working in Stamford Hospital deepened my understanding of these issues, guiding my inquiry into art's role in healthcare advocacy.

Global/Local Engagement: Case Study Co-Author/Doctor Shadow at Stamford Hospital Pathology Dept. (Summers 2023, 2024)

## **Megan Spindler**

Home: Finding Connection to place through Nature, Poetry and Travel

What makes us feel at home? How do we foster good connections to where we are? These are the questions I have been asking throughout my years at Conn, and I have explored them through botany classes, poetry and my experience studying away in Vienna. There are many ways to feel at home, like friendship and familiarity, but we can also connect to the physical land and the history of different places. I am discovering and learning about how I come to feel at home in a place, and there are more ways than I would have thought.

Study away in Vienna, where I studied music composition and German.

## **Melanie Williams**

The Importance of Children's Literature on Child Development

There is no doubt that stories have the power to change our lives. Is it possible then that stories have the power to change the way we grow and develop in this world? This presentation explores the link between a child's interaction with children's literature and their development, both physically and socio-emotionally. Through my coursework in Human Development and English, I will further explore the importance of children's literature on social relationships, early literacy, and other markers of child development.

Global/Local Engagement: In summer 2023, I completed funded research on the importance of children's literature on early literacy development.

# **DATA, INFORMATION AND SOCIETY PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS**

## **Elizabeth Flathers**

Technology and Its Uses in Educational Administration

As the world of technology advances, are schools able to keep up? Every day we see more and more students using technology in and out of the classroom. For my pathway I took a deeper look into how technology is used in and by educational administration. Specifically focusing on both how it is used by administrators to aid in the organization and record keeping of students and how policies get put into place regarding the use of technology in classrooms.

Global/Local Engagement: Head TA for the Connecticut College Computer Science Department during the 2024-2025 School Year

## **Lexi Gudaitis**

The Relationship Between Nonprofit Organizations and Data Science

I wanted to explore the connection between nonprofit organizations and their use of data. Through my global-local engagement working for a nonprofit in Boston, Massachusetts, I had the experience of seeing the up close purpose of data and understanding how these organizations better serve their communities. Non-profit organizations and smaller businesses or companies can interact with data to help their business model and make informed decisions. The findings show how data and technology are used for more than profitability. Information about the surrounding communities, demographics, locations, cost, donors, etc., are critical components of nonprofit business models.

Global/Local Engagement: Boston Bruins Foundation, Boston, Massachusetts. As an intern I assisted in marketing, organizing, and working on community and Foundation events.

## **Alexander Jutt**

Navigating Privacy: Factors Influencing Information Sharing Decisions with Online Services

This study examines research on factors influencing users' decisions to share personal information with online services. It will explore studies on privacy behavior, cultural differences in digital environments, and risk-benefit assessments in online interactions. The study considers research on perceived benefits, risks, trust factors, and individual characteristics shaping information sharing behaviors. It also investigates how contextual elements may impact these decisions. By synthesizing findings from diverse fields, this paper aims to provide an overview of the current understanding of privacy decision-making in digital contexts.

Global/Local Engagement: July - August 2024, interned with Westchester County Board of Legislators. Researched responsible data usage for future legislation to be introduced.

## **Kayla Kasprzak**

Vulnerable Populations' Health Data Usage and Violations of Patient Privacy

Throughout my global-local engagement and other experiences I have had, I have always wondered if healthcare data is always used ethically. In this day and age, HIPAA protects us, but it must evolve in order to protect those who receive healthcare in the United States, especially those in vulnerable populations like children and the disabled. Illegal mining of healthcare data has exacerbated this issue due to inappropriate exchanges of this data that the patient might not know of. Do you know how your healthcare data is being used, and who has access to it?

Global/Local Engagement: Volunteer Institute of Autism Research (Canisius University). Input data, administered scales, interpreted data. (June 2023-July 2024)

## **Jangael Rosales**

Leveraging Research Design to Create Inclusive, Human-Centered Solutions

In unlikely ways, I've been very fortunate to immerse myself in classes that provide me with various skills and knowledge, informing me what data is and what the research process looks like. My outside-the-classroom experiences engaged me in community-building, advocating for proactive change, and guiding myself and others to resources that are available to them. I will answer my animating question by weaving all the experiences that have prepared me to engage in the world of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) research and its interdisciplinary approach to creating technologies and solutions to better the world.

Global/Local Engagement: Pittsburgh, PA, Carnegie Mellon University's Human-Computer Interaction Institute Summer REU Program as a Research Assistant, May - Present

## **Aaron Saporito**

Beyond Profit, When is Data Invaluable? - Analysis of Non-commercialized Data Use

Throughout my time at Conn, I've studied a variety of STEM fields, as well as the complex use cases of big data in building commercial empires. For instance, Google owns ~250 companies, yet their most profitable three are all targeted advertising based, relying solely on user data to curate ads and their profit. So, data is potentially quite lucrative, but what makes data valuable when we are not in search of profit? The answer to this has come to formation during my four years here through STEM and history courses, as well as my own scientific research.

Global/Local Engagement: During my sophomore and junior year summers, I worked as a bioinformatics researcher at Connecticut College through the SSRI program.

## **Isabel Schumacher**

"Data & Democracy: Driving Transparency and Efficiency in Governance

During my congressional internship this summer, I had the opportunity to create an automated vote tracker in R, providing important data to the member of Congress and his team. This experience has deepened my understanding of how data gives insight into legislative practices and the role of partisanship in Congress. As governments increasingly adopt data analytics, artificial intelligence, and automation, there is a lot of potential to streamline decision-making. This ties to my animating question which asks "How can data-driven technologies improve transparency and efficiency within democratic government processes?"

Global/Local Engagement: Congressional Internship in Washington DC, June 2024-August 2024

## **Aarasi Shrestha**

Are Public-Private Partnerships Beneficial for the Developing Economy of Nepal?

My research investigates the potential benefits of public-private partnerships (PPPs) for the developing economy of Nepal. In recent years, PPPs have gained prominence as a method to promote economic growth. In order to provide a comprehensive assessment of the impact and potential of PPPs, empirical data, case studies and information from stakeholder interviews have been used. This study also looks into Nepal's PPP policies and how they support or challenge the development of this model. A brief section examines PPPs in Greece and the United States to illustrate their operation in other parts of the world.

Global/Local Engagement: Sophomore Funded Research program (Summer 23); the research funding sponsored my tickets to Nepal, where I explored my research question

# **ENTREPRENEURSHIP PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS**

## **Alejandro Amezcua**

Empowerment of Financial Literacy in Youth Education

To encourage long-term financial stability, we aim to integrate best practices in personal finance with essential fraud prevention strategies, including risk management, debt avoidance, and building emergency savings. Educators can cultivate financial literacy and informed decision-making by combining hands-on learning experiences, digital tools, and personalized approaches. This will empower students to develop smart spending and saving habits which will lead to financial independence and secure account management.

Global/Local Engagement: Speaking to local banks to find out more about fraud prevention strategies

## **Ryan Banks**

Connecting with the Community

How can we give back to the community while also uplifting our athletic programs? I want to raise money for the basketball team, while creating a fun, competitive environment for children in the community. Through grants and/or donations, and working with the Connecticut College Alumni Association, these camps should be free for anybody to join, especially those unable to afford other camps.

Global/Local Engagement: The camps will be at Connecticut College, most likely in the summer.

## **Coco Carragher**

Bringing Animal Connection to Students at Conn

College students leave their pets behind when transitioning out of their homes. How can we reconnect students to the comfort of animal interaction while living in dorm rooms? I want to build relationships between Connecticut College students and local New London animal shelters to provide support for the community while benefiting the Connecticut College community.

Global/Local Engagement: I volunteered at a cat shelter in Spain

## **Jayson Firmin**

From NCAA to the Real World

Some characterize the “student-athlete” experience as having 2 full-time jobs, one being your academic responsibilities while the second being the overwhelming time dedication to your athletic craft and the time spent between practice, film sessions, traveling to and from games along with the allotted game time itself. That being said, are their networking and alumni connections that the average college student doesn’t have access to? Are there benefits to “working two jobs” during college to set yourself up for financial success with a “better job” post graduation?

Global/Local Engagement: Africana Studies Coursework

## **Sofie Fitzgerald**

Bringing Student-Run Swim Lessons to Connecticut College

This project aims to implement a swim lesson program at Connecticut College. Many other colleges have successfully established programs where students teach swim lessons to the local community. With support from the Holleran Center for Community Action, my goal is to create opportunities for student community engagement while increasing accessibility to swim lessons for the New London community.

Global/Local Engagement: During Spring Break of 2023, I went to Georgia With my Russian 201 class.

## **Liam Gronda**

Empowerment of Financial Literacy in Youth Education

To encourage long-term financial stability, we aim to integrate best practices in personal finance with essential fraud prevention strategies, including risk management, debt avoidance, and building emergency savings. Educators can cultivate financial literacy and informed decision-making by combining hands-on learning experiences, digital tools, and personalized approaches. This will empower students to develop smart spending and saving habits, leading to financial independence and secure account management.

Global/Local Engagement: Networked with a handful of local banks. I am partnered with Alejandro Amezcua for this presentation.

## **John Harrington**

The Importance of Early Financial Planning

Financial literacy empowers individuals and students to recognize the significance of saving early, opening retirement accounts, and establishing educational saving plans for future generations. Unfortunately, many people are still unaware of the advantages of starting these accounts early or the straightforward strategies that can lay a solid foundation for financial stability in the future.

Global/Local Engagement: JPMorgan Private Bank Summer Analyst, Greenwich CT, 9 week program, exposed to financial strategies tailored to high net worth individuals.

## **Maged Hassan**

Building Inclusive and Sustainable Educational Programs: Key Steps for Long-Term Success

My pathway has afforded me the opportunity to balance business and innovation with social impact by developing appraisal frameworks and management practices that are necessary in the educational programs. The project is concerned with the education of an entrepreneurial mindset in education and then investigates how tailored educational programs can be evaluated for their effectiveness in the promotion of long-lasting success. I have had various opportunities through internships, independent studies, and leadership that gave me an in-depth look at multiple entrepreneurship models focusing on how to realistically apply management and evaluation strategies.

Global/Local Engagement: Curriculum Design Specialist | Mastercard Foundation: Designed catalyst curriculum, enhancing soft skills for 23 young educators and managing program data collection.

## **Marina Jacob**

CCspin: Organizing Student Run Spin Classes

This project was aimed to improve the organization and efficiency of CCspin, the student-run spin class that began at Connecticut College in 2019. As the popularity of CCspin grew and class sign-ups increased, several challenges emerged, including difficulties with the sign-up system, bike maintenance, and general organization. These issues affected both student-athletes and non-athlete participants. The project aimed to address these concerns by optimizing the class management process, enhancing equipment maintenance, and streamlining overall operations to ensure a better experience for all participants.

Global/Local Engagement: Geneva, Switzerland - Spring 2024: Program focused on start-up funding in Switzerland

## **Lauren Jones**

Growing a Career as an Artist?

In this project, I have developed a plan to start selling my ceramic artwork and upgrade my ceramic studio at my house. Research includes budget, sales, planning and marketing my products.

Global/Local Engagement: Photographer and marketing manager at Camp Tapawingo in summer 2024. Role included daily photography, editing and running the social media.

## **Muhammad Garzain**

Beyond the Dining Hall: My Connecticut College Food Journey

What started as a personal battle became a powerful connection with the cafeteria staff, many of whom shared my love for spices and gave me tips to enhance my meals. They became my family away from home, making each meal an experience of care and comfort. As I near the end of my senior year, I have mastered the art of turning Harris meals into something special, no longer feeling disconnected from the joy of food. My animated question now asks: Does Harris truly meet the dietary needs of international students like me? In many ways, I've learned it's not about what's offered, but how you approach it. My relationship with food at Connecticut College has been a deeply personal and emotional journey, and I am grateful for the support and connection I found in the people who made every meal a little brighter.

Global/Local Engagement: As MSA president (2021-2022), I sought better food vendors before discovering the grill at Harris.

## **Jack Luca**

Private Credit: A Growing and Opportunistic Market



As large banks have held back on lending to risky clients, the market for private lenders has evolved with increasing fund sizes and growing business opportunities. Regulatory changes have opened a door for private credit firms to step in and provide financing. As markets continue to show volatility, investors are looking towards private credit as a safer alternative option opposed to public markets. Advancements in technology have helped private credit firms analyze risk and investment opportunities, which in turn makes the sector more attractive.

Global/Local Engagement: Summer analyst at Bank of America- Private Bank in New York City

## **Delaney Miles**

Mitigating Gentrification Through the Lens of Real Estate

Due to the influx of wealthy residents moving into lower-income neighborhoods, the socioeconomic status of the community is threatened, leading to raised costs that the natives of the neighborhood are unable to compete with. Through the lens of real estate, what solutions can be offered to enable stability within the communities that are affected by gentrification?

Global/Local Engagement: Internship at Residential Properties this past summer located in Newport, RI.

## **Alexander Mitchell**

From NCAA to the Real World

Some characterize the “student-athlete” experience as having 2 full-time jobs, one being your academic responsibilities while the second being the overwhelming time dedication to your athletic craft and the time spent between practice, film sessions, traveling to and from games along with the allotted game time itself. That being said, are their networking and alumni connections that the average college student doesn’t have access to? Are there benefits to “working two jobs” during college to set yourself up for financial success with a “better job” post graduation? (presenting with Jayson Firmin)

Global/Local Engagement: Worcester Red Sox Front Office Internship - Worcester, MA - Summer 2024

## **Clare Mulvihill**

Increasing the Accessibility of Injury Prevention/Recovery for Student-Athletes

Injury recovery is not necessarily simple for student-athletes who balance academics and athletics. Athletes do not always have time to spend an hour in the trainer’s room before practice for treatment. However, there could be ways to continue the injury recovery process by making it more accessible through an app. By creating a smartphone app, student-athletes will be able to report their progress and also have greater access to daily exercises that the trainers give them.

Global/Local Engagement: Physical Therapy Aide, Nutley, NJ, Summer 2024, I assisted physical therapists in treating patients with a wide range of injuries

## **Myles Newport**

How Liberal Arts Education Benefits Entrepreneurs

In our society today many people would describe Entrepreneurs as creative, hardworking, innovative and driven. The Liberal Arts Education system is one that fosters all of these attributes. I look to analyze how this system helps develop those who want to be entrepreneurs. I also look to analyze the economic path for Liberal Arts students who aim to be entrepreneurs.

Global/Local Engagement: CWB Private Wealth - Client Support Summer Intern, KPMG Management Consultant - ES Salesforce Summer Intern, Conn College Liberal Arts Student

## **Emily O'Rourke**

How Can the College Help Reduce Food Insecurities in Our Surrounding Community?

My project explores how Connecticut College can utilize our resources to help food insecurities in our surrounding communities. By implementing the business model of Food Recovery Network I am able to apply for a chapter to gain knowledge in our community. Everyday we see copious amounts of food waste between our two dining halls so my goal of this project is to find ways to get that food to people who need it.

Global/Local Engagement: I work at a food bank at home so I was looking to work at some food banks here.

## **Greta Panke**

How Can Students Implement More Sustainable Practices into Their Daily Lives?

This project explores how Connecticut College students can implement more sustainable practices in their daily lives, inspired by Denmark's "pant" return system. Denmark is an established leader in sustainability, ranking 1st in the 2022 Environmental Performance Index, which measures nations on various environmental health and sustainability indicators. By adopting this model, students will be encouraged to recycle bottles and cans, while independent housing will undergo sustainability checks. These initiatives emphasize the importance of waste management, crucial for an environmentally responsible future. With collective action, students can foster a culture of sustainability that benefits both campus and the wider community.

Global/Local Engagement: Studied abroad in Copenhagen, Denmark- an established leader in sustainability.

## **Christian Perugini**

Enhancing Community Engagement Through Sports Spectating Contests

Our goal was to explore strategies for enhancing community engagement at Connecticut College through sports-related initiatives. With the growing popularity of activities like sports betting and fantasy sports, we aimed to combine and leverage these trends to foster greater communal involvement among students. By developing inclusive and interactive forms of competition rooted in real-life sporting events, we seek to build on the collective passion for watching sports, creating more opportunities for social interaction and participation.

Global/Local Engagement: Interacting with students on campus throughout the past three years

## **Nate Pilson**

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Global/Local Engagement: Interacting with students on campus throughout the past three years

## **Dylan Ross**

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Global/Local Engagement: London fall-2023 saw the event of live sports spectating much differently than in the US

## **Joey Rudolph**

Harnessing AI for Personalized Wellness

My senior reflection explores the intersection of technology, wellness, and entrepreneurship through the development of a wellness retreat app leveraging artificial intelligence and data analytics. The project addresses the challenge of providing personalized retreat recommendations by analyzing user data and processing unstructured information from wellness websites. Drawing on coursework in computer science and entrepreneurship, as well as my internship experience at Qiagen, I examine web scraping, Natural Language Processing, data-driven decision-making, ethical data collection, and sustainability. This reflection highlights the interdisciplinary approach required to build a scalable app, with potential for future growth in the wellness industry.

Global/Local Engagement: Company: Qiagen, Location: Hilden, Germany (Summer 2024) – Applied AI-driven solutions to enhance treasury operations and financial data management.

## **John Russo**

The Importance of Strategic Planning for Long Term Student-Athlete Success

The goal is to help streamline Student-Athlete to Administration communication to build a better overall experience. Effective collaboration ensures students get the most practical facilities and resources they need to succeed while simultaneously providing the school the input that matters most when making the decisions about our future.

Global/Local Engagement: Internship at Connecticut Wealth Management in Farmington, CT. 11-week program. Learned a lot from leadership about effective communication.

## **Cam Schainfeld**

Connecting with the Community

How can we give back to the community while also uplifting our athletic programs? I want to raise money for the basketball team, while creating a fun, competitive environment for the children in the community. Through grants and/or donations, and working with the Connecticut College Alumni Association, these camps should be free for anybody to join, especially those unable to afford other camps.

Global/Local Engagement: The camps will be at Conn, most likely in the summer.

## **Julia Torrey**

Promoting Sustainability in the Fashion Industry

The fashion industry is one of the greatest contributors to global waste creation, producing 97 million tons of waste annually. This project focuses on the ways in which the fashion industry can successfully work to reduce its carbon footprint and improve environmental sustainability, while also balancing affordability and overcoming financial barriers for smaller brands.

Global/Local Engagement: Internship at Yates & Co, a wholesale fashion agency in Toronto. They are the exclusive Canadian distributors of international fashion labels.

## **Lucy Tretter**

Accessing Physical Therapy: A Prototype Plan for Connecticut College Dancers

Across the board there has been a consistent complaint among dancers in the department; how can we get access to physical therapy or injury prevention education? Based on my coursework as a dance major, experience with receiving physical therapy myself, and working on the dance department's student advisory board, I have come up with a prototype model for dancers to receive care. This model proposes increased collaboration between athletic trainers and dancers and suggests a more sustainable and time-efficient solution to protecting the safety of the dancers.

Global/Local Engagement: Engaged in physical therapy currently offered by the department and outside of the department. Also, participating in a dance club.

## **Zosha Trzewik-Quinn**

Accessibility in Media: How Can We Give Students the Tools to Create?

As a film studies major, I have seen firsthand the system at Conn employed to distribute equipment to students and the limitations that come along with that. Liberal arts institutions commend themselves for offering an interdisciplinary education, yet students cannot access tools to create without being a part of a film production class. Creative expression is a valuable aspect of intellectual growth, and a college campus should give any student access to equipment. I want to look at ways we can organize a new form of distribution of filmmaking tools to Connecticut College students in a collaborative process.

Global/Local Engagement: I studied abroad at the American College of Greece. I interned this summer at a film production studio, Cobalt Stages.

## **Christian Tsao**

Creating Economic Sustainability in Club Hockey

Across the United States there are 600 club hockey teams- all of which aim to give players the opportunity to play the game they love while continuing their education. However, many teams experience challenges during their season that impacts their ability to give players a high quality experience. These challenges include: receiving minimal financial support from the school, giving players a high quality experience, and access to ice rinks. To address these issues, I developed a scalable model for club hockey teams across the country to adopt to enhance their operations and improve the overall player experience.

Global/Local Engagement: New York, NY. Summer 2024. FreeWheel Revenue Intern.

## **Henrietta Waltz**

Student First, Athlete Second

As a student-athlete, I am constantly walking or driving back and forth from the athletic center to campus. This led me to my animating question, if student athletes were able to have a common area to study and meet with tutors, we could manage our time better. In my prototype, the best solution is to turn the Hall of Fame room into a multi-purpose study and film room. By adding a few desks and chairs, this would allow the AC to become a place where student athletes can study.

Global/Local Engagement: I was at the London School of Economics for three weeks and took a 201 Brand-Strategy course.

## **William Winship**

Empowering Individuals with Financial Knowledge

My animating question is "how can we effectively equip individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to make informed financial decisions?". This animating question is important to me because knowledge is power and people are held at a disadvantage because of their lack of financial knowledge. I want to explore this question because I feel it is important to give back to others and ensure that people are making proper financial decisions that will set them up for success. I hope to get out of this project giving back to others and providing people with positivity regarding their financial future.

Global/Local Engagement: My internship provided multiple companies with free financial knowledge courses to empower those in our community with knowledge.

# **FOOD PATHWAY**

## **SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS**

### **Elena Angerman**

Vine and Value: Breaking Down Perceptions of New England Wines

Personal perceptions play an essential role in the wine industry especially in New England when trying to make a statement against historically famous wines from Western Europe, California, Australia and more. Over the course of this pathway program I have been able to explore how wines in the American Northeast differ from their counterparts throughout the world. This presentation focuses on how changing perceptions of wines to be seen as more valuable and additionally how increasing wine tourism throughout New England could help wines here flourish.

Global/Local Engagement: (Study Away & Internship) My Global/Local Engagement was this past summer in NYC at Chambers St. Wines, doing research and gaining experience.

### **Claire Himmel**

Blazing Trails in Backpacking Food: Exploring Nutrition, Sustainability, and Adaptability

Backpacking food must meet a range of essential criteria: it should be lightweight, nutrient-dense, packable, and flavorful. However, balancing these factors poses challenges for backpackers seeking optimal nutrition on the trail. This project investigates the current landscape of backpacking food, identifying key areas for improvement to enhance sustainability, adaptability to varying travel lengths and group sizes, and safety in preventing illness and injury in the backcountry.

Global/Local Engagement: (Study Away & Internship)- Sustainability Intern at Good To-Go in Kittery, Maine in summer of 2023

### **Ella Rudisill**

Cultures to Canvas: Exploring Bread Baking Through Visual Art

As an anthropology major, I have learned that one way to interpret data collected in the field is through one's own artistic expression. I've always considered food an important theme in my art work and this year, after spending the summer apprenticing at a sourdough bakery, I want to connect themes around food more directly to the pieces I'm creating in the studio. From this idea, I devised the research question: How can I use my artwork to reflect on sourdough culture, baking, and community?

Global/Local Engagement: (Study Away & Internship)Apprenticed at sourdough bakeries in New England. Researched community and gift giving around bread.

### **Luke Samton**

Using Ethnic Jewish Food as a Tool to Combat Antisemitism

Ethnic Jewish food draws upon the five thousand year history of its people and is inspired by diaspora, religious law, and the hardships faced by the Jewish people. Such history means that ethnic Jewish food is diverse and vibrant. Antisemitism, the hatred of the Jewish people is ever evolving and a constant reality. There's a history of using food to build Jewish community and support in the face of hatred.

## **FOOD PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS**

Shared meals exist for every holiday and they foster support. Cooking and sharing traditional food outside of the community may be one path towards a better future.

Global/Local Engagement: (Study Away & Internship) Working at ben and jerrys and learning the food system. Doing independent research to study antisemitism



# **GOODWIN-NIERING CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS**

## **Sadie Abuhaidar**

Water Conservation in American Western Ranching: Shifting Communication to Change Practice

In the American West, there is a disconnect between regenerative ranching research and its real-life application by the actual ranchers. I want to look into what specifically causes this gap in communication between those researching and those adopting new practices and how we, as an environmental community, must shift our communication methods to work with ranchers rather than against them. I will portray my research through a graphic novel, not only showing failed and successful communication methods, but also cultural differences that may be impeding this connection.

Global/Local Engagement: I interned for Save Our Canyons, an environmental non-profit conserving the Wasatch Mountain Range in Salt Lake City, Utah.

## **Sabilah Alibhai**

Connecting People to Food Systems

In what ways have we been disconnected from our food? Who are the people that are most disconnected and why? What do we want out of our local food systems and communities? In what ways is it empowering to reconnect people to plants, and through plants to food? We all have to eat everyday, but rarely know where anything we put in our body even came from. Understanding the wants and needs of yourself and local stakeholders is essential to re-empowering people and their food.

Global/Local Engagement: Spring semester study abroad in Panama studying ecology and tourism. Internship on AgroForestry farm in Peru learning conservation and ethnobotany.

## **Ana Bermudez**

Restoring Native Orchids in the Connecticut College Arboretum: Habitat Enhancement and Education

My project aims to restore native orchids in the Connecticut College Arboretum, transforming select trailside plots into vibrant, biodiverse spaces. From August to December 2024, three trailside plots will be cleared of invasive species and prepared for the transplantation of native orchids sourced from reputable nurseries. One plot, home to a historic orchid population, will be preserved. The initiative aims to restore habitat conditions favorable for orchids while providing opportunities for public education on native plant conservation. A comprehensive report will guide future management and inspire continued educational efforts from the arboretum to the public.

Global/Local Engagement: Connecticut College Arboretum, New London CT. Curatorial Intern in Summer 2024. Conducted a comprehensive inventory of campus trees and shrubs.

## **Riley Flannery**

How Maine's Natural Environment and Maine's Tourism Industry Are Interdependent

For my Senior Integrative Project, I plan to analyze and explain the ways in which Maine's natural environment and Maine's tourism industry have a symbiotic relationship. When there is a change in the natural environment (ex: warmer oceans), there is a change in the tourism industry (ex: lobster fleeing north). This is also true vice versa. I plan to document and study these changes, as well as researching how tourism (in general, but specifically in Maine) has the opportunity to become more sustainable and foster its mutualistic relationship with the natural environment.

Global/Local Engagement: I was a GIS field assistant in Casco, Maine from May 2024-August 2024. I researched roads using mapping techniques.

## **Rowan Galanis**

PFAS in Connecticut College's Artificial Turf: Examining Health, Environmental, & Political Implications

For my SIP, I plan to focus on the recently installed artificial turf at Connecticut College, which is a significant source of PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Drawing on my experience as a student-athlete, I aim to explore the potential health risks for athletes who are regularly exposed to these chemicals. I will also investigate the environmental impacts of PFAS on the nearby Thames River by analyzing local water quality reports before and after the turf installation. Additionally, I intend to assess Connecticut's state policies on PFAS regulation.

Global/Local Engagement: I was a Marine Science and Technology intern this summer at Seaside Sustainability, a non-profit organization in Gloucester, MA

## **Hannah Guay**

Tracing the Impact: A Bibliometric Analysis of Animal Agriculture and GHG Emissions

Animal agriculture contributes to adverse environmental effects from excessive greenhouse gas emissions. My Goodwin-Niering SIP uses statistics and data analysis techniques to convey the environmental effects of animal agriculture. Further analysis will utilize a specific statistical methodology called bibliometric analysis to convey the evolution of studies over time, as well as to study trends and patterns of the topic through literature publications. My goal is to further people's understanding of this issue, as well as determine how information is being explored, and by who.

Global/Local Engagement: Conducted student research utilizing bibliometric analysis with staff over the summer at Connecticut College.

## **Skyler Kardell**

Life at the Expanding Edge

What happens when a bird shows up somewhere thousands of miles away from where it "should" be? For decades, "vagrant" birds have been misunderstood by ornithologists, birdwatchers, and nature writers. Now, with a burgeoning interest in the subject, it is time to redefine the framework we use to understand them. These birds are not "lost", but rather cognizant and capable actors that are well-suited to life on a changing planet.

Global/Local Engagement: ARSV Laurance M. Gould, "Changing Abundance of Seabirds and Marine Mammals around South Georgia in Winter"

## **Katerina Mann**

Examining Perceptions of Horseshoe Crabs Along the Long Island Sound

This project investigates the perceptions and knowledge of horseshoe crabs (*Limulus polyphemus*) among three key groups: the general public in coastal Connecticut, local fishermen, and scientists involved in horseshoe crab conservation. Given the species' critical ecological role and its declining population, understanding these perspectives is essential. By examining how these views correlate with conservation attitudes, the study aims to identify barriers and opportunities for effective conservation strategies, ultimately contributing to the protection and preservation of horseshoe crabs in the Long Island Sound.

Global/Local Engagement: Maritime Gloucester, MA, May-August 2025. Marine science internship working in their Sea Pocket aquarium doing education and animal husbandry.

## **Sophie Moniz**

Eelgrass Restoration in Long Island Sound

Eelgrass meadows in the Long Island Sound have been declining due to increased anthropogenic effects, such as intensification of storms and recreational boating. There are current restoration projects focused on repopulating the meadows, and through my project, I intend to assess the effectiveness of this restoration. In addition, I hope to examine areas with natural recruitment as well to understand how the eelgrass density is changing compared to recruited plots. My project will hopefully inform new restoration efforts in the Sound and potential policies to protect these meadows.

Global/Local Engagement: I will use data from my internship to compare the effects of boat scarring in Florida to New England.

## **Rebecca Teall**

From Tree to Book: The Dissemination of Environmental Literature

My SIP surrounds the publication, discourse, and dissemination of environmental literature. It aims to explore the factors that influence the discussions people have about environmental issues and investigate everything from what decides the introduction of new subjects in academic conversations to how it is then acquired and digested by the public. Another facet of my project is aimed at discussing the importance of creative writing and fictional stories in conveying environmentally driven themes. That is to say, how can the stories we read influence our perception and attitude toward environmental topics?

Global/Local Engagement: Acquisitions Intern at Yale University Press in New Haven, CT from June 3rd to August 2nd.

## **Noah Vernick**

Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia

Mountaintop removal mining in Appalachia has devastated the environment, destroying countless mountains while posing major health risks to local populations. During my internship at Coal River Mountain Watch, a non-profit fighting this practice, I gained insight into the coal industry's complexities

and local attitudes. I witnessed the profound impact of mountaintop removal on the environment, health, and quality of life of nearby communities. This presentation explores the far-reaching consequences of coal mining in West Virginia, examining its effects on the region's environment, public health, and poverty levels, drawing from my experiences and observations during the internship.

Global/Local Engagement: I interned at Coal River Mountain Watch in Naoma, West Virginia over my junior year summer

# HOLLERAN CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS

## **Megan Bidgood**

Understanding and Evaluating Collaborative Healthcare for Substance Use Disorder

Individuals with Substance Use Disorders (SUD) are clinically underserved due to increased health and psychiatric comorbidities, structural barriers to treatment, stigma, and insufficient resources, highlighting a need for collaborative, accessible, and culturally-competent treatment. Brigham and Women's Hospital's Bridge Clinic (BWH BC) is a multi-disciplinary SUD treatment, collaborative healthcare that transitions patients to longer-term care. Using semi-structured interviews to explore patient and provider experiences toward the BWH BC model, this study evaluates patient and provider experiences to further optimize SUD treatment. A thematic analysis is being conducted to elucidate main themes and insight.

Global/Local Engagement: NIDA Summer Internship Program, Suzuki Lab (Addiction Psychiatry Clinical Research) , Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston MA

## **Tasman Burau**

Touch Grass: Exposure to the Outdoors' Benefits on Children from Diverse Backgrounds

Despite the data that time spent outdoors benefits youth in a variety of ways, outdoor education has long been looked down on, leading to program cutbacks and closures. Increasing youth's exposure to the natural world leads to more environmentally conscious and passionate adults. Through qualitative methods such as interview and non-participant observation at Waterford Country School, this study aims to contribute new data about the benefits children from diverse backgrounds experience from increased exposure to the outdoors.

Global/Local Engagement: Internships with Enrich Mentor Program at Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School (Sophomore year) and Waterford Country School (Senior year)

## **Maricela Camargo**

Are Limited English Proficiency Patients Receiving Equitable Care in Our Healthcare System?

Language barriers in healthcare pose significant challenges for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) patients, affecting their access to quality care and adherence to treatments. This project investigates the patient care experience of LEP individuals at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, evaluating the effectiveness of medical interpretation services. Through informal interviews and observations, feedback was gathered from LEP patients regarding interpretation services and overall care. A new Bilingual Volunteer Role was created to support language services. Findings reveal a preference for in-person interpreters and inconsistent use of interpretation tools by healthcare providers. This work will culminate in a presentation to the PFAC.

Global/Local Engagement: Current Bilingual Safety Volunteer at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London, rounding on Spanish-speaking patients since sophomore year.

## **Bella Castellanos Palacios**

The Impacts of US Educational Policies on Mexican-American Students

This research examines the impact of U.S. educational policies, focusing on Affirmative Action, on the academic success of U.S.-born Mexican-American students at Connecticut College. It explores how systemic barriers like inadequate resources, standardized testing, and cultural alienation affect their success. Through a sociological and policy-based lens, the study investigates how these policies may contribute to or worsen challenges faced by Mexican American students, especially after Affirmative Action's repeal. Using qualitative and quantitative methods, the research aims to develop equitable educational strategies and provide policy recommendations to benefit underrepresented students in U.S. higher education.

Global/Local Engagement: Throughout the school year, Enrich Mentorship Program at BDJMS improves students' academic, social-emotional, and self-regulation skills.

## **Niamani David**

Empowering Identity: The POCA Spring 2025 Fashion Show and Community Celebration

This study examines the execution of the 4th Annual POCA Spring 2025 Fashion Show to explore the significance of fashion as a tool for fostering community among students of color at small liberal arts colleges. This study demonstrates how fashion shows create spaces for marginalized communities of color to assert themselves, challenge traditional norms, and build solidarity. Survey data will be collected to evaluate the show's success in achieving its community-building goals. This project emphasizes how fashion is a means of creating meaningful social engagement and offering platforms for underrepresented voices to be seen and heard.

Global/Local Engagement: Via Transportation Inc., NYC: Summer 2024 Support Operations intern, focused on data-driven, equitable, sustainable transportation solutions. Six-week internship.

## **Abby Dawson**

Reclaiming Childhood: Mitigating The Effects of Premature Screen Use with Arts Education

The rise in screen use among children has sparked concerns about its impact on classroom behavior and social-emotional skills. Teachers are quitting at alarming rates due to unprecedented behaviors linked to premature screen use. Research demonstrates the detrimental effects of prolonged screen time on developing brains due to their addictive nature. I propose that arts-based education can offset these effects, as it helps children develop life skills, conceptualize complex feelings, and build community. I will compare the effects of screen time and arts education on development to develop strategies to mitigate related behaviors and advocate for arts funding.

Global/Local Engagement: Shadowing Connecticut College Lab School & New London Public Schools

## **Hallie Farr**

Who Picks Up the Slack?

This project asks how women have advocated for themselves and created networks of mutual aid considering inadequate, gendered, and often non-existent welfare systems. I will begin with the history of

the 20th-century American welfare state and the exclusions and assumptions about gender and the family built into it. I will then examine examples of women-led groups, from the early 20th-century labor movement to the movements that emerged from Second-Wave Feminism and the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, culminating in a primary-source-based study of one organization and the lessons it offers us today.

Global/Local Engagement: English Teaching Assistant at CEIP Colegio Gregorio Marañón in Toledo, Spain from February to June 2025.

## **Ana Flood**

Communities of Care

This research aims to explore the foundational elements that underpin “communities of care”—interconnected webs of resources and support that effectively respond to the unique needs of community members. It identifies how the creation of such communities provides comfort, validation, and material resources for those who face adversities often invisible to the broader public. Through community-driven initiatives, this presentation considers how collective responsibility and compassion empower communities to uncover systemic hardships and foster effective, sustainable solutions to address them.

Global/Local Engagement: Forest Foundation. Boston, Massachusetts. 10 week fellowship and internship with a local non-profit.

## **Amelia Greenwald**

Reforming College Admissions: Improving Admissions Outcomes in Major Cities

In the United States, educational outcomes are dramatically influenced by disparities in funding, opportunities, and resources in major cities. Students in underserved urban areas often face lower academic achievement due to overcrowded schools, economic inequality, and limited access to quality teachers and educational materials. This study focuses on the inequities prevalent in school systems within central cities and their substantial impacts on higher education outcomes. Attention is given to the disparities that exist within college admissions when reviewing students from underserved schools or regions, both at the moment of application and in assessing academic achievement in these contexts.

Global/Local Engagement: Hudson Guild, New York, NY. Summer 2023. Marthas Vineyard Museum. Summer 2024

## **Ian Hopkins**

Plight of the Negro: Higher Education

Black people as a whole have the lowest 6-year graduation rate out of any race and black men specifically have the lowest 6-year graduation rate amongst all demographics in college. After examining his personal issues with higher education in his film “Deficit”, Ian Hopkins seeks to better understand these struggles as symptoms of a national problem among black students. The film interviews black people of various educational backgrounds from graduate students, dropouts, returning students, and those who opted to avoid college to shed light on the personal stories behind the national problem.

Global/Local Engagement: Interviews with people locally and all over the country.

## **Aiza Malinias**

Effects of Asian American Invisibility in the U.S. Education System

This research argues that institutionalized Asian American (AA) erasure within the United States education system contributes to systemic racism, affecting both identity formation and educational equity for individuals of Asian descent. Using a mixed-methods approach, this research will combine quantitative content analysis of textbooks to evaluate the representation of AA history, along with a confidential survey to gather insights from educators and students about the teaching of AA history at Connecticut College. The overall aim of this study is to combat AA erasure by integrating AA history and contributions into the K-12 curriculum.

Global/Local Engagement: Make Us Visible is a non-profit organization where I participated in an online fellowship for over a year.

## **Manuela Monsalve**

The Intersection of Sleep, Culture, and Health

This study investigates the physiological effects of sleep patterns on Hispanic college students, focusing on metrics gathered through the HeartMath app. Hispanic communities face unique health challenges, often driven by stress, sleep deprivation, and mental health concerns. College students, who encounter similar stressors, serve as an ideal population for examining how these factors influence physiological health. Paired with a literature review on the health impacts of sleep disparities in Hispanic populations, this research aims to reveal insights into the links between sleep quality and health, highlighting potential areas for support and intervention in both student and broader Hispanic communities.

Global/Local Engagement: Sophomore Research Internship; L&M Hospital

## **Kassandra Olmedo**

Behind the Tips

This study examines tipping and its stigma across time utilizing an intersectional lens. We provide a brief history of tipping, historical patterns of workers who are tipped, and how tipped work is racialized and classed. We will explore two historical case studies, Pullman Porters and flight attendants, to further demonstrate how tipped work has been differentially raced and gendered in the 20th century and connect these histories with current workers (Grubhub, Uber drivers, etc.). The backlash after the pandemic against tipping is read through these histories to understand why there is a highly emotional response to tipping prompts today.

Global/Local Engagement: Research assistantship with Professor Rotramel on casino cocktail servers through the ConnSSHARP. November 2022-January 2023, June 2023-August 2023

## **Melanie Rollins**

Partnerships for Social Change: A Case Study of the Holleran Center



University-community partnerships are collaborative initiatives between academic institutions and local communities, designed to foster mutual benefits through shared resources and knowledge exchange. This study examines the outcomes of these partnerships, focusing on the dynamic relationship between university students and community partners, as well as the extent to which both groups experience mutual benefits. The research posits that the organizational structure of these partnerships plays a crucial role in their effectiveness. By understanding the mechanisms behind successful partnerships, this research aims to inform more equitable and impactful practices for both universities and their community partners.

Global/Local Engagement: Hearing Youth Voices is a New London student-led nonprofit organization designed to develop students of color into skilled leaders.

## **Mia Rubino**

Unrecognized Barriers: Narrative Exploration of Mental Healthcare Experiences of Second-Gen Latinos

The inaccessibility of mental health services among ethnic minority populations is often attributed to neatly categorized “cultural” factors or “structural” factors, as is seen in research regarding under-usage of such services among Latino populations. This study seeks to examine the interaction between such phenomena using narrative data from interviews with second generation immigrants of Central and South American heritage, while assessing the local resources that are available to the interviewees. The findings from this study will provide crucial information for the development of informed and culturally competent services aimed at second generation immigrants.

Global/Local Engagement: I studied in Toledo, Spain for the entirety of the Spring 2024 semester. I studied Spanish and social psychology.

## **Karina Solis**

A Look into Mental Health Care Disparities Among Hispanic Populations

Social justice and health inequities have traditionally been addressed by focusing on increasing access to resources. This often overlooks the deeper issue that the systems and services are not sufficiently diverse to meet the unique needs of different populations. The gap in culturally competent care has led to significant disparities in treatment outcomes for Hispanic communities. Mental health services frequently fail due to a lack of cultural competence, diversity, system flexibility to meet needs. This study aims to explore how enhancing diversity and cultural awareness can create a more effective and inclusive mental health care.

Global/Local Engagement: I have worked with New London organizations addressing health, education, and career inequities over several semesters during my time here.

# **MEDIA RHETORIC AND COMMUNICATION PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS**

## **Victor Alayande**

How Does Media Affect Mental Health?

To understand the current state of mental health in the Western World we must consider an often-overlooked factor: media consumption. Today's generations are exposed to various media from infancy, yet our understanding of its impact on mental health remains in its early stages. In my presentation, I will draw on my professional experience, which provides insights into the decision-making processes behind media production, and connect these insights with my academic studies in psychology. This will allow me to offer a personal perspective on the significant relationship between media consumption and mental well-being.

Global/Local Engagement: Internship at Level Forward, in New York City, from March 2024 till present. Work with producers to make projects happen.

## **Madeleine Au**

Leveraging Social Media: How Politicians Engage and Connect with Younger Generations

In today's tech-driven world, politicians globally use social media to promote themselves, their campaigns, and missions, especially to younger generations. Majority of Generation Z, born between 1997 and 2012, is now eligible to vote, making social media crucial in reaching them. During the summer of 2024, I worked as a Communications intern for both the Mayor of Honolulu and Pineapple Tweed, a PR agency, producing media content for both. Drawing on these experiences, I aim to explore how politicians effectively engage younger voters through social media, using this project to examine the strategies and impact of these efforts.

Global/Local Engagement: Communications intern for Mayor Rick Blangiardi and PR firm Pineapple Tweed on Oahu over 10 weeks May-August, 2024.

## **Jocelyn Bieler**

Lost in Translation at Work? Human Solutions Beyond AI

AI translation tools have made communication more accessible, but often strip away the cultural and emotional nuances of language. While AI can handle multiple languages, it lacks cultural understanding, reducing the richness of human interaction. This project emphasizes the importance of learning new languages beyond the workplace to foster genuine connections. Although English is widely used, many still struggle with it. It's crucial to empathize with these challenges and engage with people in their native languages. By doing so, we create more inclusive environments and bridge gaps in understanding that technology alone cannot address.

Global/Local Engagement: Almach Art Gallery, Milan Italy, February-May 2024 Part Time Intern, Translator, and Data Entry Clerk

## **Caitlin Cass**

How Social Media Harms Us: The Problem for Young Users

There has been increasing research on how social media can be incredibly harmful to its users' mental health. I will look at the different ways that marketing targets user's interests, which can feed them increasing amounts of negative content. Similarly, social media users frequently compare themselves to their peers who are posting "fun" content, which can lead to users feeling socially excluded. I have studied social media in my global engagement and also work in the Hale Center doing social media so I also have this experience to add to my presentation.

Global/Local Engagement: Study abroad at ACG (Athens), where I studied social media classes.  
Internship as a Marketing & Communications Fellow in Hale Center.

## **Chloe Davis**

Schadenfreude and Scrutiny: The Gendered Game of Cancel Culture

A deep dive into how society reacts with celebrities through social media in varied ways, more specifically in regards to the recent trends in cancel culture. Asking the question: who gets canceled and why are some public figures given grace to move on with their careers, while other public figures are wiped from the internet after weeks of mockery and death threats? My research will focus specifically on the relationship social media allows us to have with public figures while crediting the phenomenon of schadenfreude and misogyny for the reason for why female figures face a higher degree of scrutiny.

Global/Local Engagement: Boston Casting(May-August 2023)~25 hpw. Allston, MA & Content Intern: MIH(May-August 2024)~40 hpw. Scituate, MA.

## **Victoria Edwards**

Cultivating Identity: Social Media's Impact on Self

Social media plays a vital role in our sense of self. It's begun to influence and shape the ways we portray ourselves, both online and offline. Your algorithm pushes trends on to you, making it easy to get caught up in trying to fit into what society deems as "right". Not only our social identities are influenced by social media, but also our political selves. Social media has become a key way for people to spread their political ideas, and therefore we are digesting the political rhetoric of others, which can influence our own ideas and values.

Global/Local Engagement: Monroe County Democratic Committee as a Communications Intern (Summer 2024). Worked on social media, convention scripts, and did opposition research.

## **Angelica Estrella**

How to Make a Gangster

I've grown attached to the connection between social media and the curation of identity. Sophomore year I too grew interested in the connection between Boston's inner city and its relationship to identity performance. I wonder why inner city boys grow unbreakable bonds with the streets they grew up on, not as concerned with establishing relationships with others outside of their geographic ties. I will be exploring

how it is that social media plays a part in convincing inner city youth they are better off repeating destructive cycles than believing they deserve anything outside the ghetto.

Global/Local Engagement: Boston Community Pediatric, 9 am - 5 pm ,05/2023 - 07/2023: I worked as a social media intern

## **Lucy Meyer**

How has Social Media Impacted the Visibility of Women's Sports?

Women's sports has often been under-represented and overlooked by sports media outlets for the longest time, but with the increase in the usage of more personalized social media platforms like Instagram and Tik Tok these athletes can use their own voices and perspectives to grow their teams fanbases. Especially in the past couple of years, there has been an incredible rise in the visibility and positive coverage of women's sports and I plan to investigate and prove how social media has been the biggest reason for this surge.

Global/Local Engagement: Riverside, CT (May - August 2025) internship with jewelry designer Katie Bartels, help with social media, marketing, curating collection

## **Jason Pittner**

Do Television Portrayals of Teenage Boys Perpetuate Hegemonic Masculinity in Workplace Dynamics?

My project examines how media portrayals of teenage boys in shows like Elite and Young Royals perpetuate hegemonic masculinity, impacting men's mental health and workplace dynamics. These portrayals contribute to depression, anxiety, and sexual insecurities in both queer and heterosexual adult men. During my internship at Bally's Casino & Resort, I worked in HR to address toxic masculinity in workplace norms. By combining sociology and mathematics, I used both quantitative and qualitative analysis to assess stereotypes in media, emphasizing the need to challenge harmful norms to foster more inclusive and equitable environments.

Global/Local Engagement: Human Resources Intern at Bally's Casino & Resort in Atlantic City, NJ (Summer 2023)

## **Claire Protano**

Subjective Fact: Constructions of the Documentary Genre

When we consider the different genres of media we consume, one often places film within a strict binary of fiction versus non-fiction. Without question, documentaries are associated with this latter category. However, while these formal narrative choices suggest the accurate re-telling of an experienced past or present, what audiences often fail to acknowledge are the actual processes of mediation and construction involved within the content we consume. Therefore, when we engage with the documentary genre we must first stop to consider how this information has been curated to impose a particular ideological perspective about the world around us.

Global/Local Engagement: I worked as Antiques Roadshow's Summer Editorial Intern at GBH in Boston from June to late August of 2024.

## **Claire Sammons**

Gen Z Financial Well-Being: Modernizing Budgeting & Saving for a Balanced Lifestyle

Gen Z is shaping financial literacy and mental health, driven by digital nativity and a desire for authenticity. Influencers are playing a huge role, often leading to impulse purchases that aren't financially sustainable. Social media has made it easier to spend without considering financial stability, which can undermine future planning, like saving for retirement. Having grown up with parents in finance, I've had an early understanding of financial literacy, but I know many in my generation didn't have that advantage. I aim to encourage fellow Gen Zers to prioritize financial literacy, budgeting, and long-term planning.

Global/Local Engagement: 12-week internship with HerMoney and Baxter Healthcare Credit Union (Vernon Hills, IL). Created an influencer campaign and completed independent study.

## **Chloe Therrien**

How Has the Evolution of Media Technology Made Filmmaking More accessible?

In a world where cutting edge camera and audio technology becomes more accessible to the average person, it is easier for individuals to fill the roles of professional filmmakers. While completing an internship for Ecast Productions as a PA in the summer of 2024, I was exposed to a professional filming setting. In the spring of 2024, I was able to create a music video using no other camera but my iPhone. In my project, I aim to point out the ways in which it is possible to film videos in an accessible way.

Global/Local Engagement: Ecast Productions, Watertown, MA: Summer 2024 Internship - Worked on film sets, aided in the production of commercials for corporate companies.

## **Hayden Whisnand**

Do Depictions of Addiction in the Media Contribute to Stigmatizing the Disease?

Whether it be through TV, movies, music, or social media there is an odd binary between substance abuse being seen as either cool or disgraceful. 46.3 million people in the United States were classified as having a substance use disorder. We see the disease and those suffering from it, too often vilified or glorified especially in the media. The representations we see contribute to our understanding and these incomplete and the usually inaccurate portrayals advance the rhetoric that stigmatizes substance abuse. These depictions are filled with bias and have far reaching implications for those who are afflicted.

Global/Local Engagement: Research assistant for published photography and art book. Mostly in Los Angeles over a year.

## **Terrell Wright**

How Can a Liberal Arts Curriculum Prepare You for a Journalism Career?

Organizations like Gannett and Sinclair Broadcasting Group have purchased local news organizations, eroded newsrooms, and reduced staff. Local independent papers are struggling to keep their printers running and trust in news organizations is at all-time lows. Coming to college, I worried a liberal arts

education would prevent me from attaining a start to becoming a reporter. Conn doesn't have a journalism major and there are few opportunities to report on campus. However, the liberal arts has taught me how to have a critical worldview that can prepare me for a successful career in journalism.

Global/Local Engagement: This past summer, I chronicled the American economy as an economics intern at The Wall Street Journal in New York.

## **Dasha Zdvizhkova**

Think Before You Speak: What Neurolinguistics Can Tell Us

Language is a complex, complicated, and innately human act, deserving of exploration through the full breadth of academic disciplines. In the new age of neuroimaging, neuroscience is telling us more about language than we have ever known before. The emergence of corporate-owned consumer-oriented large language models and generative AI makes the study of human language all the more consequential. Language is not merely a means of communication; it encapsulates our cognition, emotions, cultural identities, and all else that makes us human. Language is more than just words—it's a window into the mind.

Global/Local Engagement: Attended educational programs over a month in Belgium and the Netherlands. Attended lectures on psycholinguistics and computational linguistics.

# MUSEUM STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS

## **Emily Castano**

The Experience: Accessible Museum Design and Education

Making museums accessible in their design and education for people with physical and developmental disabilities is essential. Accessibility is making services and environments usable and comfortable for as many people as possible including people with disabilities. This project will analyze museums' physical design and spatial experience to accommodate all groups of people. Understanding methods on how museums can be inaccessible for individuals with disabilities and how to improve accessibility through the physical and educational experience so all visitors can have a comfortable and desirable experience.

Global/Local Engagement: Summer 2024 internship at Becca Interiors, along with a position at Alum Calla McNamara '10 interior design studio, Calla Cane.

## **Jonathan Dayan**

"Hardships of New Mexico": Expanding Access to Untold Stories Through Digital Collections

It has always been a challenge to research hidden histories as wealthy, white, and male perspectives are privileged in the historical record, and the documents that tell unseen stories are often not prioritized for digitization. My website seeks to make understudied histories accessible as I explore Jicarilla Apache land use and 1920's ranch labor at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM, along with the creation of a publicly accessible archive of all my primary sources. This project seeks to increase access to not only historical documents, but personal stories that were once untold.

Global/Local Engagement: 10 weeks of research at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron NM.

## **Bella Donatelli**

Redefining Female Narratives and Social Expectations through Movement and Comparative Mythology

Mythology possesses inexhaustible social, moral, and ideological elements; reflecting cultures across the world and through time, each with their own evolving narrative. This digital exhibition, to be perceived, contains excerpts from a choreographed work seeking to challenge and redefine modern female narratives and social expectations through movement and performance. Ancient Greek, Roman, and other mythologies often revolve around misogynistic and perverted ideals that carry a significant hold in present-day perceptions of women's freedoms, rights, and expectations. to be perceived seeks to redefine these elements to align with how myself and my cast wish to be seen.

Global/Local Engagement: I studied abroad in London for dance (Spring 2024) and was a remote digital marketing intern for 4AArts (Summer 2023)

## **Scott Ernsberger**

Translating Death: The Processes and Pitfalls of Cross-Cultural Mortuary Exhibition

Mortuary rites are regularly regarded as some of the earliest examples of culture and religion in human history. It is no surprise that amassing information surrounding the rituals and myths of death has gripped so many scholars and the wider exhibitionary complex within museums. The barriers crossed in exhibiting such information impacts it, risking mistranslation and disrespect to often the most important and sacred beliefs of a culture. In analyzing the path of information from excavation to exhibition, this project displays how to navigate such a delicate and taboo topic in the face of North America's colonial history.

Global/Local Engagement: Bioarchaeology Field School in Sanpetru, Romania, Summer of 2023, including the excavation of a churchyard and skeletal analysis

## **Sofie Johnson**

Eadweard Muybridge: The History of Horses in Motion

For centuries, artists have been drawn to the beauty and power of horses and portrayed them in their work. Many artworks showed horses in unrealistic positions and poses, based on imagination rather than observation. This changed in the late 19th century, when Eadweard Muybridge, a pioneering photographer, captured the true motion of horses through his groundbreaking "Animal Locomotion" series. I will focus on curating my own digital exhibition, Eadweard Muybridge: The Art of Motion, showing how Muybridge's work transformed equine art, and how his impact is still prevalent in the art world today.

Global/Local Engagement: I worked at both the Concord Museum and The Concord Art Association during the summer of 2024.

## **Madeline Lenthall**

Marketing in House Museums Before and After Covid

The purpose of this project is to investigate how museums adapted their marketing strategies in response to COVID-19 and assess its impact on visitor numbers. I will reach out to house museums in the New London area to discuss how they adjusted their marketing strategies during the pandemic. My goal is to analyze visitor data from before and after COVID-19 to identify trends and the impact of new strategies, such as digital marketing, virtual tours, or community engagement, and assess whether these changes led to an increase in visitor numbers.

Global/Local Engagement: Over the summer, I interned at the Bradford House in Washington, PA, learning about the museum and visitor center operations.

## **Grace Mattaliano**

Inaccessibility and Hidden Disabilities: Alternatives to Wheat Starch Paste in Paper Conservation

In the field of art conservation, specifically the conservation of paper, wheat starch paste (WSP) is one of the most common adhesives used for treatments. However, this paste also includes one of the "Big Nine" allergens as the main ingredient: wheat. While versatile and integral to paper conservation, WSP can potentially bar aspiring paper conservators with wheat allergy and celiac disease from entering the field. My project will focus on experimenting with viable alternatives for WSP. A successful alternative will



improve accessibility to the profession for people with these hidden disabilities, or conservators with limited access to WSP itself.

Global/Local Engagement: I was a pre-program art conservation intern at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, GA in the summer of 2024.

## **Leila Merhi**

Museum Work in the Context of Community-Based Education and Activism

Although museums have historically been institutions of cultural hierarchy, the work done through the field, like curating, education, and platforming artists, can serve a broader community purpose. Museum work can be used to tell underrepresented community stories, including narratives that typically aren't represented in school curriculums. This is especially important for marginalized communities, whose narratives are often left out in normative education spaces. Caribbean Equality Project, a Queer Caribbean justice organization based in New York City, provides an example of the expansive possibilities of museum work outside of a traditional museum or archival space.

Global/Local Engagement: I spent 2 months working for Caribbean Equality Project in NYC completing an exhibition catalog and a virtual exhibit.

## **Ian Ross**

Connecticut College: History of the Weird

Connecticut College: History of the Weird, takes you on a journey into the more obscure parts of our college's past. The first section of the exhibit is The Campus We Never Had; from other places where CC could have been, to visions of campus that never came to be. In the other half of the exhibit, Strange Stories, two unique moments in campus history are examined, one in 1968 and the other from 1753 before the college was even here. I invite you to join this inquiry into the most unique aspects of the home of the Camels.

Global/Local Engagement: I engaged with the College archives in the Linda Lear center this past year to research materials for exhibit creation.

## **Abigail Shields**

The Role and Perception of Color in the Classical World

This project explores the cultural, artistic, and symbolic significance of color in the ancient world, focusing on how the peoples of Greece and Rome perceived, utilized, and represented color in their daily lives, religious practices, and artistic expressions. Despite the modern misconception of the "white marble" ideal, classical civilizations embraced vibrant palettes in their art, textiles, and monuments. By examining literary sources, archaeological findings, and modern scientific techniques like pigment analysis, this project highlights the importance of color in understanding the visual and cultural landscape of antiquity.

Global/Local Engagement: I did the Archaeological Conservation Institute trip with Professor Alchermes, and did it as a paid internship 2 summers ago.

## **Tessa Stayton**

The Ethics of Displaying Human Remains in Museums

People have been collecting and analyzing human remains for centuries. From Egyptian tomb robbers to early scientists attempting to “prove” white superiority, these remains were rarely obtained ethically or with respectful intentions. Nowadays, many museums are facing a great deal of critique regarding the repatriation of human remains. How can future policies in the field of museum studies encompass more modern perspectives on the ethics of displaying human remains in museums?

Global/Local Engagement: Spring 2024 - worked with Ulster Museum in Belfast, Northern Ireland, providing support and information to visitors

## **Kathryn Suplee**

Improving Museums Through Visitor Interactions with Exhibitions

My project involves writing a grant proposal which a museum could submit for funding. The proposal details the use of motion sensing and tracking technology to understand the movement of people through exhibition spaces. This information will help to inform decisions about the curatorial content of exhibitions, as well as the placing of objects in the exhibition to promote more engagement. The goal is to encourage participation between visitors and the curated material, and understand why this engagement occurs. It will help curators and the collections employees make informed decisions about exhibitions, to create more engaging exhibitions.

Global/Local Engagement: Mystic Seaport Museum working in the collections during Senior fall.

# PEACE AND CONFLICT PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS

## **Calvin Bates**

Rhetoric vs. Reality: The War on Terror

This presentation attempts to identify the inconsistencies of what the American government claims they were attempting to accomplish in the War on Terror, the rhetoric, versus what they were actually doing, the reality. Spanning for 20 years, the westernized narrative on the war was consistent: America was good, terrorists were evil. However, in the Middle East, the discourse changed, frustration, fear, and vengeful sentiments emerged, yet the United States refused to listen. This questions valuing the ulterior perspective of the Afghan and Iraqi populations, and if their opinion was reflective of the reality of the War on Terror.

Global/Local Engagement: Summer of 2023, I interned at a Law Firm in VT as a legal assistant.

## **Nikki Boisvert**

The Burdens of Environmental Justice

Low income and communities of color are most affected by environmental issues such as pollution and toxic waste dumping. In Boston, those who live in Chinatown experience the worst air quality in the entire state of Massachusetts. In Flint, Michigan, a switch of the water supply created a catastrophe of monumental proportions. This change killed at least 12 people, caused birth defects and mental health issues, as well as increasing the amount of children with learning disabilities such as ADHD. In my symposium presentation, I will get into the logistics of how and why the government allows this to happen.

Global/Local Engagement: Substitute teaching in Lebanon NH from March 2022 to now. Taught reading, social studies, math, solved problems at recess

## **Jane Brewer**

Did Schools Desegregate after Brown v. Board?

Public education was forever changed with the passing of Brown v. Board, mandating national desegregation of public schools. Civil rights activists believed that if their children had access to the better funded white schools, their children would succeed academically. Despite this hope, activists and the federal government failed to consider the consequences of residential segregation on schooling. The federal government attempted to withhold funding if schools did not desegregate, creating policies that further alienated Black students, retroactively attempting to fix this. In my presentation, I aim to present how white supremacy persisted through education structures in the years following Brown.

Global/Local Engagement: Volunteering at the Lab School during the fall semester of my Junior year, where I observed behavior/lab reports.

## **Alexander Meyer**

What Effects Do National Personifications Have on Perception of the Nation?

From Uncle Sam to Amaterasu, nations the world over share an affinity for the creation of a national personification, an anthropomorphized ideal of what the nation is and what it stands for. In times of both war and peace the national personification can be found in all forms of media, standing in for the nation or state as a whole. What effects do anthropomorphization have on public perception of the nation? Are one's connections to their nation strengthened by association with a human figure? Images of national personifications exist all across the world, what accounts for their widespread existence?

Global/Local Engagement: During the summer 2024 I spent 5 weeks in Switzerland working with the NGO, GCSP, on areas of international-relations.

## **Jilly Pearson**

The Role of Propaganda in Colonial Institutions

I will examine the role of words and images in conflict, particularly how colonial institutions use them to justify violence and inequality or to placate a community. I will draw from several case studies that I have explored in my History and Classic courses including Roman provincial governments, French propaganda on the colonialization of Algeria, propaganda put out by the Indian state on Kashmir, and scouting movements as used by British colonial institutions for propaganda in Mandate Palestine. Finally, I will assess how the same methods used by colonial institutions to oppress can be reformed to liberate.

Global/Local Engagement: In Summer 2024 I did archival research to prepare educational materials for the Black Student Fund in Washington, DC.

## **Lily Rosan**

UNESCO World Heritage: A Tool for Peace or Problems?

The UNESCO World Heritage Program designates cultural and natural sites of "outstanding universal value" around the globe. But, what does "universal value" actually entail and who should get to decide which sites make the cut? Questions like these are debated around the world by state governments, local and indigenous communities, and conservators looking to protect heritage in danger, and each of these groups of stakeholders has a different agenda with different priorities. I will explore these points of conflict, asking whether it's possible to reshape the World Heritage Program into a tool that can promote intercultural tolerance and peace.

Global/Local Engagement: I spent my Junior spring studying Classics in Rome, Italy at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies.

# **PUBLIC HEALTH PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS**

## **Day Baez**

Building Trust and Health Equity: Addressing COVID19 Vaccine Uptake in Latine Communities

This project explores how practices such as culturally tailored communication, trusted messengers, and language-specific translations can combat COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and improve vaccine uptake in Latine communities. By leveraging factors including evidence-based messaging and understanding the impact of historical trauma, my proposal seeks to rebuild trust and promote equitable healthcare. Insights from public health, statistics, and real-world experiences will guide the proposal and the issue of vaccine disparities. Addressing these topics is vital for promoting equitable health access and reducing systemic disparities affecting Latine populations.

Global/Local Engagement: Brown University, Summer 2023: Analyzed health survey data on dementia in immigrant patients with limited English proficiency.

## **Romi Bagdasarian**

Trauma and Its Effects on the Well-being of Pediatric Populations

Trauma can impact people in any walk of life; yet, trauma often occurs in children and is passed down intergenerationally. Previous research studies have found that adverse childhood experiences and intergenerational trauma are often catalysts for childhood trauma. If trauma is not dealt with at a young age, it can be passed on for generations and cause detrimental issues to well-being. There is a current need for trauma-centered policies in pediatrician's offices and empathy-building programs in schools to mitigate the effects that intergenerational trauma has on the well-being of children, especially those facing health disparities.

Global/Local Engagement: AVREQ centre for the afterlife of violence and the reparative quest for intergenerational trauma in Stellenbosch, South Africa July 2023

## **Sara Braslow**

Addressing Eating Disorders in NCAA Women's Distance Running

Despite nearly half of NCAA female distance runners screening positive for eating disorder risk (Krebs et al., 2019), the NCAA does not currently have a standardized protocol for the prevention and treatment of eating disorders. This leaves many athletes and coaches to deal with the issue on their own, risking the deterioration of life-threatening symptoms. To address this, I used research-based evidence to develop NCAA-wide policies to protect the health of female athletes.

Global/Local Engagement: Worked as a Research Assistant in the ASH Lab this past summer. Assisted with experiments and inputting data into spreadsheets.

## **Caroline Bruce**

Addressing Key Challenges with Tuberculosis and Enhancing Prevention Strategies in South Africa

South Africa remains one of the most populated countries with its citizens affected by tuberculosis. Significant strides have been taken since 2010 to mitigate the crisis worldwide. However, tuberculosis is an airborne infection, caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in the lungs. This project will examine the prevalence of tuberculosis in South Africa and the challenges surrounding obtaining care. Further, I will analyze prevention approaches and re-evaluate policies and programs that can reduce tuberculosis in South Africa. Patients should receive a booster 15 years after receiving the initial TB vaccination.

Global/Local Engagement: Studied Public Health at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Summer 2023. Focused on infectious, communicable diseases, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis

## **Lauren Bryant**

Impacts of Community Based Comprehensive Sex Education on LGBTQ Adolescents' Wellbeing

Sex Education is compulsory in 30 states and D.C., while HIV/AIDS prevention is required in 39; however, in many places in the U.S. it is far from comprehensive (WHO, 2023). Sex and relationship education (SRE) is proven to prevent the spread of STIs and reduce sexual assault. SRE becomes more complex in the context of LGBTQ adolescents due to support and resources often lacking. Bans on sex education and anti-LGBTQ legislation pose additional challenges in providing necessary material. This project aims to evaluate and enhance community based SRE as a means of supporting LGBTQ-identifying adolescents.

Global/Local Engagement: Amsterdam, The Netherlands: working as an Intern for an online, community based sex education learning platform, from April-May.

## **Bella Chiappa**

Mental Health Literacy for Elementary Students

About 1 in 6 school-aged children will have symptoms that can lead to a diagnosis of a childhood mental disorder. The transition from elementary school to middle school poses many difficult challenges for a child. Adolescence is marked as a time of immense change both physically and psychologically. Many students report that during middle school their mental health struggles either begin or worsen. In this project, I propose an integrative evidence-based national curriculum in response to the salient challenges of this transition phase.

Global/Local Engagement: Student teacher in Italy and shadowing a school social worker.

## **Elena Crowell**

Factors Affecting Case Substantiation in the Child Welfare System

Child maltreatment affects many children worldwide and can cause long lasting effects. The factors affecting child maltreatment are a public health issue because the wellbeing of children is a health issue. By looking at the factors that affect whether or not a case will be substantiated, when there is enough evidence to prove maltreatment occurs, you can look at trends and hopefully put measures in place to prevent children from being harmed. By providing families and children with those supports, we can best protect them and improve the health of children overall.

Global/Local Engagement: Working in positions requiring mandated reporting of maltreatment in CT, PA, and MA

## **Ashley Currao**

Effects of Kindness on Mental Health in Young Neurodiverse Populations

Prosocial behaviors benefit both the giver and receiver of kindness, but to what extent? After an evidence-based literature review on this question, I propose a program to reduce stigma towards young neurodivergent populations in elementary education through interactive activities. The program's strengths are the integration of kindness through multiple contexts of students' lives. A limit may be children's short attention spans and that each grade has different conceptualizations of kindness. Learning about this topic applies to my future career in clinical psychology by seeing the relationship between a kind environment and mental health in kids.

Global/Local Engagement: Connecticut College Child Development Lab School, New London CT Summer 2023. Research about kindness in classroom with Professor Marulis

## **Ella Davidyock**

Enhancing Injury Prevention: Integrating Physical Therapy into College Athletics to Reduce Injuries

In college athletics, the prevalence of sports-related injuries can be a significant concern for athletes, coaches, and healthcare professionals. This project explores the role of physical therapy measures in injury prevention. Current barriers to implementation within college sports will be examined, such as limited access to physical therapy resources and insufficient funding. Ultimately, this presentation aims to assess ways to effectively embed physical therapy measures into the culture of college athletics, thereby reducing injury rates and promoting the long-term health and performance of student-athletes.

Global/Local Engagement: I interned as a physical therapy aide at Atlas Physical Therapy, located in Buckingham, PA during the summer of 2024.

## **Caitlyn Donadio**

Private vs. Universal Healthcare: Learning from Each Other to Improve Patient Care

Patient-centered care is an emerging priority in healthcare which regards the patients' needs during medical experiences. All healthcare systems focus on patient care, yet their efficiency regarding the topic varies. Through analyzing universal and private healthcare systems' successes and failures in patient care, I have determined what is necessary to achieve patient-centered care. I have innovated solutions for the gaps within each system by identifying the strengths in one system, which can be applied to reduce shortcomings in the other. This allows the different systems to learn from each other and better themselves towards achieving great patient care.

Global/Local Engagement: Shadowing physicians abroad in Portugal June 22-July 12 2024. Medical Assistant in Connecticut: summer 2024 for YNH.

## **Chloe Dourmashkin**

## Improving Beach Water Quality Communication

Unsafe beach water quality is becoming a prevalent issue and research has shown that current communication techniques are largely ineffective. My project investigates more meaningful forms of public health communication at publicly-regulated beaches. I am proposing a 3-phase initiative to enhance communication style and allow bathers to make informed decisions. "Phase 1 - Signage" involves distribution of color-coded and direct signage. "Phase 2 - Consistency" utilizes forecasting to allow for daily water quality updates. "Phase 3 - Education" emphasizes water quality education for beach officials. In the future, I intend to pursue a Master of Public Health.

Global/Local Engagement: Collecting weekly water samples through the summer, delivering them to the laboratory for quality testing with the Westchester Health Department.

## Aine Downey

### Democratizing Physical Therapy Care Due to Varying Accessibility Based on Insurance Coverage

Every day people get injured and need care and strengthening to return to a pain-free life. Physical therapy (PT) is a growing needed field to promote healthcare and safety. However, access and care vary based on PT practices, specialization, and cost of care. PT care is not democratized and while accessibility varies based on patients' insurance, so does care. While some care is cost-accessible, much is not. My topic brings attention to the price of care, accessibility range, and how we can democratize PT care, leading all populations to have equitable care.

Global/Local Engagement: Worked at a physical therapy clinic as a PT Aide/OSS in Brookline, MA from May-August.

## Grace Duffy

### Increasing the Availability of Accessible and Affordable Housing in Rhode Island

25% of Americans have some kind of disability, yet only 5% of housing units are required to be accessible. Through this project, I propose actionable recommendations aimed at fostering inclusivity and equity in Rhode Island. By engaging stakeholders, I aim to create a comprehensive framework that addresses both immediate needs and long-term sustainability. Our goal is to empower individuals with disabilities by ensuring they have access to safe, affordable housing options that meet their unique requirements.

Global/Local Engagement: Since May 2023 I have served as the Policy Coordinator at the Community Provider Network of Rhode Island.

## Lily Dunne

### Making Water Quality Equitable in US Rural Communities

Across the United States, there is a difference in water quality and access to water for consumption, depending on where one lives. This presentation will dive deeply into how water filtration differs in urban and rural areas in the United States of America and why there is a need for equitable access to viable water in different places. This project will explore the policies put in place by the government, or lack



thereof, which may be aiding in the disparities in water quality and give some ideas on how we can improve water quality in this country going forward.

Global/Local Engagement: I studied abroad in Galway, Ireland, last fall. Looking at the rural farming practices and their effects on water quality.

## **Justin Finkel**

Veterans and the Opioid Crisis: Curbing Addiction Clinically

The opioid epidemic in the United States is out of control. Since the early 1990's, overdoses have claimed over 1 million lives, especially affecting populations who are more predisposed to addiction. One of these populations includes Veterans, due to PTSD and lack of support during military to civilian transitioning. Since veterans have access to free care at VA hospitals around the country, the clinicians they see play a crucial role in their overall wellbeing. Taking into consideration that opioid addiction often begins with a prescription, doctors can serve as a gateway between addiction and healthy opioid usage.

Global/Local Engagement: Volunteering and Shadowing at West Haven Veterans Hospital, Biomedical Research internship at Hartford Hospital

## **Molly Fortin**

Traumatic Brain Injuries in Pediatrics: Prevalence, Impact and Occupational Therapy Access

Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs) are a major cause of long-term disability in children, affecting their cognitive, physical, and emotional development. This project explores the prevalence of pediatric TBIs and disparities in access to ongoing care. Occupational Therapy (OT) plays a key role in recovery by providing personalized interventions to restore skills and foster independence. I propose a hybrid model using telehealth, in-person therapy, and community programs to ensure early assessment, family involvement, and school support. This model addresses barriers to OT access, aiming to improve care for underserved populations and reduce long-term disability in children with TBIs.

Global/Local Engagement: Internship at kidSHINE Pediatric clinic in Rowley MA, during the summer of 2024

## **Kate Hagness**

Improving Accessibility on College Campuses

My experience as a camp counselor for individuals with neuromuscular disorders sparked my interest in the accessibility of architectural environments. The campgrounds we utilized were meticulously designed to accommodate individuals with mobility challenges. Upon returning to Conn, I noticed a stark contrast in accessibility. This observation prompted me to investigate the criteria used to assess campus accessibility and identify common issues within collegiate architecture. Collaborating with several students from Conn, talking with campers from camp promise and investigating online literature I developed an integrative approach to tackle issues of varying accessibility in collegiate architecture.

Global/Local Engagement: Camp Counselor at camp promise in Brackney PA summer of 2023 and 2024 working with campers with muscular dystrophy

## **Violet Hall**

Environmental Pollutants: The Disproportionate Impact of Plastic Manufacturing on Vulnerable Communities

The Gulf Coast region has one of the highest concentrations of plastic manufacturing plants in the U.S. These plants are frequently located near public housing, exposing vulnerable communities to toxic air pollutants being released daily. Plastic manufacturing requires the use of petrochemicals that are cancer-causing and/or endocrine disruptors that have negative effects on human health. The Clean Air Act was created to protect people and the environment from air pollution. However, it fails to protect the most vulnerable populations. Using education to inform future generations about these risks and inequities, teaches students to make informed voting decisions.

Global/Local Engagement: Spring 2024 study abroad program at The University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Studied how different countries approach environmental challenges

## **Mila Janicik**

Disparities in Mental Health Outcomes of Students in Small Liberal Arts Colleges

This project explores disparities in mental health care access and outcomes among diverse populations in small liberal arts colleges in the US. Despite advancements in mental health awareness, significant inequalities persist, influenced by factors such as socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, gender, and geographic location. Through a mixed-methods approach, including quantitative analysis of healthcare utilization data on college campuses and qualitative literature review, this study aims to identify key barriers to mental health care. Findings highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions to improve accessibility, enhance provider training, and promote policy reforms on college campuses.

Global/Local Engagement: I am interning at Shared Harvest. The specific project I am working on surrounds the mental health of healthcare workers.

## **Graham Josephson**

Assessing Language Disparities in US Emergency Room Care

This project discusses the issues that non-English speakers face in healthcare. This project specifically discusses the significant decrease in level of care received in emergency rooms across the United States, and will look at solutions to how this level of care can be increased.

Global/Local Engagement: Stellenbosch University, South Africa, Summer 2023. Studied public health issues in the Country.

## **Ella Kahrl**

Designing Effective HIV Prevention: Lessons from Connecticut and the Western Cape

This study synthesizes HIV preventative education strategies from Connecticut and the Western Cape Region, South Africa, for application in small cities. It compares HIV prevalence, diagnostic factors, and global preventive measures. It evaluates the effectiveness of current approaches, identifies gaps, and proposes an innovative intervention for New London, CT, integrating multidisciplinary content. The aim is to enhance HIV prevention by leveraging successful strategies from both regions.

Global/Local Engagement: Study abroad in South Africa and visiting Alliance for Living (CT) to understand the relationship between HIV and public health.

## **Shantaal Lovera**

Reducing Health Disparities: Improving Infectious Disease Care Access for Black Americans

This project focuses on improving access to preventative care and treatment for infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, in Black American populations. By addressing systemic barriers, such as structural racism and health inequities in urban healthcare settings, the project seeks to reduce health disparities and improve outcomes for vulnerable communities. Drawing from bioethics, historical analysis, and practical experience from a research internship, the project will explore strategies for healthcare systems to enhance access to care. Emphasizing evidence-based recommendations, the study aims to develop interventions that promote equity in healthcare access prevention and align with broader public health goals.

Global/Local Engagement: Research Administrative Intern at Massachusetts General Hospital (Summer 2024): Managed HIV/AIDS prevention for Black men in Southern U.S.

## **Katie Madow**

Stress Contagion in Small Liberal Arts College Communities

Stress contagion is the collective phenomenon where stress from one individual is transferred over to someone else through social interaction. Stress is an extremely present public health issue among and negatively impacts the mental health of college students, and contributes to academic burnout. In small college, students are in extremely close vicinity to one another and may be experiencing stress contagion in the classroom or other common areas. Consequently, colleges need to offer stress management resources for students.

Global/Local Engagement: My local engagement that I will be using is an internship at the Emotion, Health, and Psychophysiology Lab at Yale.

## **Sophie Maggioni**

Loneliness and Social Connection in Housing-Insecure Women

This project targets loneliness and social exclusion as risk factors for housing-insecure women. Research conducted revealed that this population is at higher risk for insufficient social connection and networks. This project proposes a model to foster effective social networks and connections between housing-insecure women. This community-centric approach focuses on building upon urgent needs to create a basis for connection. Strengths of this approach include the integration of mental and physical care, while limitations include lack of funding. I plan to build upon this work through work in the New London and Boston communities.

Global/Local Engagement: Internship at Women's Lunch Place, daytime shelter for unhoused women in Boston, Summer 2024

## **Kaelagh Malloy**

Socioeconomic Barriers in Melanoma Care: Disparities in Detection and Treatment

Dermatology is perceived as a luxurious branch of healthcare, often facing accessibility issues for those of lower socioeconomic status. Many view dermatological care as non-essential, despite its crucial role in health. While individuals with fair skin are over 20 times more likely to be diagnosed with melanoma, their survival rates remain the highest. Black individuals have the poorest melanoma survival rates and are typically diagnosed later. These disparities reveal that lower-income populations are more likely to experience adverse health outcomes due to delayed screenings, financial stress, and limited health literacy, emphasizing the significance of this public health issue.

Global/Local Engagement: Transition Academy, Groton (freshman-senior year): Build relationships with college-aged students with disabilities.

## **Alexandra Mateo**

Toxins in the Nervous System: Minorities are Suffering

Lead is a naturally occurring metal, a neurotoxin, that alters the function of the nervous system. Lead has been used in paint, toys, and in pipes. It is lead in drinking water that this project will be focused on. There are no safe levels of lead within the bloodstream, as acute exposure involves cognitive and emotional changes while chronic exposure involves neurodegeneration. Populations that are suffering are children and minority communities; children are more vulnerable to the effects of lead due to their developing nervous system while minority communities are not receiving proper education surrounding this issue.

Global/Local Engagement: Summer of 2023-2024 I have volunteered at Mount Sinai Hospitals Delirium Program, providing non-medical interventions to geriatric patients.

## **Kylie McCarthy**

Medical Tourism: Supporting International Patients at Boston Children's Hospital

From my internship working closely with Boston Children's Hospital, I wanted to focus on the resources available for international pediatric patients and their families to make their transition to the US healthcare system as seamless as possible. My clinical and administrative experiences revealed that some families were dissatisfied with their child's care, often due to cultural differences and different expectations of healthcare. For my project, I explored ways to enhance the quality of care for this population, including developing a specialized hospital orientation program tailored to each patient's cultural background, including their native country, religion, and language.

Global/Local Engagement: Summer 2024 Internship: Medical Assistant at Elite Medical Boston working with the international pediatric patient population of Boston hospitals.

## **Megan Norris**

Redlining's Effects on Birth Outcomes

The Black American community endures a disproportionate rate of poor birth outcomes, such as preterm birth and maternal mortality. This project focuses on how redlining, an institutionally racist practice that denied neighborhoods of color from purchasing mortgage loans in the 1930s, has contributed to such disparities. Potential strategies to address this public health issue are also discussed.

Global/Local Engagement: Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center Internship, Summer 2023, observed two births, one of which dealing placental abruption, a pregnancy complication

## **Carter Pavlannis**

Synthetic Chemistry as a Means of Drug Discovery and Optimization

Development of medicines, vaccines, and drugs that can better public health, such as the COVID-19 vaccine, is a multistep process. Drug discovery often starts with total synthesis of a naturally occurring biologically active compound that can later be optimized by medicinal chemists. I am working directly on one such total synthesis of natural product Guanacastepene A, a compound that shows activity against antibiotic resistant Gram positive bacteria. A completed total synthesis could allow researchers to effectively synthesize Guanacastepene A in the laboratory, allowing for detailed assessment of its drug candidacy and optimization by medicinal chemistry.

Global/Local Engagement: Research on campus in organic chemistry in the Ovaska chemistry lab.

## **Ashley Perez Diaz**

Exploring the Behavioral Impact of Traumatic Brain Injuries.

The potential link between traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) and changes in behavior, particularly regarding violent crimes, presents a significant public health concern. The widespread prevalence of TBIs means that anyone can experience head trauma, making it crucial to understand how these injuries might influence behavioral outcomes like increased aggression or impulsivity. Understanding this connection can aid in developing targeted prevention and intervention strategies, improving community safety and guiding policy decisions. Effective management of TBIs requires integrating mental health support with physical recovery. Raising awareness about these risks can reduce stigma and foster better support systems for affected individuals.

Global/Local Engagement: Pathology Research Intern at Yale University School of Medicine beginning in June 2024 conducting research on traumatic brain injuries.

## **Madelyn Rose**

Applying Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a powerful tool that has gained much attention in recent years. Increasing numbers of individuals are utilizing AI to automate processes and make their lives easier. But how can we leverage this technology to create a more just and productive healthcare system? This presentation addresses current and potential future applications of AI in healthcare and how such technologies can be

used to improve the quality of patient care, in addition to the limitations and concerns with implementing such into the healthcare setting.

Global/Local Engagement: Pfizer (Summer 2024) - Global Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls Intern; Lawrence & Memorial Hospital (Fall 2021-Winter 2022) - Emergency Room Volunteer

## **Owen Stacey**

Preventing Heat Stroke Death in High School Sports

Heat Stroke is a well-researched condition with known effective treatments. Despite this knowledge, people die every year in athletic and occupational settings due to a lack of proper policies and regulations. This project explores how current policy and treatment plans can be influenced by current scientific literature to end preventable deaths from heat stroke.

Global/Local Engagement: This summer I volunteered at the Korey Stringer Institute at Uconn where I helped conduct research on heat stroke prevention.

## **Anna Sziabowski**

The Impact of HIV on the Neurological Status of Patients

Globally, about 40 million people have Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). As the life expectancy of people living with HIV has increased, other comorbid medical complications have emerged. HIV infection, especially untreated, can cause HIV-associated neurological disorders such as minor neurocognitive disorder, HIV-associated dementia, and Alzheimer's-like pathology. Current prevention plans addressing HIV and dementia are investigated in this project, and novel suggestions to address HIV's impact on the neurological status of patients are explored.

Global/Local Engagement: Summer internship as research assistant at Center for Translational and Cognitive Neuroscience at the VA Hospital in Jamaica Plain, MA.

## **Ryan Traub**

Impact of HIV-Literacy on Treatment Adherence in HIV+ Adults

Project reviews impact of previous HIV-literacy improvement programs on treatment adherence in HIV+ adults; and from these findings, designs a holistic HIV-education program to improve HIV-related outcomes. Previous research found that individuals with differing levels of HIV-literacy may benefit from different interventions: one study found a pictographic intervention was the best treatment for moderate HIV-literacy individuals and another found an online platform was the best intervention for individuals with inadequate HIV-literacy. Therefore, a holistic intervention should incorporate both a pictographic component and an online educational program for moderate and inadequate HIV-literacy individuals respectively.

Global/Local Engagement: EMT Class at Hartford Hospital (Summer '24) - specific focus on ride time and clinic hours

## **Hannah Webster**

Autonomic Nervous System Training for First Responders

Current training for first responders lacks mental health and stress management education, leading to difficulty de-escalating emergency situations and the development of mental health conditions. This project proposes a new training model for first responders that contains information on the autonomic nervous system. The autonomic nervous system controls involuntary body processes and is responsible for the body's stress response. First responders can benefit from learning how to regulate the autonomic nervous system to de-escalate stressful situations, improve mental health, and provide better care to patients and members of the community.

Global/Local Engagement: EMT job, summer 2024, Taunton, MA

# **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY PATHWAY SYMPOSIUM 2024 ABSTRACTS**

## **Crystal Dixon**

Making Affordable Childcare Accessible for Everyone

This internship explored early childhood literacy and affordable childcare's significance. In collaboration with the finance department, it analyzed childcare costs and grant acquisition. The experience emphasized connection, inclusion, and the crucial 0-6 age range for child development. A strong educational foundation offers low-income families and children of color a better chance for positive learning experiences. Through a liberal arts education model, this multidimensional internship highlighted the value of learning about education, nonprofits, and finance.

Global/Local Engagement: Finance Internship, Washington DC, June-August

## **Sarah Hobbs**

A Comparative Look at Medical Access in the U.K. vs. America

Access to medical care should be a right, not a privilege. However, this is not the case. Many people's access to medical care has been dependent on their race, class, and identity, leaving marginalized groups at a higher risk of illness, mortality, and lower quality of care. During my study abroad experience, I expected the U.K.'s Universal Healthcare System to lack these shortcomings, but these challenges only took different forms. With medical career aspirations, the pathway allowed me to research these inequities in order to share and educate myself as I embark on my career journey.

Global/Local Engagement: Interned at Healthwatch Hackney, which advocates for healthcare services and represents the public's needs, while studying away in London

## **Aurora Kreyche**

Lake Superior to James Bay: Canoe Tripping as Sustainable Urban Design

This research project examines how traditional Canadian canoe tripping principles apply to contemporary urban design and the construction of sustainable cities. It takes an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating indigenous history, ecology, environmental justice, resource management, and wilderness navigation. This study is realized through leading a month-long canoe trip on the Missinaibi River in northern Ontario. The next phase is an independent study coordinated with the Architectural Studies department to analyze research findings through the urban planning lens. This project aims to reimagine sustainable design from a basis in indigenous Canadian land stewardship for an environmentally and socially just urban future.

Global/Local Engagement: Guiding wilderness canoe trips for kids in northern Ontario, Canada, including a 30-day expedition on the Missinaibi River.

## **Adrien Landon**

Environmentalism: The Natural Environment as Community



There is no simple formula to determine when, where, and how environmentalism will arise around the world or the ways in which it will fluctuate over time. Only one piece is clear: throughout time and across the planet, the natural environment will again and again be remembered and forgotten as an integral member of our communities. How does this happen? How does knowing this help understand environmentalism movements today, in the past, and in the future?

Global/Local Engagement: Alpine Rock Climbing Guide and Instructor in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, NM; summers of '23 & '24

## **Sam Lavenhagen**

Have We Failed to be Sustainable?: The Intersection of Sustainability and Disability

What is true sustainability? Is it sustainable if the initiatives are not inclusive and accessible for disabled people? Why are sustainability efforts so often not inclusive of disabled voices and needs? Through my research and experiences, I have explored these questions and found that true sustainability is not achieved when/if it is not inclusive and accessible for disabled people. Initiatives ranging from disaster preparedness to eliminating plastic straws have historically excluded and not considered the needs and accessibility of disabled people.

Global/Local Engagement: Remote Internship with TurnUp Activism. Research on how to do grassroots activism during summer 2023

## **Oliver Morelli**

Global Environmental Impacts on Local Economies and Ecotourism

Tourism is booming worldwide, but its environmental impact often harms local ecosystems and creates tensions between locals and tourists. Some destinations like Iceland and Costa Rica manage to balance tourism and sustainability, thanks to strong environmental policies and local initiatives. However, many other regions struggle to achieve this balance, facing challenges in promoting sustainable tourism without compromising visitor experience. This presentation will explore the difficulties of ecotourism, examining how some places succeed while others lag behind, with the goal of identifying strategies to help more destinations thrive sustainably in the face of growing tourist demand.

Global/Local Engagement: Worked in Iceland over the summer, and studied policies relating to sustainability, and how it affected local populations.

## **Zale Peart**

Rethinking Rail: A Sustainable Future for American Transportation

America's declining passenger rail network reflects a broader neglect of public transportation in favor of cars and air travel. This poster board highlights the urgent need to expand and electrify rail as a sustainable solution. By examining Amtrak's challenges, historical context, and models from countries like Japan and France, it advocates reimagining rail as a public good. The environmental benefits, including reduced emissions and cleaner energy, underscore the necessity of government investment. Expanding and electrifying rail is key to building a more connected, equitable, and environmentally responsible nation.

Global/Local Engagement: Database designer for the New London Homeless Hospitality Center

## **Lucian Rosenthal**

Ensuring Equitable Access to Clean Energy Amidst Decarbonization.

In the global transition away from fossil fuels, towards clean and efficient energy technology, it is necessary to ensure none are left behind. Historically, disadvantaged communities have faced disproportionately high energy prices, the greatest exposure to pollution and the most severe impacts from climate change. Throughout my engagement in the energy sector so far, I have witnessed and worked with communities affected by these adversities first hand. Although various solutions have been proposed for providing equitable access to clean energy, guaranteeing they are incorporated in the transformation is a societal obligation

Global/Local Engagement: Business Development intern at Logical Buildings, the leading sustainability and smart buildings solutions provider. (24' fall semester into summer)

## **Eliza Shamah**

Exploring the Social and Political Power of Incarcerated Individuals in America

This project addresses how the policies and practices underlying the criminal justice system can restore social and political power to currently and formerly incarcerated individuals. In the United States, there is a longstanding history of imprisonment serving as a form of racial discrimination. Using research focusing on voter disenfranchisement and re-entry processes for formerly incarcerated individuals, this project aims to combine research on historical effects on the criminal justice system with current developments to assess possibilities for the future. Issues of power within the carceral system as a whole will be discussed regarding both currently and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Global/Local Engagement: Alliance of Families for Justice: Nonprofit organization based in Harlem, NY (internship conducted in remote capacity May-August 2024)

## **Kiley Smith**

Breaking Barriers: Accessibility in Higher Education Architecture

A study on how accessible colleges are based on guidelines formulated by individuals diagnosed with disabilities requiring a motorized wheelchair at all times. The study considers changes for schools as well as current successes. Interviews were conducted on individuals with neuromuscular disorders, how they pick schools and anecdotes of their experiences in high school or college. My study looked to consider a health and social justice lens and see how Conn, among other campuses, accommodates those with mobility deficits—by compiling research, lived experiences, and investigative data, an analysis of disabled accommodations in terms of current college architecture and structure.

Global/Local Engagement: Camp Counselor at Camp Promise, a camp for people with neuromuscular disorders. Summers 2023 & 2024.

## **Lucy Stefani**

Originality vs. Financial Realities: The Corporatization of the Theater Industry

This project looks at how corporate ownership of the mass media impacts the commercial theater industry. Specifically focusing on the effects of The Walt Disney Corporation's renovation of Times Square and the impact of the Disney musical on the economy of Broadway, this project will examine how smaller theaters are also impacted by the corporatization of Broadway. I will also integrate observations from my global internship working at an Off-West End theater in London to offer real life examples of how smaller theaters work to support independent artists while also coping with the financial realities of the industry.

Global/Local Engagement: I interned in an Off-West Theater in London

## **Bitsy Wright**

Contemporary Complexities: The Role of Nostalgia in Shaping Collective Memory

Nostalgia has long been a powerful tool in propaganda – particularly within ultranationalist regimes. During the twentieth century, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini utilized environmental movements and imperial nostalgia to influence collective memory. Under the rubric of conservation, Mussolini was instrumental in shaping the Italian national identity, through the manipulation of the environment, employing nostalgic visions of the land. In my presentation, I will examine how these extremist movements have influenced collective memory in a post-fascist context and identify the contemporary spaces where this nostalgia is still present.

Global/Local Engagement: Italy -- 5 weeks in Rome and Calabria (Sophomore Summer Research), Spring Semester 2024 (IES Abroad Program in Milan)

## **Kinley Yangden**

Space and Shelter: How Spatial Architecture Impacts Wellbeing and Homelessness

My project explores the relationship between mental health well-being and homelessness, emphasizing the need for holistic interventions. Homelessness can worsen mental health, creating cycles of trauma and victimization. Architectural design, particularly spatial organization plays key role in improving mental health outcomes by fostering positive social interactions, safety, and inclusive spaces. My field research at the Homeless Center highlights the importance of harmonizing design for user specific in community. While spatial design is crucial, comprehensive solutions must also include community support, affordable housing and good mental health services. With this, shelters can promote healing without solely relying on professional care.

Global/Local Engagement: I volunteered with the New London Homeless Hospitality Center for all Spring 2024 semester to learn from a new environment.