



## ***Welcome to CAFÉ '22***

The Gettysburg College CAFÉ (**C**elebration of **A**cademic **F**irst-Year **E**ngagement) Symposium began in 2016 as a way of further enhancing the First-Year intellectual climate on campus. It provides faculty-nominated first-year students with the opportunity to showcase their best work from their respective seminars and pulls together a variety of engaged students as they present their “great work” in poster format.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating our first-year students’ successful launch into undergraduate research and creative activity.

*Students listed in alphabetical order*

## **Ava Burchell**

### **HoldingHands**

HoldingHands is a walking safety app for students at Gettysburg College.

**Mentor:** Anne Douds

## **Ashley Carbonier**

### **Happiness Magazine: The Ultimate Guide to Everything About Happiness**

This Happiness Magazine reflects on four important questions related to Happiness: What is Happiness? Where do our levels of Happiness come from? Can you improve your level of Happiness? Should people strive to increase their levels of Happiness?

**Mentor:** Natalie Barlett



## **Ethan Clare**

### **Strategic Approaches to Monopoly**

An American Classic, Monopoly was originally intended to teach us about the dangers of robber barons when first developed in the early 1900s. Today, however, that message is lost as we find ourselves in lengthy games of Monopoly hoping for the economical demise of our competitors. With that competitive spirit, I worked to figure out strategies on how to maximize my chances of winning the game during the fall semester. With the help of computer simulations, Markov processes that led to a steady-state distribution, and break-even graphs, we can analyze the best strategies looking on how to create a monopoly over your competitors.

**Mentor:** Darren Glass

## **Rachelle Dale**

### **Ethics of Physician-Assisted Suicide**

Exploring the history and ethics of physician-assisted suicide along with its rising acceptance throughout the US and other countries.

**Mentor:** Charles Myers

## **Laura de Matos Leal**

### **The Complexity of Brazilian Latinidad in the United States**

During the FYS Crossing Borders: Immigration, Identity, and Development, I conducted a study on how Brazilians struggle with self-identification, racialization, and a sense of belonging in the United States. Brazilian immigrants in America often find themselves in limbo regarding their identities and races, which are rooted in the misconception of the terms Latino/Hispanic and the lack of demographic representation in US Census.

**Mentor:** Kathleen Cain

## **Lauren DiOttavio**

### **Collegiate Compensation**

This research project explores the argument of compensating collegiate student-athletes for their dedication to their sports. Specifically, it dives into topics such as physical and mental strain and why these are significant issues.

**Mentor:** R.C. Miessler

## **Sofia Dubois Toscana**

### **Does the Joker Deserve Sympathy?**

Using the films Joker (2019), The Dark Knight (2008), and the comic The Killing Joke (1988), this project analyzes the iconic character of the Joker, with a thesis defended by nihilistic philosophy and Cohen's seven monster theses. In today's society, exaggerated in comics and movies, the current setup allows and contributes to a person who has one bad day to turn into a Joker-like villain. This project sheds light to the real problems the Joker is pointing at, and delves into the morality (or lack thereof) of the Joker, by exploring the personal and societal causes of how he came to be.

**Mentor:** Mercedes Valmisa Oviedo

## **Rachel Farbman**

### **Every Kid Deserves a Quality Swim Education**

Improving existing systems to create a better environment for kids to learn how to swim in Casa Swimming at Gettysburg College through increasing training for instructors.

**Mentor:** Anne Douds

## **Michael Fellman**

### **Fore Score and Seven Drives Ago**

Golf has evolved from the simple nature of hitting a golf ball into the hole. This project reveals nuances of golf statistics and strategies in order to help optimize a golfers' ability to shoot the lowest score possible

**Mentor:** Darren Glass

## **Greer Garver**

### **An Expedition to The Public Lands: New Hampshire to Maine - An Exploration into the Forested Lands of the Northeast**

My research project was the planning of a theoretical trip to explore a variety of public lands in the United States. The focus of my trip was the geographical area of New Hampshire and Maine. While most people know about National Parks and Forests, these only represent part of our vast system of public lands. In addition, each part of this system, whether a wilderness area or wildlife refuge, has its own set of management priorities and government organizations behind it. Often the varying issues within each type of public land are complex and not known to the public despite that the very lands on which they take place are public lands.

**Mentor:** Randall Wilson

## **Sarah Guistwite**

### **Vaccine Hesitancy and Sociodemographic Factors**

Vaccine hesitancy is a prominent issue surrounding all vaccines, but it has recently become an even bigger issue surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine. There are many factors that affect vaccine hesitancy. Some factors correlate to vaccine refusal, and others to vaccine acceptance. There are a myriad of factors in between the two extremes that cause vaccine hesitancy. The research question that guided this project is: How are different sociodemographic factors related to COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in the United States? Through the research process, I narrowed down several factors that correlate to vaccine hesitancy, and determined how they relate. Throughout this project, I used digital humanities tools in my research and final presentation. Tools like the networking diagram Onodo helped me to indicate correlations and connections between various factors surrounding vaccine hesitancy. Altogether, I was able to conclude that there are many factors that correlate to COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in the United States.

**Mentor:** R.C. Miessler

## **Megan Hayhurst**

### **Small Business Owners and Life Insurance**

Examines the benefits of a small business owner investing in life insurance. Focuses on the benefits of key person life insurance plans taken on by risk-averse companies.

**Mentor:** Charles Myers

## **Thalia Hubbard**

### **Bringing Back the Butterflies**

I am attempting to revitalize the number of pollinators, specifically Monarch and Regal Fritillary Butterflies, in Adams County, as they are important for economic and aesthetic reasons.

**Mentor:** Anne Douds

## **Sneha Jayaram**

### **The Atheist: Examining Humanity's Ancient Monster**

Continuing a discourse established by philosophers of the Ancient World, this project examines the Western philosophy of disbelief as the progenitor of the figure of the Atheist. As religion and morality are viewed as inextricable, the price of disbelief is the monsterization of the Atheist on moral grounds. Fear of the Atheist as a moral deviant prompted punishment in fines, exile, torture and even death. Thus, we must consider whether morality is truly synonymous with religion. First, however, we must pose the question: What evidence justifies a belief in God? Several theists have attempted to use philosophical reasoning to provide proofs for the existence of God, which are evaluated here. Although their atheistic counterparts have summarily deconstructed these arguments, several theists continue to utilize them as the basis for their belief. As such, God's existence remains a point of contention today.

**Mentor:** Mercedes Valmisa Oviedo



## **Jack Joiner**

### **An Expedition into the Public Lands: Conceptual Assumptions of Nature in New England**

The purpose of planning an "expedition to the public lands" is multifaceted. For one, many of the stops on this trip, such as Acadia National Park and the Boston Harbor Islands, are all places my parents took me at an early age, but have since been subject to infantile amnesia. Revisiting these places would serve as a time to appreciate the region I grew up in and reflect on how New England has impacted me personally. Additionally, I would like my children to develop the same love for the geography of New England as I did. So, I will potentially be taking this trip in the future with my family. Finally, the trip will provide insight into management issues faced throughout the U.S federal land system and how the continuity of conceptual assumptions influences how individuals value nature. The concepts that will be discussed in this paper include: nature-as-commodity, nature-as-static, and federal sovereignty.

**Mentor:** Randall Wilson

## **Jocelyn Little**

### **Reviving the Regals**

My action plan develops free, at home pollinator garden kits to rehabilitate pollinator populations, specifically the critically endangered Regal Fritillary butterfly.

**Mentor:** Anne Douds

## **Fabio Lo**

### **Apes, Parrots, and Dolphins are Capable of Using Human Language**

Our project's objective is to research a controversial topic and find evidence to support the theory that apes, parrots, and dolphins are capable of using human language. Within the science community, there have been questions about the aptitudes of other species to understand human communication and, recently, there have been a few studies to research these questions. Specifically, we focused on the case studies of apes, parrots, and dolphins that would suggest positive results in their human language abilities, and what the results may imply for future studies.

**Co-Presenter:** Emily Walsh

**Mentor:** Eric Remy

## **Aztlani Maguffee**

### **Bilingual Education: Cognitive Functioning in Mexican American Children**

Language acquisition in schools has been up for debate for over four decades and has caught the attention of psychologists and educators from all over the world. This project focuses on the improvement of language acquisition for bilingual and bicultural children through bilingual programs, implemented in schools, through the instruction of bilingual teachers, who speak the children's native language.

**Mentor:** Kathleen Cain

## **Cittlali Martinez**

### **mujeres a pie al amanecer**

There are many hard-working immigrants in this country, some of whom face many hardships in their jobs. Hispanic immigrant women, in general, face many hardships in their jobs and this can lead to issues outside of their work environment, e.g. not being economically stable and family issues. This topic is important because women in general already face a lot of discrimination in employment, however, Hispanic immigrant women are one of the groups with the lowest average earning in jobs. Not having equal pay can lead to being economically unstable and, for this reason, cause so many hardships outside of work.

**Mentor:** Kathleen Cain



## **Grace Meisner**

### **Bridging the Divide: Expanding Secondary Transition Opportunities for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Gettysburg Area**

This project investigated strategies for supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to transition more smoothly and with greater support to post-high school life. Through research into existing transition resources in Adams County and interviews with high school transition counselors, experts in the field of special education and transition studies, and local families of young adults with disabilities, I designed an action plan that outlines comprehensive steps to equip young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with many of the tools they need to live fulfilling, meaningful, and independent lives to their fullest potential after high school.

**Mentor:** Anne Douds

## **Riley Meyers**

### **The Mercury Astronaut Training Program**

Discusses the training program that the Mercury 7 and Mercury 13 astronauts completed during the Space Race.

**Mentor:** Christopher Zappe

## **Madeleine Murphy**

### **What is Happiness?**

What is happiness and where did it come from? At the end of the first year seminar, Happiness, we were given 4 general questions from Professor Barlett and were challenged to answer them in a creative and expressive way. Our answers to these questions required us to use all the knowledge we had gained about happiness throughout the semester.

**Mentor:** Natalie Barlett

## **Ratul Pradhan**

### **Did Shakespeare write his plays?**

William Shakespeare, often referred to as the Bard of Avon, is regarded as the greatest writer and dramatist the world has ever known. However, little is known about who Shakespeare actually was, and whether Mr. Shakespeare, born and raised in Stratford-Upon-Avon, is the same Shakespeare that the literary work refers to, or whether that may just have been a pen name someone else wrote under. The only linking factor between the two is that “William Shakespeare” appears in the authorship of some quartos and on the First Folio.

**Co-Presenter:** Joseph Hillesland

**Mentor:** Eric Remy

## **Vivek Rallabandi**

### **Bridging the Information Gap: Making Juvenile Justice More Accessible In Adams County**

In Dr. Anne Douds' first-year seminar, "Change, Agency and Activism," the culminating project was for students to develop an action plan to address an issue, either in Adams County, Pennsylvania or in their hometown. This project represents a proposal to address an issue in Adams County's juvenile justice system - the lack of information available to juveniles and their parents prior to a crucial step of the process, namely intake. The product of interviews with some of Adams County's key juvenile justice stakeholders, this proposal - which envisions sending juveniles and their parents an informative brochure along with their intake appointment letter - is simple and can be easily implemented, but can be quite effective.

**Mentor:** Anne Douds

## **Ella Seaman**

### **Inspiring the Future: Businesswomen Edition**

My first year seminar action plan is to create an on-campus organization that will inspire, mentor, and connect future female leaders to the successful businesswomen of the Gettysburg area. More specifically, this includes creating a directory of Gettysburg businesswomen easily accessible to Gettysburg College students, as well as partnering with the Eisenhower Institute and the Alumni Office to create joint events to benefit Gettysburg College and the surrounding town.

**Mentor:** Anne Douds

## **Addison Speicher**

### **A Philosophical Analysis of Portal's Monstrous Antagonist GLaDOS**

A deep delve into the reasoning behind why GLaDOS, a villainous AI from the game Portal, is considered one of the best antagonists in video game history and what kind of monster she embodies. Utilizing multiple philosophical lenses and archetypes, light is shed upon the societal norms and stereotypes GLaDOS is meant to exemplify.

**Mentor:** Mercedes Valmisa Oviedo

## **Hayden Strittmatter**

### **Expedition to Public Lands in Montana**

My presentation discusses my expedition to four public lands in Montana that are rich with policy and management issues. In addition, my expedition will dive into the creation and history of the lands, along with the recreational opportunities that each has to offer.

**Mentor:** Randall Wilson

## **Theodore Szpakowski**

### **Campus, Cookies, and Connections for LGBTQ+ Students**

This project created a plan to help LGBTQ+ students identify the places and people that will help them succeed at Gettysburg College that will be put in place Fall 2022.

**Mentor:** Anne Douds

## **Perla Torres Estrada**

### **The Unsolved Murder of JonBenét Ramsey**

In this presentation, I will be going into detail about the case itself as well as the psychological impact it has on the families of homicide victims, how a cold case gets reviewed, discrepancies during the investigation, the influence of the media, and speculations about who could have killed her. Lastly, I will reflect on what I have discovered from my research.

**Mentor:** Charles Myers

## **Aidan Vitali**

### **Mood Music**

We all know the physical impact of music. When a good song comes on the radio people start tapping their feet, bobbing their head, snapping their fingers and moving their body to the sound of the beat. But music can have an emotional impact as well. Studies have shown that music can lift your mood just as much as it can contribute to feelings of depression and sadness. For my project I looked at music in movies and how it helps create a mood both for the actors and the viewer.

**Mentor:** Jack Ryan



## **Emily Walsh**

### **Apes, Parrots, and Dolphins are Capable of Using Human Language**

Our project's objective is to research a controversial topic and find evidence to support the theory that apes, parrots, and dolphins are capable of using human language. Within the science community there have been questions about the aptitudes of other species to understand human communication, and recently there have been a few studies to research these questions. Specifically, we focused on the case studies of human language abilities in apes, parrots, and dolphins that suggested positive results, and what the results may imply for future studies.

**Co-Presenter:** Fabio Lo

**Mentor:** Eric Remy

## **Kayleigh Wolfe**

### **Getting Out The Vote At Gettysburg College**

My project is an action plan to increase voting rates at Gettysburg College among students voting both in-person and online. I created a multi-phase plan that will provide students with information on voting and celebrate those who vote. This will aim to increase the voter turnout rate of Gettysburg College students for the 2022 Midterm Elections.

**Mentor:** Anne Douds

## Alessandro Zuccaroli

### **The Enigma and Alan Turing: The Intersection of War and Probability**

This project examines the cryptanalytic techniques developed by British mathematician, Alan Turing, that proved essential to Allied success during World War II. The discussion begins with a basic description of the Nazi method of encryption—the Enigma machine—and the initial cryptological work of Polish mathematicians. This provides the basis for an explanation of Alan Turing's revolutionary machine, the British Bombe, and his use of Bayesian Probability that made Enigma decryption possible. Historians estimate that Turing's ingenuity shortened the war by at least two years, saving millions of lives. Although this project is a discussion of mathematics and cryptology, its aim is to celebrate the life and profound achievements of Alan Turing before his untimely death in 1954.

**Mentor:** Darren Glass



We would like to extend a special thank you to the following faculty for mentoring the students presenting at the CAFÉ '22 Symposium

**Natalie Barlett**

Psychology

*Happiness*

**Kathleen Cain**

Psychology

*Crossing Borders: Immigration, Identity, and Development*

**Anne Douds**

Public Policy

*Policy Change through Agency and Activism*

**Darren Glass**

Mathematics, Provost Office

*Probability, Prediction, and Paradox*

**R.C. Miessler**

Musselman Library

*Oh, The (Digital) Humanities:*

*Using Technology to Understand the Human Experience*

**Charles Myers**

Religious Studies

*Death and the Meaning of Life*

**Eric Remy**

Educational Technology

*But Is It Crazy Enough?*

**Mercedes Valmisa Oviedo**

Philosophy

*Philosophy of Monsters*

**Randall Wilson**

Environmental Studies

*What Would Smokey Say?*

**Christopher Zappe**

Provost

*From the Earth to the Moon*

## **We would also like to thank...**

### **Poster Workshop Instructor:**

Eyoel Delessa  
*Musselman Library*

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Thia Anyaoku '23

**Ricoh Printing Services**  
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*For more information about First-Year Seminars contact:*

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