



SPRING 2022
RESEARCH FAIR

LUTHER COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES





Thank You

**FOR JOINING US FOR
THE LUTHER COLLEGE
OF ARTS & SCIENCES
RESEARCH FAIR.**

Through this event, we have the opportunity to showcase the outstanding academic work and experiential learning opportunities of our students. For many students presenting today, their research project serves as the capstone experience for their academic major requiring them to apply skills they have developed throughout their time at Midland. For others, their projects involve putting academic knowledge into practice by going out into the community for enhanced experiences and reflection. We are incredibly proud of the work they have done and hope you enjoy learning from our students as you explore the Research Fair today!

Dr. Megan Nielsen

Dean, Luther College of Arts & Sciences

RESEARCH *PRESENTATIONS*

TARIQ ABED

The Never-Ending Nakba: The On-going Fight for Palestinian Liberation

The liberation of Palestine and the Palestinian people did not start nor end after the 1948 ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. By using historical archives and the stories of those affected, the usually unknown and untold story of Palestinians' struggle for liberation is seen through a new lens. The analysis of this information allows for a view of the reality of the Palestinian liberation struggle that shows it has been an uphill battle from the very beginning and continues to be just that. Understanding the history of the never-ending fight for Palestinian liberation demonstrates why this issue is important and the lessons so that this never happens again.

TARIQ ABED, PAYTON JAKOPOVIC, & GAGE MCGILL

Energy Drink Consumption Effects on Metabolic Activity

Students at Midland University took a survey to answer questions regarding their consumption of energy drinks. The survey provides data regarding the effects of energy drink consumption on metabolic activity in college students. Surveying the effects that college students believe energy drinks have on their metabolic activity enabled an understanding of the perception of the benefits and harms of energy drinks.

MIGUEL ABETE

Emotional and Mood Reactions in Vegetarian and non-vegetarian eaters

The study wanted to conclude if vegetarian diet is better than non vegetarian diets in regards to mood improvement and better way of managing your emotions. Healthy diets rich in fruits and vegetables are considered better for your physical and mental health. There has always been a concern for vegetarians to get the essential nutrients to have the ideal health, and there are many supplements vegetarians can get to avoid those deficiencies. Healthy diets are related with lower stress, anxiety, and better mood.

LOGAN ANDERSON

My Life in Images

One of the things that I had to learn was to take pride in my upbringing. I grew up in a lower middle class family where both of my parents work in construction. Growing up in that environment taught me to take pride in doing difficult work that other people will turn down. Also growing up in that environment put me in contact with diverse groups of people which gave me two options. I could either work to build connections with them based on our shared interests and experiences, or I could hyperfixate on the fact that we were different races and spoke different languages. I decided to build connections with as many people as I could so that we could help each other function in a world that was not kind to either of us.

JADE ANDRESEN

How Increasing Financial Literacy and Budgeting Skills within Society Can Help Stabilize Monthly Spending and Income

Money is what makes the world go round, right? And yet the extent to which most of American society tries to gain knowledge on the subject is unsatisfactory. According to a recent article posted by CNBC, 64% of Americans are now living paycheck to paycheck, meaning there is no money leftover for saving and investing, just enough to get by. The question is, how would that number differ if citizens were provided with more resources to learn how to properly budget and invest and started learning about finance and its importance at a younger age. Taking the basic values accounting and finance and applying these to modern society would create a world where proper money management, saving, and investing can be something that everyone can do.

THOMAS ANTHONE

The Transgender Experience

For my Research Fair project, I will be primarily focusing on the uniqueness of the transgender experience and its relationship within modern society. Issues regarding the transgender community have been at the forefront of both political and cultural discussions as of recent by progressive figures. However, the transgender community is not a monolith. The uniqueness of each individuals own experience with their gender or gender identity allows for healthy discussions when addressing the concerns for both the LGBTQ+ and Feminist movements respectfully. In this project, I will be discussing my own experience as a member of the transgender community and create an environment in which these discussions can take place in a safe and healthy manner. This presentation will also be addressing the uniqueness of my personal experience with my gender identity and explain how my experience, like many others, can contribute to the overall discussion(s) as a whole.

JEREMY ATTRILL

The Effects of Mental Health in Competitive Sports

Using an interpretive qualitative method, this study explored the impacts competitive sports have on college student athletes. The results found that many college athletes feel pushed to the limit, have experienced burnout within their chosen sport, and that athletes feel grateful for the opportunities they have been presented.

PEYTON BANKS

We Are Queer & We Are Here: A Study Determining LGBTQ+ Safety and Equality on Midland University's Campus

College students deal with struggles across the spectrum. Whether those struggles stem from home life, relationships, work, etc. all college students carry some sort of weight on their shoulders. For some college students, however, there are struggles added that deal with something much more heavier: sexual identity. Whether this revolves around sexual orientation or gender identity, all struggles carry a heavy load. This research study revolves around an interview-based and research analysis process that takes a closer look at the equality, safety and inclusion on college students attending Midland University.

EMMA BARNES

Stronger medicine; looking at prevention methods to improve the quality of medicine in the United States

Healthcare is becoming chaotic and even though we have many improved medical technologies, rising costs continue to occur in the healthcare system, in which many of these medications and procedures can be prevented. This project will discuss solutions that will improve healthcare towards prevention of diseases. It will discuss how by applying prevention methods we can aim to minimize common health issues from occurring in the future.

ERIN BAUM

Re-entry Programs: How does the public really feel?

With the ever-rising population of our prison systems comes the increasing number of individuals who will re-enter general society. This process of reentry is daunting and the different experiences individuals have with it can be detrimental to whether or not their reentry is successful and if they will commit another crime in the future. The purpose of this research is to analyze the opinions that the general public has regarding programs that help with the reentry process.

CARRIE BEETHE

Health in Low-Funded Communities

As low-funded communities continue to experience difficulties, it is important to understand how healthcare is a low priority in these areas. This project imagines a world by applying scientific and medical values to create a society which provides healthcare to all, makes healthcare affordable, and provides health resources to communities with less access. As someone interested in healthcare, I find this topic to be of major importance. I will discuss how funding can affect healthcare opportunities, and how the healthcare opportunities, in turn, affect the health of citizens overall. I will also look at the different possible ways in which this problem could be solved.

REAGAN BENES

Through the Eyes of Educators

This interpretive study will analyze sources including peer-reviewed articles, general articles, and a text that analyzes important values in education to determine what values are most necessary in order to have an effective education program. The purpose of this extensive research is to explore the differences in various teaching methods and to discover what methods are the best to use to create an ideal classroom setting.

VERONICA BRUNDAGE

Abusive Relationship: The Effects on Students and Awareness of Faculty

Using a narrative qualitative inquiry model, this study sought to bring awareness to the psychological effects young adults experience while they are in an abusive relationship in college. The results of this study indicate that students in an abusive relationship experience a change in their communication perspective and deteriorating grades, and that professors that seek to assist these students struggle to maintain professional boundaries.

GRACE BURNS

The Land of Free Expression: Performing Arts and Their Effect a Society

Throughout this utopian society, free expression roams wild and leaves its people hungry and yearning for more. In a society where performing arts and free expression remains a focal point, people will be forced to further understand how each aspect of the performing arts can allow for freedom of expression of self and of culture. By including performing arts as a core value of a society, this project allows for the creation of a world without doubt and hesitation, a newfound confidence and ability to lead, and free expression of all inhabitants. Without further hesitation or doubt from all living in this new society, people can express themselves and learn to appreciate others for doing the same. The potential utopia of a world exploding with free expression without doubt is what will be explored throughout my research, discussing how a society full of communication, art, and dance could affect today's society.

GRACE BURNS

Luxury Brand Consumption: A Grounded Theory Discovery over Buying Motives of College Students

Luxury brand consumption is becoming consistently popular among college aged students. In order to understand the motives behind luxury brand consumption among these students, I first determined that the main two motives were simply for these brands' higher quality and my second reasoning was that people purchase luxury items for the idea that self and social constructs and values come along with these purchases. Utilizing a combination of convenience and snowball effect sampling, Midland University college students were interviewed to discuss their views on luxury brand consumption motives. This study is used to determine which of these two motives, or possibly a new motive, best describes why luxury brand consumption is so consistent in college aged students. The results of this data led to the idea that most college students do in fact purchase luxury items for the self and social constructs and values that can come with these items when purchased. The results of this study illustrate how college students purchase luxury items typically not for quality, but to fit in better to social constructs and value systems in society.

KENNETH CARR

Black History Month and Racism

This study used a combination of rhetorical and qualitative methods to explore perceptions surrounding black history and black history month. The results found that while black history is generally understood, it is still not taught enough within educational structures and that structural racism still exists.

AMAURIE CARROLL

In My World: A Just Justice System

This research project investigates the dysfunctional American criminal justice system. For a country predicated on the love of freedom, America chooses to imprison more of its citizens than any other democracy. How is this possible? Race and class and overregulation of policing have led to a kind of criminal justice dystopia. The American criminal justice system requires new managerial practices. Without changes, it will continue to incarcerate individuals at variance with the ideals that undergird the nation. Using research articles and books, I will be comparing and contrasting our criminal justice system and the utopian version of the criminal justice system. Criminal Justice will play a big part in my research by helping me understand why people view the system as corrupt. My ideal justice system would be to make it fair across the board and make everyone happy all around.

MIKAYLA CHASE

The effect standardized testing has on students going into college

PETER CHAVEZ

Why Intensity is Key

Many Americans today hate their job. They wake up every day into a monotonous life and are stuck in a never ending cycle of boredom. Strength and conditioning coaches live the exact opposite of that lifestyle. They wake up and are immediately placed into a world fueled by intensity. They are never bored and love their jobs because of how amazing and intense it is. Because of the constant passion for strength and conditioning coaches in their lives, I believe intensity is the key to a happier life.

EMMA CHRISTIANSON

Equal access to healthcare for all

Nursing is a very important healthcare occupation that contributes to the health and well being of those that are unwell. Nurses and others on the healthcare team are to treat every single patient no matter the status of healthcare they may or may not have. However, many of those that may end up in the hospital to receive care end up bankrupt because of the cost of healthcare services. In a world with free healthcare for all we can avoid these kinds of situations. By applying the ethics of nursing to today's healthcare this project imagines the creation of a world based on care, attentiveness, responsiveness, and competence.

ALLY CONYBEAR

Family History of Substance Abuse and its Effects on College Students

With a strong presence of substance abuse within my family this research connected to me personally. The goal of my research project is to establish the effects that a family history of substance abuse has on college students. Specifically looking at a participant's consumption and whether a family history of substance abuse affected how careful people were with the consumption and/or use of drugs and alcohol.

KATELYN COON

Creativity in Unity

Creativity has always been one of the most fundamental skills of a child. However, it seems to be slowly disappearing as younger generations rely more on technology and adults mature quicker. Perhaps this is because adulthood calls for more organization, structure, and unity, which creativity and individuality can hinder. But what would society actually look like if creativity stayed prevalent throughout life? By exploring the effects of creativity on a society, it is clear how increased creativity throughout all stages of life could improve the quality of life for everyone.

ISAIAH COZZOLINO

Effect of Drugs and Alcohol

Drugs and alcohol are becoming more of our social norm in today's world. This research study examines the effects of drugs and alcohol specifically on young adults between the ages of 18-25. The effects these substances have on friends, family, jobs, and mental health are the core focus of the project.

NATALI DOMINGUEZ

What Memories Can Do

This project is about childhood memories and how they play a role in adulthood. The research highlights flashbulb memory theory, autobiographical theory, and false memory theory. Based on qualitative interviews, the following themes are examined: how people defined childhood, sunny days vs. bad days, false memories, and how childhood impacts the present.

JOSE "FERNANDO" DOMINGUEZ JR.

The Pain of Pract.... Rehearsal

A well-rehearsed artistic performance is flawless in every way. A spectacular performance shows the beauty of pure emotion. What we don't see is the thousands of hours of preparation that it took to make an enjoyable performance. Artists struggle every day with exhaustion, sleep deprivation, and overall physical and mental health. Through photography, the pain of rehearsal is captured.

KATIE DUNDAS

The negative impacts of not getting enough sleep

This project is about the relationship between lack of sleep and its negative impact on the regulation of emotions and cognitive abilities, especially applied to college students. Those who participated in the study were Midland University students.

NOLAN ENGELBART, ADDISON JOHNSON, LEXUS MUELLER, & KATIE POLODNA

Acid Precipitation Impacts on Brassica rapa Plant Growth

Acid precipitation is a phenomenon that has been increasing since industrialization. Our project evaluated the impact of varying levels of acid precipitation on plant growth. We found decreasing growth and quality of plant life as the level of acid increased.

DAVID ESTRADA

The Discrimination of Hispanic Discrimination

In this research it is mainly about how many Latino students around the world are being affected by the color of their skin and how they are being overlooked because many people believe that Latino students are not able to achieve in life. Discrimination about Latinos are being affected so much to teenagers that mostly all of them are dramatized with what happened in the past and mostly this has affected them when it comes to schooling and into work. The reasoning behind this research is to help me stand up for the Hispanic students and to the Hispanic community because they are taking advantage of us everyday and it is not acceptable to the Latino community. We should be looked at as equal people and should be treated with full respect. I would like to help our world become a better place for the Latino people. Especially for the upcoming youth because they are going to be the leading step on this project the most because they are the ones that are gonna be able to help finish this. This research should help motivate Latinos to stand up for themselves and not let discrimination describe us.

AMANDA FLEMING

Peer Pressure and Alcohol Use Among College Students

Alcohol consumption has been a large, national issue for decades (LaBrie et al., 2007). Moreover, drinking among college students and on college campuses around the United States possess large percentages in heavy episodes of consuming alcohol and partaking in binge drinking (LaBrie et al., 2007). The purpose of this study was to examine the effects of peer pressure and alcohol use among college students. Students from varying colleges around the United States, predominantly in the Midwest, participated in the current research study.

KEITH FORTE

Expression of Feelings: Are they different for boys versus girls

Boys and girls are taught to handle their emotions differently. In this study, I will review the differences in how boys and girls handle their emotions. I have interviewed 3 boys and 3 girls and asked them questions about their family life growing up and how they were taught to handle emotions. I found that the boys were not taught how to process their emotions, while the girls in my study were able to express their feelings. Studying how boys and girls are taught to express their feelings can be useful to parents and educators, and help them to be aware of their interactions with young people. It can help them to equally help boys and girls both learn to express their feelings.

JERICHA FOX, JULIA GRELL, & BOWEN SANDQUIST

Effects of External Factors on the Degradation of DNA and Microbe Colonies

This study looked at the effect of external factors on the degradation of human DNA, plasmid DNA, and four different bacterial strains. The DNA was exposed to varying heat levels and its degradation was measured. The bacteria was grown in various media concentrations to determine the optimal conditions to limit colony degradation.

REAGAN GAUSMAN

A Multi-perspective View of the Salem Witch Trials

The Salem Witch Trials represent an intersection of many issues that are still relevant today, including early women's autonomy, religion in the justice system, and the relationship between people and government. I have a strong interest in considering these topics as a woman and a person who still lives in a semblance of a government system being created at this time. This project investigates the discrepancies between the perspectives presented by the accused, judges and the community of accusers. It is important to note that these viewpoints do not present a binary conflict. Women leveled accusations and accused good men and bad men in power, and a religious climate emphasized conformity. This reconstructive research on the Salem Witch Trials relies on an archival collection of original court documents and letters to determine the true events of the trials and their historical legacy.

JOHN GERMER

Masks around Midland/Fremont Area

My final project will be on how many places in Fremont still are wearing masks/have mandates. We have adjusted to living life with COVID but COVID hasn't just gone away. Midland lifted its mask mandate before spring break and that had a lot of people scratching their heads. There seem to only be a couple of professors that still wear masks on campus. I will see if I would be able to take a picture of them and their class to see how many people still wear masks.

SALLY GREEN

Accessibility to Healthcare in a New America

Inequality has run rampant in the American healthcare system since its genesis and continues to do so today. How would our world be different if we centralized the healthcare system to be free and equitable to all people? By analyzing our current healthcare system's values and ideas, this research project will explore how we can reframe our society to centralize healthcare to be the foundation and the long-lasting benefits and challenges this new world would face.

JADINE HALLOWELL

Advocacy for Mental Health

This photovoice project will be addressing ways that there is or the lack there of resources on campuses. There will be photos that will be showing how the campus of Midland University shows advocacy for mental health from the photographer's eyes. Mental Health advocacy helps combat the negative and derogatory notions associated with those who seek to get help. This will help students and campus faculty, as well as coaches and training staff help address the lack of assistance on campus. It is imperative for campus faculty and coaches specially to realize this and create a safe space for their student-athletes.

SADIE HARRIS

Psychological Adjustment: Best Friends Gender

Looking to see if the gender of your best friend has an impact on your psychological adjustment to life thus far. Based on four psychological scales: self-worth, identity, friendship quality, and social physique anxiety.

CHLOE HERMAN

My Internship at the Fremont United Way

The Fremont Area United Way is a non-profit organization that serves Dodge and Washington counties. The goal of Fremont Area United Way is to advance and promote education, income, and health. My internship focused on organizing and collecting data and paperwork, attending community involvement meetings, and assisting with campaigns and fundraising events. I have gained knowledge in paperwork processes and communication-related tasks. I also gained experience working directly with those who come into the office looking for assistance.

MEGAN HERNANDEZ-BELEW

The Occupation of America's Most Secure Penitentiary

Alcatraz Island came under the occupation of the civil rights group, Indians of All Tribes, to establish an educational institution to teach the American public Native American history, culture, and customs. Native American activists used the occupation of the island, spokespeople, the media, and nonviolent protest to bargain their demands with the American Government. The occupation of Alcatraz was one of the many significant events of the Red Power Movement. The Red Power Movement was a social movement led by Native American college students that used their education to preserve culture, fight for tribal sovereignty, defend treaty rights, and organize protests.

RAYSHON HOVALDT

Scrolling Toward Depression/Anxiety: Social Media's Affect on the Mental Health of Young Adults

Research on the correlation between social media use and its effect on the overall well-being/ mental health of users has only recently been introduced to the field of psychology. So far, most studies have found similar results indicating that increased social media use seems to be correlated with increased rates of depression and anxiety, especially among young adults. This study investigates the correlation between the amount of time spent on social media per day and the severity of self reported symptoms of anxiety and depression among college-age adults 18 years old or older.

SIDNEY HOWARD

The Relationship Between Personality Traits, Gender, and Aspects of Dreaming

The purpose of this research is to discover the relationship between personality according to the Ten-Item Personality Inventory (TIPI) and various aspects of dreaming according to the Mannheim Dream Questionnaire (MADRE). My research will focus on gender as a demographic to understand how male and female personality types are different according to the functions of dreaming as defined by the MADRE questionnaire. Dreams in relation to personality is a common interest among existing psychological research, but there are still many aspects that are unknown.

NATALIE IACOVETTO

The Pearly Gates of the Athletic Training Room

If an athletic trainer were king this is a sneak peek into his kingdom. His advisor would-be chancellor of Physical therapy, chancellor of Strength and conditioning, and chancellor of nutrition. These would be the Big three decrees, One: prevent injury at all cost, two: fuel your body, three: use your God-given body to move. In a kingdom in which athletic trainers ruled, the citizens would be all-around healthier and less injury-prone due to their expertise in these areas.

JACKSON JAEGER

Chiropractic care, treatment for a better physical life

Today's society limits overall physical human health. As a society we humans want the quickest fix possible, however, with this mentality we have caused more harm than good. We also have looked for the most comfortable way in scenarios instead of the healthiest way, be it how furniture is shaped causing posture problems or even how painkillers have become so accessible that it causes more harm than good. My proposal is to turn to chiropractic care first, if we as a society focused more on using natural remedies to physically heal the body, we would be a much happier, healthier, and more mobile society

MITCHELL JOHNSON

Diversity in College Organizations

The purpose of this paper is to bring up the issues of diversity in college organizations and how to make them more diverse. In many organizations we see diversity be the main issue, especially in sporting organizations, as many of these organizations such as male-oriented organizations receive more attention and recognition than female-oriented organizations. While many steps have been taken in the past to improve the diversity between male and female organizations, there is still a big gap between the two and it hasn't seemed to get smaller. This research paper will bring more detailed information on how people of male and female organizations feel about diversity in their respective organizations and how things can be improved or changed.

EMMA JOHNSON

Communicating and Marketing: A Utopian Vision

Imagine a world where there is no competition between businesses. Instead, there is ample room for purpose-driven, creative interactions to make a profit for a good cause. The best employees would all be working for the same organization with equal opportunities for growth. Profit would be stewarded in the best ways possible. This ideal world-wide organization, The One, would encompass everything the human race would ever need and want. By applying communication and business values to contemporary society this project imagines the creation of a utopia based on collaboration rather than competition. In this world, concepts like closed-mindedness, lack of vision and resources, unnecessary spending, and being uneducated cease to exist.

EMMA JOHNSON

Hope Amidst a Heartbreaking Reality: A Phenomenological Analysis of Church Hurt

The heartbreaking problem explored in this research is that people can hurt others within their place of worship that leave wounds and influence many areas of their life. By using a subfield of qualitative research, a phenomenological analysis was conducted to capture the lived experiences of individuals affected by church hurt. A combination of convenience and snowball sampling was used to interview five individuals who have experienced church hurt, but are now reconciled to God, furthering their worship of Him at Love Church Omaha. Though just the surface was scratched, the core finding of this study was that church hurt really hurts, but God is greater and can heal even the deepest wounds. The data collected led to three primary themes related to the importance of: acknowledging hurt for what it is, seeking God for who He says He is, and choosing to fight the good fight of faith. The results of this study may prove useful to anyone within a local church who is willing to humble themselves and listen to what actually hurts others and how they can be proactive and more empathetic in combating this phenomenon. The implications of this study reveal the need for leaders and members in the church to make conscious efforts to have their words and actions line up, to learn to hate gossip and slandering, and to genuinely love people in all seasons of life like Jesus would.

KONNER KIESEL

Back to the Future: The Potential Utopic Effects of a Music Dominated Society

Stravinsky used it to turn a quiet room of patrons into a raging mob, a group of Estonians used it to force a Russian army out of their homeland, and Jewish and Black enslaved people used it to find solace in unimaginable situations. The "it" that binds all of these stories together, as well as every culture on earth, is music. What would happen if this universal connector was given even more power and influence on society? This project imagines the potential utopia that could be reached by doing just that. By imposing these artistic values onto our contemporary society, a new utopia can be realized built on artistic expression and free thinking. By first exploring the values that music instills, then etching out a blueprint of what this new utopia would look like and what major changes would be needed to centralize these values and maintain control, and finally delving into what lasting benefits these changes would have on our society and any opposition it would face.

PEYTON KOCH

Sleep or No Sleep: How sleep deprivation has an effect on collegiate athletes

This project covers how sleep, or lack thereof, has an effect on college students, more specifically, college athletes. Not only is the athletic side of their college experience examined, but their academic and social life as well. Through statistical analysis gathered from surveys, a correlation between sleep and the performance of college athletes is assessed.

KENNEDY KRESS

Attachment Styles and Responsibility: How Do They Coincide?

Attachment styles have been researched extensively and have been shown to correlate with many different variables in individuals' lives. However, little research has been done regarding how attachment styles may affect rates of responsibility in adolescence. This study investigates the correlation between attachment styles and the ages at which individuals started achieving various tasks regarding responsibility by using a scale to determine an individual's unique attachment style and a survey.

TRENT KUDSK

Materialism and its effect on people of different economic backgrounds and the mitigation of its negative effect

The value of materialism in Western society is a contentious point that has been studied in relation to overall life satisfaction and traditional financial success. This study aims to examine the different relationships people of different financial backgrounds have with the money they spend on luxury items. The study looks at the tendency of people of higher financial wealth to see their items as a way to enhance relationships against the tendency of seeing the items as the source of happiness itself. The study also seeks to allow people to share their journeys of arriving at their current financial status and how they have learned to have a healthy, or unhealthy, relationship with the money they spend and goods they buy.

TAYLOR KVITTEM

My Internship at the Fremont Family YMCA

The Fremont Family YMCA is a nonprofit organization that serves everyone in the Fremont community. Their main focus is in youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. My internship is in the gymnastics center. I have had the opportunity to really focus on youth development as well as social responsibility through my time at the YMCA.

AARON LANGEMEIR

Minimum Wage: Friend or Foe?

Inflation impacts the country in many ways as the cost of living varies across the U.S. One proposed solution to counteract inflation is raising the minimum wage. However, this topic is very controversial as some parties believe raising the minimum wage will lower unemployment and make costs of living more affordable. On the other hand, it is believed that raising the minimum wage will only drive inflation higher as the general population has more money to spend creating more demand and pushing product prices higher. Economic research has proven that raising the minimum wage will lower unemployment and cost of living while also increasing inflation and demand.

SAMANTHA LECLEAR

Fremont Public Schools: Pathfinder Program

My internship is with the Pathfinder Program through Fremont Public Schools. I am in a behavioral classroom with junior high students. Most of the students have behavioral problems such as anger issues, learning disabilities, or they are unable to work within a regular class setting.

PHIL LIAKAKOS

The Impact Sports have on College Athletes

This research study takes a look into the lives of college athletes at Midland University and the challenges they face, which can include physical, mental, and academic. College athletes go through a lot during a semester let alone four years of elite competition, representing their school. During this journey or college career there is a lot expected from athletes, including academic performance, athletic achievements, and maintaining social relationships. This research study gave a better understanding of what athletes are going through even with the variance of different sports.

BRITTANY LLANES

Working Immigrants

In my photovoice I will be talking about how it is sometimes a struggle for Latino immigrants to get jobs in America. How many perceive different things about the Latino race or sometimes view them as lazy. Or how people always say that Latino immigrants are stealing their jobs, but they are just picking up the jobs that others do not want to work. They are working in farms and barely getting any money to survive or to just work paycheck to paycheck. I can somewhat relate to this because I've seen it with my own eyes and lived through it and I want to change people's perspective on how they are viewed.

BAILEY LOCANO

America's Eating Habits Leading to Depression

Strong positive mental health and physical health are both necessary for a healthy individual and the balance between both being sufficient creates a standard healthy adult. The purpose is to see the relationship between the two among adults in the United States, and if they have an effect on one another or if they are both stand-alone factors on an individual's health.

LOGAN MAGLE

Exploring Non Prescribed Stimulant Use Among College Students

Evidence suggests that college students have been observed taking stimulants in order to gain a boost in focus in order to obtain greater academic achievement. Research has indicated that stimulant usage as a whole has reached an all-time high with attention disorders such as ADD as well as ADHD becoming more and more prevalent, especially among younger generations. With prescription rates on the rise along with seemingly more and more individuals turning to some type of post-education, the question as to whom many of these students partake in simulant usage arises. This study investigates the correlation between Midland students and the rise in popularity of stimulant usage.

THOMAS MCCOPPIN

Space Debris: A Growing, Floating Problem

Spacefaring missions have always captivated the imagination. The idea of exploration and seeing planets only before seen through telescopes has fueled entire genres of our fiction. As we continue to develop these technologies today, an ever growing problem has come to our attention, that being the space debris left behind. As we continue to send out satellites and rockets out unto the great beyond, we leave junk of empty boosters and the expended bodies of satellites in our own atmosphere, slowly crowding our orbits with high speed projectiles. As these orbits fill up with unused scrap, not only do our new launches become harder and riskier to execute, but the danger of junk colliding with each other and producing entire clouds of shrapnel. With these possibilities at hand, many scientists have begun searching into their own methods of dispatching of junk. This paper aims to examine these possible solutions and discuss what the most likely viable options are to dispose of this increasing threat.

SAMANTHA MCDONALD

Cultivating a Better Tomorrow. How Prioritizing Agriculture can Improve Society

Agriculture has been a pivotal pillar of innovation since hunter-gatherers finally settled down and built the very first communities. Agriculture's vital role in society today is often overlooked, and not usually associated with progression. However, the basis of the most important historical innovations such as community, communication, math, and language can all be linked to Agriculture. This project seeks to cultivate a new utopia built upon the ideals of agriculture. Agriculture can create a new utopia by focusing on environmental sustainability, promoting balance, and encouraging all citizens to cultivate a positive work ethic.

JOSE MINCHACA

It's Okay for Men to Cry

The present study examined men's mental health and how it is impacted by men's inability to show emotions. The results come from a google survey posted on social media that captured the experiences of men from a variety of ages and backgrounds. The questions asked during the research process were intended to help gauge whether men feel that they can express their emotions without feeling judged by others and to explore this in relation to mental health.

KAYLA MONAGHAN

A Utopia with a Unique Approach on Morals

This utopia, based on the majors of accounting and criminal justice, takes on an approach that is analytical along with a focus on right and wrong. Everything and everyone has a place and purpose, all coexisting in a mutually beneficial relationship. By focusing on right and wrong with an analytical approach, this project imagines the creation of a world without discrimination and inequality all the while praising individuals for their own individual strengths.

SARAH MURRAY

The Creativity Contingency

A common theme among most dystopian societies is a lack of art, creativity, and individual artistic freedom. Therefore, one of the first steps away from dystopia would be to encourage and celebrate diversity and artistic expression across the globe. We can promote this diversity and artistic expression by funding arts programs in K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and especially smaller cities worldwide. By looking back at how art has shaped the world, especially through transitional periods in history, this project envisions the creation of a world based on creativity, freedom of expression, and individuality.

LANCE MYERS

A Behaviorist's Utopia

The world is controlled by behavior, and in order for a perfect society to exist, behavior must be at the center. This presentation looks at how a behavior analyst would theorize a utopia. All behaviors, including verbal, physical, and written, are essential to the ideal society for everyone. Behavior is at the heart of any utopia because without correct behaviors, a perfect society is impossible.

SAMANTHA NELSON

A Phenomenological Study Exploring Gender Differences and Their Effect Within Coed Collegiate Sport

The purpose of this phenomenological study is to understand the gender differences in coed sports for the participants at Midland University. These teams include shotgun sports, dance, cheer, and esports. There will be interviews conducted among members of these teams to hear their perspectives on certain issues and topics surrounding coed teams. These questions cover the topics about personal experiences within these sports and activities. The questions are along the lines of their experiences involving their backgrounds, coaching, team dynamics, and experiences with those not involved with their team. Currently, there is already some research done on those involved within sports like basketball, soccer, etc., but there has not been much done on sports that were originally designed to involve both genders on the same team. While using the past research done, and looking at other outside experiences already documented, the findings will be applied to the current research in hopes to have a better understanding of these participants, their team dynamics, and how the teams are viewed throughout Midland University's campus.

KISA OMEROVIC

Effect of Cellphone Usage in Correlation with Sleep Duration

The purpose of this research is to see if cell phone use affects people's sleep patterns. That includes looking into other issues that could be contributing to why individuals aren't getting enough sleep. It could vary from sleeping next to their phone, blue light exposure, mental health, physical health, time management, and sleeping problems.

KISA OMEROVIC

Mental disorder & Coping Mechanisms

Many people suffer from mental illnesses and finding a way to manage differs from person to person. In my images, I will present four images that depict how I cope with a mental disorder known as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder throughout the course of my day. The most common symptoms of ADHD are being easily distracted, forgetfulness, impatience, and being easily stressed out. Playing soccer, listening to music, relaxing at the lakes, and going on a quick shopping spree are some of the ways I deal with those symptoms. There are many other ways to cope with ADHD, but those are the ones that help me cope every day.

ASHLEIGH PAINTER

Child Abuse and Neglect in Society: A Counselor's Perspective

This study focuses on the counselor's perspective of the specific aspects of the child victim's mental health and how it can affect their everyday life, along with how it can potentially affect their future. Interventions are examined with an identification of the most common and successful interventions that are used on a daily basis for these cases. While taking both the mental health and the intervention aspect into perspective, the Behavioral Child Development Theory is applied.

ASHLEIGH PAINTER

The Effects Of Social Interaction On Childhood Bullying

The effects of social interaction from childhood bullying put a damper on one's adulthood. When an individual happens to suffer through physical, verbal, social, or cyberbullying at any point in high school, then their ability to interact with peers of a similar age would be hindered by their experience in high school due to the lasting effects of bullying which can be detrimental to their social interaction with others. This study does show how these lasting effects of bullying still affect the victim still to this day in adulthood.

CHRISTINA PATTON

Emotions in Women's Sports

For my final project I will be discussing women in sports and their emotions. The photos I will be using will show how important sports are to women with the expression they have. It will also show a different aspect to women's sport due to most pictures taken were during happy or sad moments during the sport. I am also doing bowling as my sport for the project due to most people assuming it's not an actual sport due to the lack of "physical" work being done. Due to the sport only having one home tournament during the season, the student body can't see the effort we actually put in.

NEVAEH PATYK

Effects of pollution to human health

For this photovoice project I will be talking about the effect that pollution has on human/animal health. For this project I will share photos and information/facts about pollution and how it can affect someone or something. I personally drive around a lot to different towns and cities and I see pollution almost everywhere I go. Pollution is a common issue all around the world and I think it is an issue that needs to be looked at more. Within this project I will talk about different pollutions found, how to prevent pollution, the health issues/concerns relating to pollution, and much more. This can show visually how pollution is very dangerous to our health and how we as humans ignore pollution without even realizing it.

ANGELO PERRY

Wondering Wealth

For this project, I plan to show the disbursement of wealth within the community of Fremont. The project may vary in its approach slightly however, the goal is to display the ethical issues within the amount of employment opportunities and options around Fremont, along with showing the limiting factors behind finding and holding a job within the community. This project will be curated in order to portray the different styles of life along with the living situations and opportunities are given to those in such a small area. I am hoping to be able to contribute different injustices from Fremont into the project in order to portray why the way of life may be limited for some in the area.

CASEY PETERSEN

Perceptions of and Experiences with the Police

This project focused on how the presence of police and experiences with the police impacts Midland students. Information was also gathered on the students' perspectives of police presence and safety.

LAUREN PIMENTEL

Bias within the Child Welfare System

Native American and African American children, in numbers that are considerably high, are placed within the U.S. foster care system. Published data validates that the specific populations, as well as race and poverty bias, play a role within the child welfare system. Children that fall within these populations are more likely to be placed in foster care, be maltreated, and have limited access to services. Applying values based upon a human services perspective on various literature and published studies raises the question if our race and poverty bias is hurting these children within the system more than they are helping.

MALORIE POESSNECKER

The Impact of Addiction on the Individual

Substance abuse is largely misunderstood by the general public and the misconceptions about individuals who have substance use disorders can be extremely harmful. This project is a look into the life of one person who battled drug addiction and how that struggle affected them in different ways and at different points in time. By providing a realistic view of the experiences of someone who lived through addiction, we can begin to eliminate some of the stigma that exists around substance abuse, which is the first step in offering better support to these individuals.

TRAVIS POLLARD

Cutting Weight: A Case Study Analysis of Eating Disorders and College Athletes

Eating disorders are such a taboo topic that not many people feel comfortable talking about them, even though they can affect anybody. Many college student-athletes suffer silently from eating disorders. College student-athletes are asked to do so much every day whether it's constant practices, weightlifting, meetings, on top of everything a normal college student does. This can lead to stress, which can lead to things like eating disorders, especially with a sport that makes you track your weight and gain/lose weight. To address this problem, this study explores the experience of college student-athletes from the athletes' perspective to gain a fuller understanding of the struggles they deal with daily, how their sport affects it, and how it affects them within the sport. Utilizing convenience and case sampling, student-athletes were interviewed at a location of their choosing to discuss their lived experience with an eating disorder and being a college athlete. The results of this study revealed the following themes: weight loss/gain for sports causes students to question their body image, and specific sports cause self-confidence issues. These results may prove useful to coaches and athletes who suffer from this, and any parents of athletes. Allowing college student-athletes to be more open about their issues could prevent future generations to struggle with this because it could be talked about with no fear of judgment. The results of this study illustrates the need for openness between coaches and athletes with no judgment.

ELLIE (GABRIELLE) REAVIS

Dance Culture: An Exploration of Narratives to Understand Dance Educators Inspiring Change

Dancers are on the cusp of an artistic renaissance by finding new depths as an art form and sport with inclusivity, diversity, access, and creating healthy standards that have never been conventionally accepted before. As the arts come back to life post-global pandemic shutdown, we can reevaluate how dance educators are encouraging the next generation of dancers based on personal narrative experiences. To find an understanding of the change needed in dance culture, and how we go about this change, dance educators from all over the United States will go through an interview to reflect on their involvement and contributions within their own dance communities. After analyzing the currently available research and finding recurring themes from co-researchers, I have found a need to revive dance culture following the themes of body image, competition, capitalism, inclusivity, diversity, and a call to action for change. The goal of this research will empower dance educators to continue influencing change within their personal communities that will eventually become the industry standard for the next generation of dancers.

SYDNI RICHARDS

Ideologies of Nursing and The Effects on Society

If I were to create a world by applying the ideologies and principles that are held by nurses to our society, they would use their reign to promote acts of healthy decisions. In this utopia, you can expect your health to be at its peak, as everyone is kept up to date on checkups, vaccinations, and medications. At what costs though? You must say goodbye to your guilty pleasures, as that increases health risks, and be prepared to have no say in what is put in your body, as your sickness can be a danger to everyone's well-being.

ABBAY RINGLER

Access to Healthcare

The concept of access to healthcare in the United States is one that has become heavily relevant. Providing quality health care to everyone is a problem of social justice that needs reform. Citizens question whether the idea of universal healthcare would provide more or less benefits to citizens. This project explores the two worlds of universal healthcare, and whether it would be considered a utopia or dystopia.

CONNOR RINN

Participation in group work: An exploration of the case study of why group members may participate less in group work

In many instances group projects can be a very challenging thing to be a part of. Many people get easily frustrated with other members of the group and prefer to do their work alone. Why is that? When groups are formed and asked to work together to complete a project or task, some members may end up participating more than others. This case study is aimed at finding out why some group members participate less in group work and to try to find ways to combat less participation of group members. In this case study, a group of individuals were asked to complete a project together. While working on their project their participation towards the project was evaluated. Next each group member was interviewed about their feelings and thoughts about participation on their portion of the project, and their members' participation on the project.

HAYDEN ROBBINS

America's Most Influential Presidency

Franklin Delano Roosevelt is widely considered the most influential president in modern American history. He was elected at a time when Americans were struggling to cope with the effects of the Great Depression. Many of the policies and programs Roosevelt implemented are still relevant today. This project explores how Roosevelt's legacy affects Americans today primarily using newspaper articles, historical context, and archival research.

HAYDEN ROBBINS

America's Often Forgotten War

The Korean War is often overlooked because it occurred between two global conflicts. This project examines how this "forgotten" war continues to be one of the most important events to understanding post World War II in America. American foreign policy and interests in Asia would continue to be shaped by this war for decades to come. This project reconstructs 1950s America through the use of primary source documents from archival research, geopolitical and historical context, and newspaper articles to provide proof of how this war connects to modern day America.

GAVIN RODINSKY

Illegal Drugs and Alcohol: The Effects on Young Adults

Drugs and alcohol are an ever-growing aspect of early adulthood. This research project aims to explain the multi-faceted effects of drug and alcohol use on young adults. Specifically, mental and physical health, demographics of users, and their effect on relationships are explored.

BOWEN SANDQUIST

Anxiety and its Effect on Academic and Athletic/Art Performance

The scope of this study is to look into the different effects of anxiety on academic and athletic/arts performance. Participants in this study are students who either belong to an athletic team or are in the performing arts. The main points of research analyzed throughout this study include participant demographics, students' self-evaluation of their anxiety in the classroom, and students' self-evaluation of their anxiety in athletics/performing arts.

EDDIE SCHWEIKERT

Deal-Making and New Coalitions: The Politics of the New Deal

In response to the Great Depression, Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal fundamentally changed the American economy. The modern perception of the New Deal seems to be that Roosevelt simply waltzed in and saved the day with broad public support. In looking at original source material, however, as well as contemporary scholarly research, it becomes clear that achieving such sweeping changes required significant political maneuvering both with the public and within the lawmaking process. A better understanding of the New Deal's legacy and its implementation helps inform debates about implementing policy change still occurring amongst the American public today.

EDDIE SCHWEIKERT

Equal Access to Education in a Perfect World

Egalitarian ideals are the foundation of the American experiment. Self-made men like Benjamin Franklin and John Adams well-understood that a democracy would need an informed and educated citizenry to ward off mob rule. Thus, education was paramount to the public good. The first article in the Bill of Rights enshrines freedom of the press, religion, and expression. With this, James Madison envisioned that free discourse among free men would promote egalitarian values and practices. This was the first rudimentary step toward a greater educational system in America. Today, the existence of public education rests on the notion that education is a right for all people, regardless of background. In a perfect world, this would be true; in reality, this is not always realized. The question of how educators can combat and overcome unequal access to education going forward is one that will certainly trouble educators, as the 21st century and future centuries will present many new challenges and opportunities. This research project seeks to answer that question.

SAMANTHA SEGURA-VELIZ

Gang Influenced Neighborhood

For this final project, I will be speaking upon gang influence in neighborhoods. The images will be able to break down the different backgrounds and effects that gangs bring to people. The picture will be represented through the streets of South Central Los Angeles, California, which is my hometown, and is known as "gangland."

MAGGIE SEMPECK

Pathfinder Support Services is an organization that provides different services to children and families in need. These services include family support, supervised visitation, drug testing, and many others. For the first semester of my internship, I shadowed employees during these various services to learn more about how the services are conducted. For the past three months, I have been employed at Pathfinder and taking my own cases and conducting my own supervised visitations.

ASHLEY SHELTON

Funding an Education Revolution

The goal of this project is to explore what the world would look like if more funding was placed towards education. As a future educator, I have seen a lack of funding cause hindrances in learning for students and want to see what improvements could be made with more monetary value placed towards the education system. Many students lack resources that are essential to modern day education, due to the fact that funding is placed in so many other places, like professional sports. By applying teaching values to contemporary society this project imagines the creation of a world based on knowledge, learning, and exploration.

SARAH SHOWALTER

Perfect Police

The idea of a perfect world is always in everyone's mind. A utopian society based on law enforcement would create a world based on three values: trust, equality, and integrity. Journals will be examined to uncover these central values and what keeps society from reaching these goals. The research challenges society to view the world from the perspective of Law Enforcement to answer the following question. Is a utopia based on the criminal justice system even possible?

MORGAN SIEBERT

Human Management: Making or Breaking Organizations

This research paper breaks down the fundamentals of management to assess how organizations can effectively manage or influence their employees to accomplish strategic objectives. In order to assess effective management practices, this paper will analyze articles and studies to better comprehend the management of people. Analyzing behaviors, and the most effective management practices, enhances the ability for organizations to accomplish more than they would be able on their own, benefitting a broader cause. Through analyzing and selecting the most effective management techniques, this project will foresee a society that emphasizes professionalism, communication, and development of businesses through management practices.

KENNETH SMITH, AUSTIN SPORER, & CASEYANN THOMPSON

"Testing the Growth and Health of Brassica rapa in Soil Potentially Containing Different Long-Term Contaminates"

This study was done in order to find if built-up contamination has affected soil health in such a way that normal plant growth would be unobtainable, or stunted without added nutrients to the soil. The majority of plants did grow when provided adequate water and sunlight, however, there is an obvious distinction in amount and rate of growth between the different soil samples. The other variation found within the plants was the amount of chlorophyll found within the leaves of the samples based upon which soil sample they were planted in, which directly ties to the overall health of the plant.

LUISA SOTO

Male's Perception of Abortion

Abortion has been a hot topic since the landmark Roe v. Wade case, which protected a women's choice to have an abortion if they so chose to. Looking at past studies around the topic of abortion, most of the time women are the main participants in them. I will be looking at how a male's age, civil status, professional career, and political stance influences their perception on abortion.

HENRI STOECKERMANN

Time for Change: Creating a Mental Health Utopia

The fast improvement of our society results in more mental health issues, affecting over one-fourth of the American population. Promising treatment options, therapists, and psychologists are able to treat the affected, but the number of mentally ill continues to rise. An improvement in society's mental health has long been needed. It is important to note that scientists and psychologists are aware of triggers for mental issues and factors that positively affect mental health, like green spaces and healthy food. How would psychologists use this knowledge and decrease mental illness by reorganizing the society we live in? This project imagines a utopia of an environment fostering mentally healthy humans by applying current psychological knowledge about mental health. It explores what change is needed to increase mental health in society, as well as what aspects can be applied to today's society.

BRANDY SUDARIO

Centralized Culturally Sensitive Healthcare and a New Society

In 2000 the Department of Health and Human Services Minority Health Office set out to heal the racial disparities in the American healthcare system by drafting the CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) Standards. These standards sought to make the healthcare system more equitable by outlining 15 action steps to make establishments more culturally and linguistically sensitive. This project seeks to lay the framework of a new utopia built upon a centralized culturally sensitive healthcare system. By breaking down these 15 steps and applying them to the current broken healthcare system, analyzing how these ideals can be applied to a utopia built around a centralized healthcare system, and finally combating any opposition one can begin to see how a new society can be built.

COLBY TICHOTA

Conserving Economic Balance

In the crazy world that we live in, the economic flow can be disrupted and altered by many things out of human control. As a society, nation, and world, we have to find ways to adapt to our current situation, make ends meet, and live the best life possible. As we all try to find balance in our everyday lives, we also search for financial balance in the economic roles we play to help society. By understanding economic trends, current events, and future predictions, we can use this project to learn more about the situation we are in today, how we can pursue a new normal, and some challenges on the horizon we may face.

JORDAN TIEKEN

Difference of Stress Levels Between Men's and Women's College Hockey Athletes

The purpose of this research was to examine the differences of stress between men's and women's college hockey athletes. Using a survey method through Google Forms, the data was collected to see what stressors impacted both the men's and women's college hockey athletes using a Likert Scale. This data was then examined to see what stresses out these athlete's the most during their season.

HANNAH TRISKE

Pocahontas & Jamestown: Reconsidering the Historical Myth

This project explores the truth behind the mythological figure of Pocahontas, the city of Jamestown, and their interconnected historical legacy. By comparing the Indigenous and Colonial perspectives, the founding of Jamestown becomes clearer. Themes explored within this project include the historical figure of Pocahontas, the historical relationship between Indigenous and Colonist people, and the power of history that shapes perception. Ultimately, reconsidering the historical accuracy of Pocahontas and Jamestown corrects the history that is often taught and learned from the European perspective.

HANNAH TRISKE

Retribution & Ridicule: A Narrative Exploration of Conservative Female Voices on College Campuses

Being unheard, misunderstood, and unaccepted is a reality that female college conservatives face. The narrative form of qualitative research uses detailed stories and experiences to convey lived experiences, in this case, female college conservatives. Being afraid of bad grades, judgment and ridicule from peers, and biased educational lessons were all themes from the research. Utilizing convenience sampling, this study illustrates the need to have a more politically inclusive college environment where students can come to their own political conclusions.

KARI VANNOSTRAND

Solve the Problem: Education. What's wrong with it?

An unsolvable problem troubles American education. This trouble is not new; Plato in the Republic addressed educational faults in a democracy, describing citizens living in a darkened cave, fettered to public opinion whims. Education today possesses many of these same ills. Is our understanding of the world like what the goldfish knows of the bowl? Is American culture our bowl? Systemic deficiencies trouble American schools. Many of these issues are solvable yet are not touched on due to the magnitude of effort needed to be put in, despite how our world has put so much importance on education. By looking into our schools, seeing the perspectives of those within them, and digging up the roots of these issues, we can emphasize education in a new, positive light. Here's today's question: How can we encourage those on the path of becoming a teacher to find new, unique, and beneficial ways of teaching students? How can we push the prominence of school board members and education administrators and make sure that the students are the first things on their minds? How can we involve inclinations, inclusivity, adaptation, open-mindedness, and positivity to solve problems in schools and create solutions for them?

HANNAH WALKER

Nursing the Society back to Good Health

I bet everyone can recall, at least once, a time when a wound or sickness was soothed by a nurse. What if that smiling face was in charge of more than just giving us a lollipop after a shot? What if nurses and the healthcare field were at the core of our society? This project sets out to explore a new utopia where centralized healthcare presides over our society. By gathering research on what nursing is now versus what nursing could be, this project will outline the core values of this new society and how they relate to the nursing profession, then I will discuss how these values can be fully realized in a utopia, and finally, I will review any opposition that this society would face when trying to maintain control.

DARBY WALSH

A Doctor's Utopia: Eradicating Diseases

Although medicine is the most advanced it has ever been, healing common illnesses is something a doctor deals with every day. With the current pandemic, it has become obvious that the elimination of disease is demanding. In a doctor's perfect world all diseases would be wiped out. By applying this concept to society today and examining vaccinations, the smallpox eradication, and the current pandemic, this project envisions a world free of disease.

NINA WARTELL

How Stress Physically Affects College Students vs. Non-Athletes

The purpose of this research is to develop an understanding of how stress can physically affect college athletes and/or non-athletes and what these specific effects may be. College students in general have many hobbies and factors that cause stress amongst them, which then leads to effects on their physical body. When thinking about stress, mental health usually comes to mind first, but nobody really focuses on the physical effects that it may cause.

MONICA WEBER

My Internship with Fremont Public Schools Pathfinder Program

My internship is with the Fremont Public Schools Pathfinder Program. Pathfinders is an alternative education program that helps meet the needs of kids and young adults with behaviors or disabilities. I serve as a para. I get to help kids one-on-one with basic skills. I get to read with kids, dance with them, but whatever the task is, I am using a positive reinforcement reward system implemented by the teacher.

MATT WEISBERG

Social Media, Depression, and Anxiety: A Quantitative Study

By using quantitative measures, this research study attempts to establish a statistical association between one's social media usage and the presence of one's symptoms of anxiety and/or depression. Further, this research seeks to understand one's perception of social media regarding one's mental health. This study uses a sample of Midland University undergraduate students as a way to better understand how social media affects the mental health of students at a small liberal arts university.

LUCAS WEYRICH

Socioeconomic Status Impacts Neural Oscillatory Dynamics Underlying Functional Brain Development Serving Selective Attention During Childhood and Adolescence

Functional brain development is heavily influenced by environmental factors, such as socioeconomic status (SES). However, previous studies investigated only functional resting-state paradigms when in relation to SES, while task-based brain imaging opens more functionally relevant doors. Selective attention serves as an excellent domain to investigate the environmental impact on brain development, as it builds the foundation for higher-order cognitive functioning. Thus, magnetoencephalography was used to identify the neural oscillatory dynamics serving selective attention during development that are impacted by SES.

LUCAS WEYRICH

Environmental Impacts On The Pace Of Brain Development: Beyond Selective Attention

An accompanying poster (PSY498) showed that socioeconomic status (SES) impacts the underlying trajectories of neural oscillatory dynamics serving selective attention, utilizing magnetoencephalography (MEG). However, these results in connection with previous studies have a broader implication than just for the MEG literature. Because SES impacts brain development on multiple levels and domains (i.e., structural and functional), a birds-eye view must be taken in order to assess the implications of the current results, as well as the impact of SES on brain development more general, utilizing an integrative model.

GWEN WOLFE

The Future of Special Education

This research was conducted in order to better understand the trajectory of the Special Education field by looking at three primary scopes. The first is the background of Special Education majors/endorsements, including topics such as interest in the field and prior education or experiences that led to the decision to study Special Education. The second is overall educational experience including topics such as classroom experience, experience with teaching staff, and experience with the overall university during their educational pursuits. The final scope focuses on the future of Special Education, covering topics such as a Special Education major/endorsement's career goals, and what impact they plan on having in the field of Special Education.

GWEN WOLFE

Gender Discrimination in Sports Injury Treatment

Anatomically, male, and female bodies are similar yet incredibly different, and it is likely that sex and gender have an impact of the type of frequency of sports injuries, as well as their diagnosis and treatment in the patient care system. This study aims to close the gap between male and female patients, specifically in the field of sports medicine, by revealing these weak points in education based on patient experiences.

