



College of the Mainland®

Third Annual  
Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Consortium  
Creative and Academic Symposium

# GCIC Academic Symposium

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*Being*  
HUMAN

*the Art  
of Science*

*the Science  
of Art*

Friday, April 24, 2015

9 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

G.C.I.C.  
GULF COAST INTERCOLLEGIATE CONSORTIUM

## Program Overview

9 – 9:25 a.m.	Welcome	LRC-131
<b>9:30 – 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Session 1A: Our Society</b>	<b>Room 1131 TVB</b>
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Cassandra Lafferty: “Living with Pain or Dying with Dignity: The Art and Science of End-of-Life Options”	
9:45 – 10 a.m.	Natalie Gilpin: “Animal Assisted Therapy (Dogs) in Elderly Patients”	
10 – 10:15 a.m.	Grace Schwarz: “Activism Challenges Society; Volunteering Maintains It”	
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Bertrand Ebang: “Using Ultrasound to Treat Children with Sickle Cell Disease”	
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Q&A	
<b>9:30 – 10:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Session 1B: Our Humanity</b>	<b>Room 1153 TVB</b>
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Alaina Spiers: “Humanity’s Pride and Prejudice”	
9:45 – 10 a.m.	Abby (Arthur) Alvarado-Cruz: “Magenta: a Poetic Expansion on the Gender Binary”	
10 – 10:15 a.m.	Sarah McKay: “Everybody Talks”	
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Alaina Spiers and Sarah McKay: “Debating Humanity”	
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Q&A	
<b>11 a.m. – noon</b>	<b>Session 2A: Through the Scientific Lens</b>	<b>Room 1131 TVB</b>
11 – 11:15 a.m.	Karina Herr: “Beauty is Truly Skin Deep: The True Effect of Cosmetics on the Skin”	
11:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Sara Robertson: “The CSI Effect”	
11:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Keelie Wimberly “Doctor Who Reads Huckleberry Finn: Understanding Classic Literature Through the Lens of Creative Science Fiction”	
11:45 am – noon	Q&A	
<b>11 a.m. – noon</b>	<b>Session 2B: Through the Artist Lens</b>	<b>Room 1153 TVB</b>
11 – 11:15 a.m.	Bibiana Bravo and Callie Rankin: “Identifying Principles of Deep Space Illusions on Two Dimensional Surfaces”	
11:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Jordan Bryan: “Preservation through Art and Science”	
11:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Jason Hayes and Valarie Robson: “Artful Evolution of Alluvial Fans”	
11:45 a.m. – noon	Q&A	
12:05 – 12:35 p.m.	Lunch	Student Center
12:40 – 1:20 p.m.	Mark Greenwalt – “The Aesthetics of Information”	LRC- 131
<b>1:30 – 3 p.m.</b>	<b>Session 3A: The Student Human As Scholarly Inquiry</b>	<b>LRC- 131</b>
1:30 – 1:45 p.m.	Andrea Fernandez: “Living a Double Life: The Pros and Cons of Growing Up in a Bi-Cultural Setting and Its Effects on the Latino College Student”	
1:45 – 2 p.m.	Drager Landry: “Utilizing Optimism: A Tool Encompassing Motivation and Academic Success”	
2 – 2:15 p.m.	Jesha Roady “Student Perceptions of the Influence of Their Parents’ Relationship Status on Their Academic Success”	
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	Cala Pope: “Building Blocks: A Taxonomy of Student-Teacher Relationships”	
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Rebekah Thompson: “Reading as Active Engagement: The Dangers of Censorship”	
2:45 – 3 p.m.	Q&A	
3:05 – 4 p.m.	Dr. John Lienhard, keynote speaker: “Frankenstein, Faust and Pygmalion”	
4 – 4:15 p.m.	Awards Ceremony and Closing	

### Welcome!

College of the Mainland’s Third Gulf Coast Creative and Academic Symposium is sponsored by the Gulf Coast Consortium of Community Colleges. Our theme, “Being Human: the Art of Science; the Science of Art,” targets the interconnectedness between the arts and sciences.

The relationship between the two is often unacknowledged, but we maintain that if students are persuaded to locate and analyze the inherent art in science and science in art, they’ll achieve quality, creativity and originality, with far greater regularity. We want students to consider all of this while mapping these concepts to what makes us human. It’s a high order but one we’re sure students will conquer in surprising ways.

With the students in mind, the event serves multiple goals including to enhance the students’ communication skills, to facilitate networking across the disciplines and colleges, and to help the students build self-confidence and ownership of original work. A primary goal is to encourage students from community colleges to participate in academic discourse, thereby providing them with the experience of presenting in an academic environment and networking with peers, faculty and the public.

Professors Dalel Serda and Veronica Sanchez

## Student Presentation Abstracts

### “Magenta: a Poetic Expansion on the Gender Binary” Abby (Arthur) Alvarado-Cruz, College of the Mainland

“Magenta” is an expressive poem exploring the concept of gender fluidity in relation to societal perspectives and depression. The work is the product of much analysis into the reality behind the life led by individuals who do not conform to social expectations of gender and gender expression. Through examining a second person perspective, the work asks the reader to truly examine the impacts of life as an outlaw to the gender classification system. The reader is able to reconsider their outlook on the conflicting ideas of gender roles, gender identity, and being human. The creation of gender roles is said to date back to the beginning of human evolution when man had two major roles to take on: gatherer and child rearing as a female, and hunter as a male. Today this is still represented by the encouragement of those with the sexual organs of males to take on more “masculine” roles and those with that of females to take on more “feminine” roles. Though we are starting to break away from these ideas, being a gender outlaw, or being simply human, is still a contentious topic.

### “Identifying Principles of Deep Space Illusions on Two Dimensional Surfaces”

#### Bibiana Bravo Callie Rankin, College of the Mainland

When a subject looks out towards a vanishing point objects tend to disappear, shrink and lose detail the further the eye is strained to see. Whereas the objects closest to the eye tend to seem larger, more detail can be observed and are much sharper. This illusion of perspective can be manipulated on flat surfaces where one would think there would be no depth of field. Some principles that can be used to create the illusion of a deeper space on a two dimensional surface are; creating a sense of atmosphere, establishing a vanishing point, overlapping shapes, and neglecting to emphasize detail on forms in the background. With the effective use of these principles an artist can make a flat panel seem like an infinite space reaching beyond two dimensions and into the realm of three dimensional space. I want to accomplish this illusion through the use of these principles so that the work of art I create can direct the viewer’s

mind into thinking that they are looking into a window that extends into a three dimensional space and show other examples of historic imagery that utilize these principles.

### “Preservation through Art and Science” Jordan Bryan, College of the Mainland

This project is a 31 in. x 16 in. shadowbox display of 15 different species of preserved butterflies that vary in color and size and are arranged in a creative manner rather than scientific. The inspiration was the unique human ability to preserve life through art and science. Due to the devastating loss of rainforest habitat for many species, local peoples have begun butterfly farming in order to prevent extinction. Once butterflies reach their end of life they can be naturally preserved by being pressed and allowed to dry with no additional preservatives. Different species of butterflies from all over the world would not naturally exist together, but because of the creativity and level of interest the beauty of these specimen inspire, they can be brought together into one display. The species preserved in this display are:

Dione junco andicola (Colombia)  
Morpho godartii didius (Per)  
Morpho Menelaus (Guyana)  
Anartia amathea amathea (Peru)  
Asterope optima philotima (Peru)  
Limenitis arthemis Proserpina (USA)  
Panacea prola (Peru)  
Polygrapha (Anaea) cyanea (Peru)  
Eurytides protesilaus nigricornis (Peru)  
Papilio oribazus (Madagascar)  
Papilio Ulysses Ulysses (Ceram)  
Anteos menippe (Peru)  
Appias nero (Sulawesi)  
Eurema nicippe (Florida)  
Phoebis satira (Peru)

### “Using Ultrasound to Treat Children with Sickle Cell Disease” Bertrand Ebang, Alvin Community College

This study analyzed, managed, and recorded treatment of children with Sickle Cell disease using ultrasound (TCD-Transcranial Doppler). This study has ground-breaking research data and criteria which proved that using a non-invasive medical procedure (ultrasound) can effectively manage the course of sickle cell disease in children. Every year a certain percentage of children born have Sickle Cell Disease. This disease is genetic and if not treated or managed, these children have a stroke and possibly die from the disease. Ultrasound has proven its worthiness by saving heavy hospital bills and saving American children from strokes.

### “Living a Double Life: The Pros and Cons of Growing Up in a Bi-Cultural Setting and Its Effects on the Latino College Student” Andrea Fernandez, College of the Mainland

There is a sufficient amount of research done on the major differences between American Latinos and Caucasian Americans. We know from research and census numbers that Latinos are the largest growing minority. However, they are underrepresented in mainstream media, our communities, and in our colleges. So how does underrepresentation, as well as the simultaneous assimilation to two different cultures with nearly polar opposite beliefs and customs, affect the Latino college student’s performance? How does the Latino student, specifically the first generation American students, find their place in the college setting?

### “Animal Assisted Therapy (Dogs) in Elderly Patients” Natalie Gilpin, College of the Mainland Clear Fall High School

This paper explores the debate that surrounds animal assisted therapy in relation to elderly patients. It explains the common physical problems associated with the elderly that animal assisted therapy can strengthen including weakened bones, muscles, and joints. Many elderly people suffer from mental problems and behavioral disturbances like depression, anxiety, and social withdrawal that can be improved by animal assisted therapy. An experiment done by Namiko Kawamura, Masayoshi Niiyama, and Harue Niiyama that lasted one year showed that animal assisted therapy actually made the patients dementia and mental function impairment worse throughout the first six months, but then returned back to normal in the following six months. This experiment deemed negative results. However, Marieanna C. Le Roux and Rene Kemp did an experiment that compared elderly patients who did animal assisted therapy and patients who didn’t for six weeks. The patients who participated in animal assisted therapy had a major decrease in both depression and anxiety which proved this experiment to be successful. I argue that the benefits of animals assisted therapy outweigh the risks.

### “Artful Evolution of Alluvial Fans”

Jason Hayes and Valarie Robson, College of the Mainland

Alluvial fans are fan shaped areas of deposited sediment formed when a stream ends and dumps its sediment out onto a flat plain. They are beautiful to look at and appear in different shapes and sizes as the forces of nature paint these deposits on landscapes across the Earth and other planets. This study will attempt to determine how nature forms these fans and what forces control their shape. The initial hypothesis was that a low slope angle would result in longer thinner depositional lobes. After some preliminary testing, this does not appear to be the case. The results show a fan with a small lobe and a higher fan height. Through further testing and data gathering, this study will expose the nature of geology’s alluvial fan paintbrush. Observations of alluvial fan processes on Earth have the potential to spark human curiosity in our exploration of other planets.

### “Beauty is Truly Skin Deep: The True Effect of Cosmetics on the Skin”

Karina Herr, Alvin Community College

For centuries cultures across the globe have used various forms of cosmetics to enhance the face and make it more appealing. Naturally, cosmetics have evolved since their inception and are now much cleaner, purer forms of their predecessors. Today, however, those who use cosmetics regularly may not fully understand what their foundations, powders, and creams do to their skin on a deeper, cellular level. Consumers now use industrially manufactured, synthetic makeup that claims a host of benefits but, paradoxically, at an expense. This project analyzes the effects of common types of cosmetics on the skin and offers a natural, custom-prepared substitute for modern alternatives makeup.

### “Living with Pain or Dying with Dignity: The Art and Science of End-of-Life Options”

Cassandra Lafferty, College of the Mainland

Upon graduating from medical school, physicians take an oath that states “there is an art to medicine as well as science and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon’s knife or chemist’s drug.” Although clinicians and medical ethicists may interpret this oath differently, it is clear that compassion should play a role in the practice of medicine. Dying with dignity should be a human right given to patients diagnosed with a terminal illness or living with unbearable chronic pain. This paper will provide insight on how physicians, patients, and Americans understand the concept of death and how physicians in particular struggle with the need to reconcile their professional directive to save lives with the art of medicine and the need for compassion. Physicians, patients, and their families deserve more serious attention to the need for options when faced with terminal illness and the specter of a lingering death. As human beings we should find a way for science and the art of medicine to ease suffering and give patients a painless way to end suffering and humanely bring about closure.

### “Utilizing Optimism: A Tool Encompassing Motivation and Academic Success”

Drager Landry, College of the Mainland

Researchers such as Maleva et al.; Li and Wu; and Morton, Mergler, and Boman conducted studies that identified the positive effects of optimism in relation to academic achievement. However, regression analysis – a statistical process for estimating the relationships among variables – brought the antecedents into question and there is a current need to specifically define this relationship. Many such as Haynes et al. have shown that optimism can precede academic achievement, while regression analysis of similar research shows that optimism is a result of past success. Not only that, but Haynes et al.’s study also showed that having optimism doesn’t always yield positive results and leaves an inconsistency in how it is perceived. My study will use surveys, data analysis, and interviews to gain an understanding of how successful students view and utilize their own optimism. By analyzing certain optimistic qualities such as cognitive reappraisal – the ability to look at academic frustrations as a learning experience – it will be possible to understand the questionable relationship between the art of optimism and the science behind academic achievement, as well as take note on how it will vary based upon student success rates.

### “Everybody Talks”

Sarah McKay, College of the Mainland

Everybody talks; humans using spoken and written language and bacteria by implementing a mechanism called quorum sensing. Quorum sensing is a simple diffusion of particles that can perform a variety of functions from activating gene expression to signaling an attack on a host. Quorum sensing has been researched since the 1960s, but only more recently has the question been asked: what if we could actually use this mechanism to communicate with bacteria ourselves? What are the implications, on a macro level, of being able to silence pathogenic bacteria when they are preparing to strike? What are the implications, on a micro level, of being able to utilize that system of cell-to-cell communication? This line of thinking has spawned hundreds of studies into potential applications for quorum sensing bacteria, from a new form of antibiotic to possible cancer treatments. It undeniably takes a certain degree of ingenuity to be able to look at bacteria and see a way to treat cancer, so how does a good scientist develop the perspective that allows them to see the world this way and make these kinds of connections? This presentation discusses not only the applications of quorum sensing technology, but also the creativity and ingenuity required by scientists to realize these possibilities.

### “Student Perceptions of the Influence of Their Parents’ Relationship Status on Their Academic Success”

Jesha Roady, College of the Mainland

Pre-existing research has proven that the relationship status of a student’s parents can have a significant effect on the students’ academic performance and outcomes. Researchers have found that both students and school administrators place value on parental involvement, as it has been found to have a positive correlation with academic success. Studies have shown that various living situations and parental relationship status’ can influence a student’s academic

outcomes both positively and negatively, to the point of contributing to a student’s probability of graduation and continuing on to receive post-secondary education. My research will further delve into the collegiate student’s perception of how their parents’ relationship status influences and affects their academic performance, and how a collegiate student’s grades and performance reflect the data found in previous research centered around traditional high-school students. I will attempt to draw a connection between familial structures and relationships to student academic success.

### “The CSI Effect”

Sara Robertson, Alvin Community College

Today television is one of the largest influences on society. This simple mode of creativity can influence everything from what we wear to how we think. One big impact of television is on the criminal justice system. Because of the influence of shows such as CSI, guilty people have been found innocent, victims are dissatisfied, and the public’s expectation is becoming increasingly unreasonable. Television has warped our reality so far that the justice system had to put a name on it: The CSI Effect. It is a fairly new concept, but one that is gaining speed in the criminal justice vocabulary. Did you know only 5-10% of criminal cases have biological evidence? What else did you think you know?

### “Building Blocks: A Taxonomy of Student-Teacher Relationships” Cala Pope, College of the Mainland

Many researchers throughout the years have extensively studied the effects of positive student-teacher relationships, as well as the effects of negative student – teacher relationships. Yet, they have failed to define what a quality student – teacher relationship is. The purpose of this study is to define high quality student – teacher relationships. This was done by systematic observations of four college students and their professor in a normal classroom setting, twice a week for sixteen weeks in the fall semester. From these observations six categories were made: engagement (how engaged the student is in the classroom and its activities), communication (communication between students and teachers), praise/rewards (reaffirmation of achievement/success), support systems (consisting of teachers or other students in the class), emotional and physical security (how safe/comfortable a student feels), and student – teacher conflict (possible tension between student and teacher). Once these five categories were created, taxonomy was built, modeled after Maslow’s pyramid and Bloom’s taxonomy. These specific groupings were built with high quality student-teacher relationships in mind; enabling a teacher to use it as a resource in the classroom to build better student-teacher relationships. By following this taxonomy an instructors can build relationships between their students, resulting in positive effects.

### “Activism Challenges Society; Volunteering Maintains It” Grace Schwarz, University of Houston

My path to volunteering started when I joined Girl Scouts as a daisy; my troop would pick up trash and visit the elderly once or twice a year. My path to activism started when I went to the house of one of my father’s coworkers after Ike to help clean up. My dad didn’t feel comfortable with my sister and I moving sewage-soaked furniture to the curb, like the adults were doing, so he handed us each a stack

of the man's photo albums and said "save what you can". There is a quantifiable personality difference between people who volunteer and people who are activists and it boils down to a willingness to change the community instead of maintaining it. The most basic difference between a volunteer and an activist is that "volunteers ... provide services through formal organizations" and "activists view the social structure as a target of intervention." Activism, and being able to think, outside of the societal framework is a skill that greatly helps me grow as a persona and as a scientist. It allows me to think beyond the narrow frame of what society holds as correct in order to research what is true.

#### "Humanity's Pride and Prejudice"

**Alaina Spiers, College of the Mainland**

Since September 11, 2001, the word "Muslim" has elicited fear and hatred among United State citizens. Americans boast on their acceptance of all races, sexualities, and religions. Though that is the supposed general consensus, the media continues to portray Islamic people as a group of crazy radicals, bent on the destruction of America when in fact the doctrine of their religion is almost parallel to the Christians. My project explored the difference between how a young, white American woman was treated versus how society treated a young, American-Muslim woman. To accomplish this I delved into the religion to explore one of humanities greatest flaws: prejudice.

#### "Debating Humanity"

**Alaina Spiers and Sarah McKay, College of the Mainland**

The word "empathy" derived from the Greek words "em" and "pathos" meaning "in feeling." According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, empathy is defined as the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. This understanding is a key component of what it takes to be human. Debate offers a way to hone this ability through the use of logos, ethos, and pathos (logos being one's use of logic, ethos one's credibility, and pathos one's capacity to evoke emotion). This project shows how debating is an art that combines the three different appeals in order to better connect and comprehend the people around us.

#### "Reading as Active Engagement: The Dangers of Censorship"

**Rebekah Thompson, College Of the Mainland**

In this presentation, I will be addressing the science of reading as it relates to the art of literature. I will be presenting an argument on the side of literature being beneficial for cognitive brain function as well as for our ability to relate with other people, and I will endeavor to demonstrate that violence in literature has no pernicious effects on individuals. Studies have been performed that have proven that reading not only activates higher blood flow, depending on the type of reading you are engaged in, but have also shown that reading fictional works can prompt people to be more empathetic and able to associate and interact with people better on a daily basis. Censorship causes more harm than good; when censorship has been applied to what our generation can consume for entertainment, our freedom of choice has been violated and our sense of fair democracy has been destroyed before we have even entered society as full-fledged adults.

#### "Doctor Who Reads Huckleberry Finn: Understanding Classic Literature Through the Lens of Creative Science Fiction"

**Keelie E. Wimberley, College of the Mainland**

The decision to use the British television show Doctor Who resulted from an idea taken from the writers who take historical events and/or people and use an encounter with the Doctor as an explanation as to why the situation happened. My intention was to explain why Huck chose not to expose Jim when he had the choice.

Huckleberry Finn was a controversial book in it's time because racism was an accepted idea, but in the book Huck's idea of racism as a whole shifted. I wanted to explain the reason for his sudden change of heart in the idea that "Negro" people could be human by using the modern ideas of science fiction. To do so, I symbolized Huck as an example to the people around him as well as himself because he ended up being the different species. Everyone accepted him as the same. So by using the Doctor and his world as a mirror to the world of "Negro" people in the time period of the book, I taught the lesson to Huck -who was a representation of the white racist people- that people who are different on the outside may not be different on the inside.

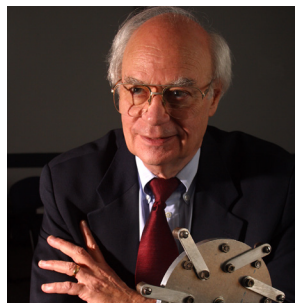
### Guest Speakers

#### Dr. John H. Lienhard

John H. Lienhard, author and voice of The Engines of Our Ingenuity, is Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering and History at the University of Houston. He received BS and MS degrees from Oregon State College and the University of Washington, his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley, and he holds two honorary doctorates. He is known for his research in the thermal sciences as well as in cultural history. He is an Honorary Member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a member of the National Academy of Engineering.

In addition to many awards for his technical contributions, Dr. Lienhard has received, for his work on Engines, the ASME Ralph Coates Roe Medal for contributions to the public understanding of technology, the 1991 Portrait Division Award from the American Women in Radio and Television, and the 1998 American Society of Mechanical Engineers Engineer-Historian Award, other ASME honors, and two 2005 Crystal Microphone Awards.

<http://www.uh.edu/engines/jhlbio.htm>



#### Mark Greenwalt

Mark Greenwalt is Professor of Art at College of the Mainland, teaching painting, drawing, and 2-D design.

As an artist Mark specializes in drawing as a deeply traditional process of "image finding" where visual ideas mutate in successive layers of mediated thought to reveal dreamlike synthetic portraits, and other iconographies, wedded to rational pictorial constructs.

He has had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Southeast Texas, Beaumont; the Galveston Art Center; and Sally Sprout Gallery, Houston. He currently exhibits with Houston's Hooks-Epstein Gallery and has participated in various group shows at Yellow Cube Gallery, Tokyo; the Contemporary Art Museum, Houston; O'kane Gallery, University of Houston; and Baton Rouge Gallery.

Mark sees experiential learning as an adventure and in 1979 was first inspired to study biology as a high school student in Dallas attending an experimental Field Biology program in collaboration with the Museum of Natural History.

Mark received a BFA and Masters in Art from Stephen F Austin State University and an MFA from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York.

In New York, Mark witnessed the business side of art while working at Trestle Editions, Petersburg Press, and M. Knoedler Gallery.

Prior to teaching full-time at College of the Mainland mark taught painting and drawing as an adjunct at the University of Houston, Rice University, and the Glassell School of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.



#### Dr. Veronica Sanchez

Dr. Veronica Sanchez teaches geology at College of the Mainland, where she also advises the Geology Club. She is interested in expanding Earth Science literacy in the community by organizing educational outreach activities with local schools. She is a strong advocate of integrating field (outdoor) geology experiences with classroom/lab activities to enhance the students' reasoning of geologic processes. Through these experiences, club activities and teaching, she hopes to ignite an interest in the multitude of processes that shape the Earth. Dr. Sanchez uses her research and industry expertise to enhance the students' classroom experience. Sanchez is passionate about her work and instills this in her students by applying inquiry-based exercises that train the students to develop a problem-solving mindset. These are skills that should be applied beyond the classroom and across disciplines.



### COM Administration

#### Dr. Beth Lewis

Dr. Beth Lewis brings over twenty-five years' experience in higher education instruction and administration to the position of President of College of the Mainland. Her immediate past position was that of Vice President of Academic Affairs at Northeast Lakeview College in suburban San Antonio from 2006-2012. In her role as VPAA, she had the oversight of all credit and continuing education instructional programs and she supervised the administration of the library, academic support center, distance education, and the instructional innovation center. She was also responsible for securing Northeast Lakeview College's candidacy for admission to the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and served as the NLC liaison to the Judson Independent School District for the Early College High School partnership between NLC and JISD.

Prior to NLC, Dr. Lewis served as the Dean of Academic Affairs at Blinn College in Brenham, Texas from 2000-2006. In this capacity, she provided oversight to the academic programs and faculty on the Brenham Campus, as well as the dual credit program partnerships in 31 high schools and the college credit programs in four prisons. She also served as Blinn College's Compliance Director and Quality Enhancement Plan Director for the SACS reaffirmation project. Before she arrived at Blinn College, she was the District Director of New Program Development and Evaluation for the North Harris Montgomery Community College District in Houston. She has been a full-time faculty member in the English Departments at Lee College in Baytown, Texas, and at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas, and an adjunct faculty member in the Community College Leadership Doctorate program at Sam Houston State University.



### GCIC Symposium Co-directors

#### Dalel Serda

Professor Dalel Serda teaches research and rhetoric in English courses at College of the Mainland.

She's interested in empirical undergraduate research that pushes students to contribute originally to pre-existing conversations across the disciplines. She is also interested in students developing habits of mind that help them self-regulate as they proceed with their education inside and outside the college classroom. Finally, she hopes that offering students an opportunity to partake actively in academic discourse provides them with the authority and confidence necessary to continue living a life dedicated to the pursuit of inquiry, reflection, and long-term personal and social engagement.



Dr. Lewis was named an Executive Fellow by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in June 2008. She has been selected for a number of regional and national leadership programs, including, in 2009, the premiere program for women in community colleges, the National Institute of Leadership Development. She was a member of the Class of 2009-2010 for Leadership North East, a community outreach program in North East ISD. In early 2010, Dr. Lewis was nominated for Sam Houston State University's College of Education Alumni Distinguished Administrator of the Year. In April 2010, Dr. Lewis was honored to receive the Alamo Colleges' "Council of Chairs' Award for Outstanding Support of Department Chairs." She was also named a 2010 NISOD Excellence Award recipient. The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD), a consortium of over 700 community colleges and universities worldwide, has a 31-year history of recognizing faculty, staff, and administrators for outstanding contributions to teaching, leadership, and learning. She served on the Board of Directors of the Texas Community College Instructional Administrators and the Universal City Parks and Recreation Commission from 2008-2010. In August 2010, she was invited to become an Honorary Commander for the 902nd Mission Support Group at Randolph Air Force Base, a position she held for two years.

Dr. Lewis earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Arts in English and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Sam Houston State University. She is also a Certified Mediator in Workplace Conflict.

### Dr. Pam Millsap

Dr. Pam Millsap is the Vice President for Instruction at the College of the Mainland. Prior to assuming this position, she served as Chair of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Department and Dean of General Education Programs. In 2011, Dr. Millsap was named the recipient of the 2011 Western Region Faculty Award by the Association of Community College Trustees, bestowed on one faculty member in each of five national regions in recognition of teaching excellence and college leadership. Dr. Millsap, a licensed psychologist, earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Houston and her master's degree and Ph.D. in psychology at Vanderbilt University. She has made presentations on topics pertinent to student success at many national conferences, and she is strongly committed to helping students achieve their dreams.



### Dr. Vicki Stanfield

Dr. Vicki Stanfield confesses to being a lifelong learner who strives for excellence. She holds three degrees from Sam Houston State University: a Bachelor of Arts in teaching, Summa Cum Laude; Master of Education in counseling; and doctorate of education in educational leadership. Also, she



earned an Associate of Arts with honors from Lone Star College-North Harris. Her passion for education and serving the community college grew out of her own experience as a nontraditional, first-generation college student, and she admits to feeling the same trepidation many students feel today when entering the unknown higher education terrain. Dr. Stanfield credits the outstanding faculty and counselors for helping her discover her academic potential.

Whether as a student or educator, Dr. Stanfield values open academic discourse. As an honors student, she represented Sam Houston State University at the Great Plains Honors Council Conference where she learned the value of working with a mentor when responding to questions about her controversial paper, "Reconciling a Benevolent God in a Violent World." Remembering that experience influenced her commitment to serve the Lone Star College-North Harris Honors Council for many years where she mentored and chaperoned students and judged student presentations at Honors Day events and conferences. As an educator, Dr. Stanfield works with the intention of ensuring students the same benefits afforded her to better their lives through education. Dr. Stanfield joined College of the Mainland as Vice President for Student Services on April 1, 2013.

### Thank you

On behalf of professors Veronica Sanchez and Dalel Serda, thank you, Phi Theta Kappa Sigma Delta Honor Society, for serving as student hosts for this event.

Thank you COM faculty and staff for serving as judges and moderators for our student presenters.

RE Davis	Jak Kearns
Shinya Wakao	Martha Willis
Brian Anderson	Stacey Burleson
Nakia Welch	Jennifer Bieske
Elaine Childs	Heather Brasher
Patricia Ovesny	Marilyn Larsen
Veronica Sanchez	Rose Shirey
Jeremy Kent	

Thank you, Dr. John Lienhard and Professor Mark Greenwalt, for serving as speakers for our event.



Thank you, Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Consortium, for your indispensable financial contribution!

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Sincerely,  
Professors Veronica Sanchez and Dalel Serda