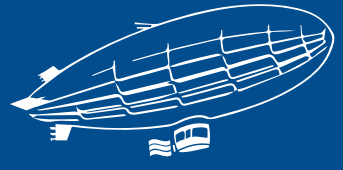


Spring 2016

TIME and PLACE as CONTEXT



GULF COAST INTERCOLLEGIATE CONSORTIUM (GCIC)
ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM

www.com.edu/symposium



April 29, 2016



9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Resource Center, L-131

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

9 – 9:25 a.m.	<p>Introduction to Theme: “Time and Place as Context” by Dr. Pam Millsap VP for Instruction/Psychologist, College of the Mainland</p> <p>Overview of Day’s Events: Dael Serda, Assistant Professor of English</p>	LRC 131
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	<p>Session 1A: They Who Travel - Student Panel Discussion “More Than a Vacation: Place as Text through Study Abroad”</p> <p>Brandon Cooper, Shannon Duncan, Hunter McHugh, Adriana Rezal, Michael Smith, Miranda Sprinkle, and Cynthia Wright – Lee College, Advisor: Georgeann Ward</p>	LRC 255
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	<p>Session 1B: Science in Context “Chaos Theory: A Study of Dynamical Systems in Time and Place”</p> <p>Beau Jurek – Brazosport College, Advisor: Carrie Pritchett</p> <p>“Scientific Research in Time and Place: The eCD4-Ig DNA Vaccine in the Search for an HIV Cure”</p> <p>Jesse Martinez – Brazosport College, Advisor: Carrie Pritchett</p> <p>“The Physics of Ion Propulsion”</p> <p>Drager Landry – College of the Mainland, Advisor: Herman Trivilino</p>	LRC 258
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	<p>Session 1C: “They Who Write - Creative Writers’ Reading”</p> <p>Kereece Mclean, Jasha Roady, Ashley Small, Sarah Martinez, Jessica Ortiz, Harry Hathaway, and Daly Robinson – College of the Mainland, Advisor: Stacey Burleson</p>	LRC 257
10:40 – 11:40 a.m.	<p>Session 2A: Literature, Politics, and Religion “Analyzing William Blake’s ‘The Tyger’ through the Lens of a Religious Context”</p> <p>Drager Landry – College of the Mainland, Advisor: Gilchrist White</p> <p>“The Christianization of Pagan Sexuality”</p> <p>Karina Herr – Alvin Community College, Advisor: Elizabeth McLane</p> <p>“‘Freedom of Speech:’ the Use of British Literature as a Political Platform During the Reformation Era”</p> <p>Jasha Roady – College of the Mainland, Advisor: Dael Serda</p>	LRC 257
10:40 – 11:40am	<p>Session 2B: Educating Tomorrow’s Students “Good Character and Personality: Trait Consistencies Among High-Performance Students”</p> <p>Saleemah Thomas – College of the Mainland, Advisor: Dael Serda</p> <p>“Education: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow”</p> <p>Eleazor Barrios – South Houston High School, Pasadena ISD, Advisor: Kristin Benninghoff</p> <p>“The Vegan Experience”</p> <p>Freyja Coe – Alvin Community College, Advisor: Elizabeth McLane</p>	LRC 258
10:40 – 11:40 a.m.	<p>Session 2C: Literature and Gender Politics “From Wicked Wyves to Courtly Ladies: The Evolution of the Female Role in Medieval English Literature”</p> <p>Lauren Buchanan – College of the Mainland, Advisor: Dael Serda</p> <p>“The Shackles of Societal Standards on Masculinity in Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic”</p> <p>Mandy Solombrino – Lee College, Advisor: Georgeann Ward and Professor Hamby</p> <p>“Exploration and Feminism in Time and Place: Doña Marina and the Cortes Expedition”</p> <p>Fermina Orosco – Brazosport College, Advisor: Carrie Pritchett</p>	LRC 255
11:50 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<p>Lunch & Speaker: Dr. Shinya Wakao, Assistant Professor of Government, College of the Mainland: “All Politics is Local. All Numbers are Relative.”</p>	LRC 131
12:40 – 1:55 p.m.	<p>Session 3A: The Impact of the Political Past on the Political Present “Presidential Politics in Time and Place: The Election of 1828 and the Birth of the Modern Political Campaign”</p> <p>Jesse Korsah – Brazosport College, Advisor: Carrie Pritchett</p> <p>“The Declaration of Independence as a Document of Context: Review of the Initial Changes Made to Jefferson’s Draft”</p> <p>Cody Michael Kelemen – College of the Mainland, Advisor: Brian Anderson</p> <p>“Woman and Politics in Time and Place: The ‘Petticoats and Politics’ of The Eaton Affair and Jacksonian Political Society”</p> <p>Laci Munn – Brazosport College, Advisor: Carrie Pritchett</p> <p>“Salem Witch Trials Revisited: The Ongoing Troubles of False Confessions”</p> <p>Kereece McLean – College of the Mainland, Advisor: Brian Anderson</p>	LRC 131
2:05 – 2:50 p.m.	<p>Session 4A: Geology, Biology, and the Human “Paleogeography of the Bryan, Texas, Area”</p> <p>Matthew Austin – College of the Mainland, Advisor: Sheena Abernathy</p> <p>“How Time and Place Influences the Behavior of Microorganisms In and Around Us”</p> <p>Esther Oluwapelumi Akinwande – College of the Mainland, Advisor: Sheena Abernathy</p>	LRC 258

2:05 – 2:50 p.m.	<p>Session 4B: The Evolution of the Self “Conformity: The Gigantic Beard That Was Evil” Gloria Contreras – Lee College, Advisor: Georgeann Ward “Conflict as Context: Mexico’s Journey Towards Self-Identity Through Revolution and Art” Santiago Gutierrez – Brazosport College, Advisor: Carrie Pritchett</p>	LRC 257
2:05 – 2:50 p.m.	<p>Session 4C: The Unintentional Impact of Medical Science “Anesthesia in Early Childhood and Brain Development” Jackmar Silva-Franco – Alvin Community College, Advisor: Elizabeth McLane “Teratogens and Their Effects” Victoria Soto – Alvin Community College, Advisor: Elizabeth McLane</p>	LRC 255
3 – 3:45 p.m.	<p>Keynote: Dr. Veronica Sanchez, Geologist, A&M Kingsville “Perspectives on the Geological Evolution of the Himalayas: The Utility of Time and Space in Geological Modeling”</p>	LRC 131
3:45 – 4 p.m.	<p>Awards and Wrap-Up</p>	LRC 131

WELCOME to College of the Mainland’s fourth Gulf Coast Intercollegiate Consortium Academic Symposium 2016!

The theme, “Time and Place as Context,” asks us to consider the impact the variables of time and place have on the meaning we derive from observations of events, phenomena, problems, solutions, etc. We asked students to consider the way time and place influence our actions and interpretations in any and all of the disciplines including and not limited to the arts, maths, sciences, social sciences, humanities, and technical fields; we wanted students to formulate original, inquiry-driven projects that helped them evaluate the relationships between time, place, and other variables, and they did exactly that!

We invite you to peruse the presentation schedule closely to choose sessions that best suit your interests. When in sessions, we ask you engage actively with student presenters during Q&A. The aim is for them to grow as scholars from this experience and for their work to enrich the day’s conversation concerning the theme.

Our hope for this symposium is that it serves multiple goals including enhancing students’ communication skills, facilitating networking across the disciplines and colleges, and helping students build self-confidence and ownership of their work.

Enjoy yourself, and thank you for supporting student scholarship.

Sincerely,
Dalel Serda, Assistant Professor of English
GCIC Academic Symposium Chair



STUDENT PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

In order of scheduled presentation. See presentation schedule.

“More than a Vacation: Place as Text through Study Abroad”

Brandon Cooper, Shannon Duncan, Hunter McHugh, Adriana Rezal, Michael Smith, Miranda Sprinkle, and Cynthia Wright – Lee College

Many college students believe that study abroad is a fun way to see the world and make friends. While some value study abroad as primarily an adventure or vacation, Lee College encourages students to examine other cultures, analyze ideologies in regard to students' own homes, and expand students' sense of place in the context of travel. In the semester leading up to this year's study abroad voyage to Belize, students are studying “Place as Text” by examining Belizean archeology, myth, literature, and culture through the philosophical viewpoint of Sidney Dobrin's “Writing Takes Place,” Richard Louv's *A Purposeful Place*, and other texts on post-colonialism. Dobrin argues that in order to gain a greater understanding of core values within an individual, we must turn to our environments for analysis. He calls upon “ecomposition” to do this, describing it as a pedagogy that “draws attention to the ideas of context and social construction of identity to include physical realities of place, and of natural and constructed space...” Dobrin suggests that although identity is undoubtedly a social construct, it is also fundamentally comprised by individual contexts formed by physical surroundings. Thus, in order to fully understand how students will perceive the trip to Belize, students must first analyze ideologies gained from their own “homes.” In this presentation, a panel of seven study abroad students will discuss the student-centered artifacts they have generated for the class, including identity maps and a travel blog, and share the significance of the study abroad experience for them.

“Chaos Theory: A Study of Dynamical Systems in Time and Place”

Beau Jurek – Brazosport College

This project is a study of the mathematical anomaly known as chaos. Chaos is defined as a system that is highly sensitive to initial conditions and, when shown graphically, displays no pattern in its orbit. Chaos has appeared in many mathematical models and serves to make these models far more complex as a result. The understanding of chaos begins with an understanding of iterative systems. Linear iteration is the most basic iterative rule. When studying linear iteration, the fundamentals of iterative systems can be viewed easily. Items such as fixed points, orbits, and graphical iteration can all be observed before delving in to the more complex nonlinear systems. One common use of nonlinear iterative systems in real world application of time and place is in the Logistic Function of population growth. In this system, increasing the value of K yields very interesting behavior when considering it is a model of population growth that can easily be pushed to a state of chaos with absolutely no pattern. Chaos Theory is a system that is highly sensitive to initial conditions and, when shown graphically, displays no pattern in its orbit. Chaos can be best understood using iterative systems. Using nonlinear iterative systems, real world applications can be studied using Chaos, particularly in the context of population studies not only in the past and present, but in predicting future growth as well.

“Scientific Research in Time and Place: The eCD4-Ig DNA Vaccine in the Search for an HIV Cure”

Jesse Martinez – Brazosport College

Time, place, and context has greatly affected the study of HIV and AIDS. As technology and research methods improve, patients continue to improve. Where those infected once had no chance of survival, long term management due to improved treatments is possible and, at this time, the norm. The search for a cure, however, continues as the context and focus of research has shifted to DNA research. This is the study of the DNA vaccine known as eCD4-Ig as a possible vaccine for HIV-1, HIV-2, and Simian Immunodeficiency Virus. Much research is needed as human trials have not begun, but studies show promise. A vaccine for HIV has eluded scientists due to the high rate of escape mutations, leaving traditional methods useless. Research had focused on antibody cocktails to flood the organism, but the amount needed for success was lethal to humans, and studies showed that had a low percentage of effectiveness. Scientists are now turning to DNA manipulation to synthesize the eCD4-Ig vaccine in primates. The protein is able to block specific receptors on the HIV virus. The vaccine is made up of a diverse panel of HIV-1, HIV-2, and Simian Immunodeficiency Virus. Research into this new field of DNA manipulation shows hope for human trials and eventually an effective HIV vaccine. With the continuation of research and the context of new methods, a vaccine is becoming a reality.

“The Physics of Ion Propulsion”

Drager Landry – College of the Mainland

Our current time and place is creating a context for new approaches to space exploration, and researchers such as John Brophy, James Polk, and Michael Patterson have made significant progress toward the implementation of new technology. The technology spearheading this movement is known as ion propulsion because it uses ionized gas as propellant for a craft. This is done by giving neutral gas a charge (“ionizing” it), accelerating the ionized gas with electrostatic forces, and emitting the resulting plasma as exhaust. This emission creates thrust and propels the craft in the opposite direction. The purpose of my study is to understand the physics behind ion propulsion, and to accomplish this, I built an ion craft to test for myself. The “Ion Lifter” utilizes a form of ion propulsion that involves the use of wire electrodes to create an electric field strong enough to ionize the gas particles in the surrounding atmosphere, thus creating an ion wind, resulting in lift. The craft itself requires very high amounts of voltage, and with limited resources, getting the lifter to levitate was difficult. However, it appeared to me that different concepts were at work here, so I had to test different types of power supplies in an effort to get the lifter to work. That said, my investigation involves changing the electric field strength by using different voltages and varying the distance between the electrodes – ultimately affecting the ionization of the surrounding gas. The variations in electric field strength will result in either no ionization, a corona discharge, or an electric spark. My hypothesis is that I will need to generate a corona discharge in order to produce lift.

“They Who Write - Creative Writers’ Reading”

Kereece Mclean, Jessa Roady, Ashley Small, Sarah Martinez, Jessica Ortiz, Harry Hathaway, and Daly Robinson – College of the Mainland

College of the Mainland’s Creative Writers will explore how the variables of time, place, context, life, and the self interact through poetry, prose, and fiction genres.

“Analyzing William Blake’s “The Tyger” through the Lens of Religious Context”

Drager Landry – College of the Mainland

“The Tyger” and “The Lamb” are two companion poems from a book titled, *The Songs of Innocence and Experience*, by William Blake, a British poet during the 19th century whose writings influenced many other Romantic poets. The focus of this project is to critically analyze “The Tyger” and “The Lamb” by striving to understand the metaphors and symbolism used by Blake. However, because the poetic devices used are very complex, understanding them requires the poems to be viewed through a specific lens. Scholars have interpreted both “The Lamb” and “The Tyger” from political and historical points of view, but because of Christianity’s profound impact on Blake, the literary analysis presented will consider the lens of religious context – specifically discussing how this context impacts the poetic devices, and how they fit under the overarching themes of innocence and experience. Also, “The Lamb” is somewhat straightforward and nowhere close to “The Tyger” in complexity. “The Lamb” presents the ‘innocent’ perspective, one that is naïve and meant to be easily understood; it is also an antecedent to the more perplexing, ‘experienced’ perspective. For this reason, “The Tyger” will be the main focus of this project and its innocent counterpart, “The Lamb,” will be used as a supplemental support for the logic and reasoning behind the central argument.

“The Christianization of Human Sexuality”

Karina Herr – Alvin Community College

Historically, religion has had (and continues to have) a profound effect on its constituent cultures. Such effects include how legislation is created, how routine and religious practices are incorporated into everyday life, and how a culture develops attitudes and beliefs towards different aspects of life. Christianity is one religion that has proven itself very proficient in achieving this by injecting itself into different cultures, revolutionizing certain aspects of said cultures, and using these changes for its own benefit. This project will examine how (and possibly why) Christianity has influenced different aspects of human sexuality initially rooted in European paganism. Moreover, the project will demonstrate how modern human sexuality and modern religious practices derive from ancient pagan practice. Topics to be discussed include: the pagan origins of various basic sexual and ritual elements in Christianity; a major Christian holiday with origins as a pagan fertility holiday; and the evolution of social norms concerning sexuality maintained by the Church and the public.

“Freedom of Speech: the Use of British Literature as a Political Platform During the Reformation Era”

Jessa Roady – College of the Mainland

As citizens of the United States, we are all familiar with the concept of “freedom of speech.” Our country was founded on the idea

of individual rights and the privilege of expressing our respective opinions. In sixteenth-century Britain, however, “freedom of speech” was a much more controversial topic, and political opinions had the potential to be deadly for their proponents. The Reformation in England was a time of religious turmoil as the Catholic church experienced an internal rupture of beliefs and ideas, prompted by the “Catholic” King Henry VIII’s attempt to divorce Catherine of Aragon, a decision which caused much calamity and conflict in a Catholic nation. With the realignment of religion in England, the authors and poets of the time took up their pens and took sides, using their literature to promote their own religious and political opinions.

Many authors, poets, and artists seized upon the religious turmoil as fuel for their work or used their creations as a declaration of their own personal beliefs. Using examples from iconic authors of the Reformation Era, William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe, I will demonstrate how the religious turmoil and parochial regime of sixteenth-century Britain shaped and influenced the literature of the time. Through research, I will explain how both of these authors used fictional literature as a means of expressing and promoting their religious and political viewpoints, having a vast impact on their society and the progression of the Reformation.

“Good Character and Personality: Trait Consistencies Among High-Performance Students”

Saleemah Thomas – College of the Mainland

Educators struggle to keep some students afloat, while other students excel in their studies without any trouble; this gap can be observed in every classroom. This situation begs for researchers to determine the best way to create a balance and ensure that every student has the opportunity to flourish academically. Attempts at this include the separation of students and placement into classes based on academic performance, disciplining students who are unable to satisfy expectations, and by openly praising those who do meet expectations. The problem with these solutions is that they do not correct the underlying issue; they are merely a reaction to it. In order to establish a permanent solution, we must ensure that students who perform below expectations understand for themselves what their strong and weak points are. Researchers like Lisa Wagner and Willibald Ruch have established a close connection with character, behavior, and academic performance. Furthermore, José J. Gázquez and his colleagues determined that there is a dependence in academic performance on a student’s attitude toward education. The purpose of my research was to determine what traits high-performance students share. Identifying these may help educators foster the same traits in lower performing students.

“Education: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow”

Eleazor Barrios – South Houston High School, Pasadena ISD

Schools are not preparing students for life after school. Students who are not prepared end up working at minimum wage jobs that are readily available. It has not always been this way. Historical research shows that in years past schools were better able to educate students with the skills that they needed to be successful in life after graduation. The more you learn, the more you earn. If we as a country have too many people working in jobs that require little to no skills then we have a society that is less productive and less competitive. The question that this project will address is how do

schools fix this? This project looks at schools of the past and the present to better report how schools of the future need to change to be better tools of preparation for society's children. Schools in the past were the creators of success. Schools today are facing overcrowding and teachers and students who are tested to death. How will the schools of tomorrow of tomorrow do better?

“The Vegan Experience”

Freyja Coe – Alvin Community College

The lack of nutrition education in schools is becoming a more prevalent problem in the United States. The effects of a lack of nutrition education include increased child and adolescent obesity and poor academic achievement. A serious absence of nutritional education programs exists for high school as well as for college students. How can nutrition education for high school and college students be improved? To increase awareness of what people are eating, a proposal could be made for one going vegan for one month. Vegan is defined as an individual who consumes no animal products. In order to stay vegan, one must read every ingredient on the food one consumes. Being vegan is an educational exercise which forces people to be aware of the food they consume because they must be knowledgeable nutrition and ingredients.

“From Wicked Wyves to Courtly Ladies: The Evolution of the Female Role in Medieval English”

Lauren Buchanan – College of the Mainland

The purpose of this research is to examine the dichotomous relationship between the anti-feminine rhetoric of the Middle Ages and the concurrent literary trend of court was instead merely an evolution of it. I have come to this conclusion by not only reading tales and poems of courtly love, but also studying the roots of antifeminism in Latin satires and the writings of early Church Fathers, and analyzing the legal, economic, and social climate of gender politics at the time that courtly love was popularized. Using this context, I drew a connection between the condemnation of women as temptresses after the image of Eve, the high regard of chastity in emulation of the Virgin Mary, the strive towards asceticism, and the depiction of a courtly love that is “a certain inborn suffering derived from the sight of and meditation upon the beauty of the opposite sex,” as defined by Andreas Capellanus in *The Art of Courtly Love*. Through this new archetype of the courtly lady, women were placed in the paradoxical position of being both the innocent beauty worthy of a nobleman's obsession, and the seductress that tempted him out of his ascetic state. This project shows that this idealized state of women provided them no more power or respect than their previous condition of degradation under traditional anti-feminine theory.

“The Shackles of Societal Standards on Masculinity in Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic”

Mandy Solombrino – Lee College

Society can cause a man to be imprisoned both physically and mentally for not following rules of acceptance, particularly relating those men who identify with their feminine side. One such harrowing example was Oscar Wilde, acclaimed playwright and novelist from the nineteenth century who was literally placed in prison once his homosexuality was exposed. Similarly, almost a hundred years

later, in Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, her father, Bruce Bechdel is figuratively imprisoned in his own mind for his efforts to stifle his true sexual identity. The societal standards they tried to hide from were ultimately their downfall. In the same sense, William Pollack examines societal expectations of men in his book, *Real Boys – Rescuing Our Sons From the Myth of Boyhood*. Pollack identifies the struggles that men face in society as the boy code injunctions. One such suffocating edict – the “mask of masculinity” requires boys to grow to be men with a warped sense of shame which stifles their emotions and causes them to hide behind a façade of forced machismo. *Fun Home* argues that the constraints of the boy code makes men suppress feelings typically associated with femininity, causing them to react to the restrictions with impulsive behavior, thus resulting in dysfunctional relationships.

“Exploration and Feminism in Time and Place: Doña Marina and the Cortes Expedition”

Fermina Orosco – Brazosport College

Doña Marina was a Nahuatl woman who played an integral part in the Spanish Conquest of Mexico in the early 1500s. When examining her life and story, considering the exact time, place, and context, it is the story of a woman who used her knowledge and abilities to make the best of a terrible situation during the Cortes expedition. Doña Marina has been portrayed as a traitor to the Nahuatl tribe, and her name was slandered from accusations of betrayal and treason. She was later referred to most widely as La Malinche, or the “harlot.” After further research and analysis it is clear that Doña Marina's story and life choices have been completely misinterpreted, misconstrued, and taken out of context. From the moment she was born she faced a hard life. Being a female in the Americas in her own culture and in Spanish America brought many challenges. At a young age she was sold as a slave amongst different tribes; however, she used this period to learn different languages and dialects. She and twenty other slave women were later sold to Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes and his men. She was first sold to a soldier, but after her linguistic abilities were discovered she was made a personal slave to Cortes. She was then taught Spanish and worked as a translator. She traveled with Cortes and his men as they conquered native groups. She translated and passed along information. During this time she developed a bond or loyalty and a relationship with Cortes, and she eventually bore him a son. After Cortes traveled back to Spain she was married off to an officer with whom she bore a second child. Doña Marina's story shows the power of women in world exploration in a time and place where women were devalued and assumed to be weak.

“Presidential Politics in Time and Place: The Election of 1828 and the Birth of the Modern Political Campaign”

Jesse Korsah – Brazosport College

The Election of 1828 was considered one of the dirtiest elections in American history. It embodied the birth of modern “attack style” campaign tactics that are prevalent in elections today, which included the use of very sensitive, personal attacks on a level that was new to presidential politics. With the development of mass political campaigns, more people had the right to vote, and political views of each candidate were questioned using brutal campaign ads and attacks that gained the attention of the masses. The election was a rematch of 1824, when John Quincy Adams won on the

alleged “Corrupt Bargain” over Andrew Jackson. In 1828 Adams ran on a platform of higher tariffs, support for federal funding of infrastructure improvements, and support of the Bank of the United States. Andrew Jackson supported lower tariffs, limited federal funds, and he opposed the Bank of the United States. During the campaign, Adams focused on Jackson’s temper, violent nature, and most importantly his “adulterous” wife Rachel Donelson Jackson. The Jackson campaign accused Adam of being an elitist, acting to procure a virgin for the Russian Czar, and gambling on the Sabbath. In the end, the masses won out. Andrew Jackson’s homespun background appealed more to the voice of the common man, and the popular and Electoral College vote both heavily favored Jackson. The Election of 1828 was a reflection of the time in which it was held, but it also helped shape the place in which modern politics has grown.

“The Declaration of Independence as a Document of Context: Review of the Initial Changes Made to Jefferson’s Draft”

Cody Michael Kelemen – Texas City High School and College of the Mainland

The Declaration of Independence listed the wrongs done unto the colonists from Great Britain and hinted towards ideals that would shape the future United States of America. It stands as Thomas Jefferson’s most important, and controversial, literary contribution that is still debated in contemporary spheres. The mission of this research project is to educate students on a meticulous writing process and how written documents are a product of the context of that time. The term context for this project envelops the numerous internal debates of the Congress and the Revolutionary War that influenced this document’s drafts. The presentation will focus on the Declaration of Independence as its primary example, since it went through extensive modifications and scrutiny influenced by that time period’s events or context. More specifically: Thomas Jefferson was the primary author and had a challenging time getting his points across to the larger Continental Congress, so he had to rely upon the perspectives of the small committee to make the draft viable. In sum, a single presentation is not sufficient to describe the entirety of the Declaration of Independence’s creation, so to keep it manageable, the development of the different drafts will be focused upon and the Declaration as a collaborative effort will be stressed.

“Woman and Politics in Time and Place: The ‘Petticoats and Politics’ of The Eaton Affair and Jacksonian Political Society”

Laci Munn – Brazosport College

The scandal of John and Peggy Eaton, also known as the “Petticoat Affair,” was proof that women held more political power in the mid-nineteenth century than they are given credit in a time where they were thought to have little influence. This was a tale of political warfare mixed with a tarnished love story. President Andrew Jackson’s Secretary of War, John Eaton and his wife Margaret “Peggy” Eaton married each other after both were divorced. Divorce was taboo in American social circles at the time. This led to the disapproval of their marriage by wives of the other cabinet members, and the shunning of the Eatons at social events. Jackson sided with the Eatons because it reminded him of the treatment of his wife, Rachel, because of dubious circumstances in their marriage. The many “instigators,” such as Jackson’s niece and the vice president’s wife, turned much of Jackson’s first term as President into a hostile

environment where the Cabinet ceased to meet. At a time when women were expected to have no political power, the women involved in the “Petticoat Affair” gained control of the work of their husbands in the Cabinet. The “Petticoat Affair” proves that women held political power in the mid-nineteenth century despite the context of time and place in nineteenth century Washington, D.C.

“Salem Witch Trials Revisited: The Ongoing Troubles of False Confessions”

Kerece McLean – College of the Mainland

The presentation will highlight false confessions as occurrences in today’s legal system with the use of the Salem Witch trials as a historical basis for understanding false confessions amongst the legal system of today. The Salem Witch trials led to many brutal court proceedings with 200 accused and the death of 20 individuals. The trials have been associated with injustice and paranoia, all of which can be found in cases today that have led to false confessions that are years later exonerated due to evidence, or lack of for that matter.

In researching this presentation, I viewed minorities and low income homes; factors that have shown to be a significant cause for the accused confessions. According to the Innocence Project, there have been 337 post-conviction exonerations in the United States and out of the 337; two hundred and six were African-American. The statistic has allowed me focus on factors of race and income, but further emphasizes the physical and psychological tactics. The presentation should expose a problem America continues to face that can be traced back to Salem Village Massachusetts in 1692, and can still correlate with today’s recognized false confessions.

“Paleogeography of the Bryan, Texas, Area”

Matthew Austin – College of the Mainland

In Bryan, Texas, on highway 21 at Whiskey Bridge is a location where the Brazos River has eroded away a section of the bank exposing the strata that was deposited there 30 million years ago. The bottom layers were deposited in a fresh water environment, and are made up almost entirely of mud. This bottom layer also contains barrel concretions formed from methane seeping from within the shale. The middle layer shows a slightly sandier composition, implying the shore encroaching on the area. A thin layer of sand runs through the middle layer. This is a storm deposit consisting of very well rounded and sorted grains as well as highly fragmented marine fossils. The glauconitic layer above the middle layer contains whole and fragmented fossils. This layer gets its green color from glauconite formed in a deep water environment by marine animals consuming sediment and excreting the glauconite with it. Glauconite is produced no less than 80 kilometers from the shore, and between 200-500 meters in depth. This indicates a deepening trend further up in the layers. The top layer consists of mostly coarse grain sand and small black pellets. This layer contains the most fossils as well as veins of calcite. This leads to the conclusion that the shore line was receding at the time of deposition of the top layer.

“How Time and Place Influences the Behavior of Microorganisms In and Around Us”

Esther Oluwapelumi Akinwande – College of the Mainland

Microorganisms are microscopic organisms, and include bacteria, virus, and fungus. It is common knowledge that microorganisms are everywhere, but how common are they? How harmful can

they be? Or how beneficial? Microorganisms can be harmful or beneficial to humans depending on the particular place in or on our body that they are found. Our bodies have approximately 100 trillion cells and these cells are home to over 100 million bacteria. If microorganisms are as scary as some of people think, we would all be dead. Time has influenced our society to a point where we know that some microorganisms are beneficial to our wellbeing and not all microorganisms are dangerous to humans. Many microorganisms on and in our body help us and we would not want to do anything to change it. These mutualistic and commensalistic relationships between our normal microbes and our own body means that they are not hurting us and in some instances we even benefit from them. However, occasionally our good microbes can become opportunistic pathogens and cause disease. Many parts of our body are axenic environments, that is, sites that are free of microbes. Problems arise when microorganisms start getting into these environments which can lead to diseases. In fall 2015, I performed research to examine the ubiquity of microorganisms at College of the Mainland. Results indicated that some locations had higher amounts of microorganisms compared to others. Take for example, the bathroom, library and Administrations building all of which had really high amounts of fungal and bacterial colonies. Although we did not identify specific species, we were able to speculate that many of the microorganisms found around campus are most likely members of our own normal microbiota.

“Conformity: The Gigantic Beard That Was Evil”

Gloria Contreras – Lee College

Average citizens are followers of social tendencies in the places they live, whether they realize it or not, for being the center of attention is not suitable for everyone. Only a select few are able to break free of the status quo. In *The Gigantic Beard That Was Evil*, a graphic novel by Stephen Collins, a man by the name of Dave threatens the land of “Here” with his unusual growth of facial hair since it completely disrupts an isolated island where the social norm is tidiness and perfection. Plato’s “*The Allegory of the Cave*” provides a deeper understanding concerning the reasons people tend to follow the crowd and embrace order and structure as a way of life. The citizens of the island are submissive to the media’s interpretation of a perfect, personal appearance that mirrors Here’s standards of tidiness. Consequently, the media affects the citizens’ perspective on what is accepted and what is deemed too extreme. *The Gigantic Beard That Was Evil* highlights society’s influence of place on behavior, leading to conformity and a lack of individuality due to a fear of the unknown.

“Conflict as Context: Mexico’s Journey towards Self-Identity through Revolution and Art”

Santiago Gutierrez – Brazosport College

Throughout history, there have been many examples of art and human expression arising from the time and context of conflict. One instance is the rich artistic expression that resulted from the Mexican Revolution. Between 1876 and 1910, dictator Porfirio Díaz brought Mexico into an age of industry, but continued the discriminatory traditions of his predecessors by favoring rich, land owning individuals over the working class. The citizen’s disapproval of his regime boiled over into the Mexican Revolution, a conflict that lasted ten years. From the bloody revolution came a renaissance

of art and activism that arose from the context of conflict and revolution, led by artists who sought to teach through vision. Leading this movement were muralists Diego Rivera, José Orozco, and David Siqueiros, each of whom expressed Mexico’s rich history in his own unique style. Their expression, boldly driven by the memory of fresh terrors, was reborn through during the Chicano movement of the 1960s. This movement addressed issues similar to those of the Revolution. Collaborating in various circumstances, these artists succeeded in revolutionizing the field of art and Mexican society, imparting love to a nation struggling with the paralyzing realities of civil war. This presentation maps the historical significance of their works, revealing their murals as messages to society that continue to resonate today. Many Mexican citizens were uneducated, unable to read the written word. However, through murals, the Mexican people gained an education of their place in cultural history. A pivotal series of moments that shifted international politics, the story of Mexico’s journey of self-discovery is one that embodies the mean of time and place as a context.

“Anesthesia in Early Childhood and Brain Development”

Jackmar Silva-Franco – Alvin Community College

It is due to the time and place we currently live in, we enjoy better technology and instruments to overcome challenges brought upon us. Yet, our intellect has not developed enough to understand innovations introduced by those before us, such as anesthetics. A potential cause of learning disabilities and ADHD might be anesthetics. Over six million children undergo surgery requiring general anesthesia each year. This alone raises their risk of developing cognitive problems later on in life. Yet, we can’t reveal if anesthesia itself is a significant risk factor in the development of learning disabilities and/or ADHD. The administration of anesthetics in the first three years of a child’s life and later learning disabilities have raised some concerns in the scientific community and various studies on mice and birth cohorts have been conducted. The results of these studies is inconclusive. Some studies did find a direct correlation between anesthetics and brain abnormalities. In the other hand, other studies prove there is no casual relationship between the two. Where does this leave us? Although some say we live in better times, this might be what later generations say when looking back at ours. There is hope in a later time, and even another place where we may find the solution to this growing problem.

“Teratogens and Their Affects”

Victoria Soto – Alvin Community College

Children are continuously born with defects due to the lack of knowledge pregnant woman know about teratogens, an agent that can change the development of the embryo. Syphilis, viruses, cocaine and amphetamine, nicotine, and alcohol have been ranked as the top five most harmful teratogens. This research expands upon their background as well as the effects a newborn faces during the prenatal development. Apart from the research, a survey was conducted in order to determine if pregnant woman knew about these agents, if they had taken part of any during or before pregnancy, and to write out what consequences they thought came from each one. Ten women partook in the survey with eight knowing at least one general consequence of all the teratogens, of those eight, six knew three consequences, and the remaining two of the ten lacked

information over all but 3 teratogens, in which they also knew only one consequence. The results showed that not one woman knew all the consequences, therefore women do lack knowledge of what teratogens can actually do to their child and take the results lightly. Consequently, when a woman decides to have a child, the recommendation is to find out what kind of teratogens are near to them and to know how to avoid them to conceive a healthy baby.

GUEST SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS

Dr. Veronica Sanchez Keynote Speaker 2016

Dr. Veronica Sanchez is a graduate of the University of Houston (BSc, MSc, PhD) where she conducted research on the structure and tectonics of the Tibetan Plateau. She is currently Assistant Professor of structural geology at Texas A&M - Kingsville where she teaches and conducts research on crustal deformation and mountain-building processes.



Previously she held appointments at the University of Houston (2011-2012) where she taught introductory geology courses, and at College of the Mainland (2012-2015), where in addition to teaching, she engaged students in interdisciplinary academic research, outdoor geology experiences, and public outreach to engage the community in geology activities.

Prior to graduate studies, she worked as a seismic interpreter in hydrocarbon exploration in the Gulf of Mexico and Midcontinent regions during various internships and co-op programs. After her Masters she worked for a services company analyzing petrophysical properties of core samples. Her Masters and PhD research on the development of extensional structures in the Tibet-Himalaya region sparked her interest on the behavior of the continental crust in response to surface and subsurface processes, such as those involved in mountain building during continent-continent collisions.

She has recently explored areas in southern Ontario and New Brunswick, Canada; Oaxaca, Mexico; and West and Central Texas. Her work relies heavily on field work, rock sampling and mapping, remote sensing analyses and geochronology to develop models to enhance our understanding of the long-term evolution of the continental crust.

Presentation Abstract:

“Perspectives on the Geologic Evolution of the Himalayas: The Utility of Time and Space in Geological Modeling”

Time and Space to a geologist is like salt and pepper to a chef. Essential ingredients that must be comprehended, utilized when developing models, and sometimes over-utilized in the predictions we make. Geologists are grilled in undergraduate training to understand the range of processes taking place in seconds to years, 100 years, 1 million, 1 billion years. How can we possibly understand the

long-term geologic processes when our observation window (i.e. human lifetime) is only about 100 years? When we see mountains at a distance, we like to think they have always been there and cannot comprehend the multitude of processes that took millions of years to form them. Time is incomprehensible even in our every-day life; although our biological clock tells us we are aging; we think time passes because we see day and night; we have atomic clocks based on the decay of atoms. Without a time reference we cannot explain geology. Fortunately, we can use physical-chemical laws to age date minerals in rocks and help put the “when” to geologic events. Without a spatial reference we cannot explain geology. We must specify the scale we work with whether our observations are at the nano scale or the mega –continent, whole-earth scale, or even Solar System scale. That is how we place “events” into space-time context in the Earth System (and beyond). Time and Space help us understand our humanity; where we are, where we are going, and by what means.

Geology has a bad reputation as a “historical” science because it must rely on observations of the present forms to develop a history for their evolution. Many geologic processes are indirectly observed by humans and thus are difficult to reproduce experimentally. It is an unfounded reputation considering the myriad of physical and mathematical models we design that explain our observations of natural processes to extrapolate to the past. In this presentation I will show you how I use Time and Space to understand the collision between Tibet and India which gave rise to the Himalayas ~55 million years ago.

Dr. Shinya Wakao Lunch Speaker 2016

Dr. Shinya Wakao is Assistant Professor of Government at College of the Mainland, teaching Federal and Texas government. He received a Ph.D. in Government (American Politics and Methodology) from the University of Texas at Austin. His research interests are political economy and voting behavior. He worked for the Deliberative Poll on Energy and Environmental Policy Options in 2012, where randomly selected Japanese citizens discussed Japanese energy policy in Tokyo. His recent working papers cover voting behavior among Hispanic and Asian American voters, campaign contributions from big donors, and topics in campaign advertisements. In his course, Dr. Wakao introduces a variety of data and academic research in order to teach students how politics are related to every student’s life as well as the importance of analyzing political phenomena objectively.



Presentation Abstract:

“All Politics is Local. All Numbers are Relative.”

When Tip O’Neill (the Speaker of the US House of Representatives from 1977 to 1987) was young and lost an election, his father told him: “All politics is local.” That is, politicians need to think about voters in their districts all the time. If you want to be a politician from Texas, you have to think about who they are, what they want, and what they think.

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This quote is important not only for politicians but also for us. You may say “Texans are conservative. New Yorkers are liberal,” but how do you know? When we analyze social phenomena objectively, we need data to measure them. Then, when we use data, you should know that these numbers may be relative. Liberal people in Austin may be conservative if they move to New York City.

We must consider the concept of time as well. Society is changing very fast. Many numbers are changing every day (or even every second). Today’s one hundred dollars may be different from tomorrow’s one hundred dollars. The meaning of numbers depends on the context. Certainly a small laptop computer can analyze large amounts of data, but at the end of the day, the interpretation of the results is up to us. That is why it is difficult to study. At the same time, however, it is interesting.

GCIC ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM CHAIR
Assistant Professor Dale Serda

Dale Serda earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin, lived and traveled parts of the world before coming back to her home to dedicate years to researching, reflecting on, and writing about the politically and culturally permeable Texas-Mexico border where she earned her Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at the University of Texas Pan-American. Today, she teaches English at College of the Mainland. Because she’s interested in empirical undergraduate research that pushes students to contribute originally to pre-existing conversations across the disciplines, she’s dedicated a significant amount of energy putting together this occasion so students can showcase their original work and ideas. She is 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 in pursuit of inquiry, reflection, and long-term personal and social engagement.



Dr. Beth Lewis
COM President



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.

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

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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, Morning Speaker

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.

College of the Mainland's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Sigma Delta Chapter officers and members served as student hosts for this event. Thank you, Samantha Butler, Kristin LaValle, Alyssa Hicks, Carolyn Bullard, Justin Workman, Angela Moreno, Kaci Maris, and Emily Selesky.

College of the Mainland's staff and faculty served as our judges and moderators. Thank you, Dr. RE Davis, Dr. Cody Smith, Dr. Sam Layton, Professor Brian Anderson, Dr. Elaine Childs, Professor Patricia Ovesny, Martha Willis, Dr. Jennifer Bieszke, Professor Rose Shirey, Matthew Busby, Erin McDaniel, Professor Douglas Alvarez, and Susan Weeks.

Thank you to all professors who served as student presenter advisors. Thank you, Professor Georgeann Ward of Lee College, Professor Carrie Pritchett of Brazosport College, Professor Elizabeth McLane of Alvin Community College, Ms. Kristin Benninghoff of South Houston High School, and College of the Mainland Professors Herman Trivilino, Stacey Burleson, Gilchrist White, Brian Anderson, Sheena Abernathy, and Dael Serda.

Thank you to Dr. Veronica Sanchez for serving as our Keynote and Dr. Shinya Wakao for serving as our Lunch Speaker. Thank you, Dr. Pam Millsap, for beginning today's conversation with your introduction to our theme!

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



A special thanks to Dr. Beth Lewis, Dr. Pam Millsap, and Dr. Vicki Stanfield, for your leadership.

Thank you, all at Marketing, Grounds, the Technology Department, Mr. C's, Student Life, Cindy Cobb, and the Humanities Department.

Lastly, thank you, Board of Trustees for being valuable advocates for College of the Mainland. Events such as these would not be possible without your support.

Sincerely,

Assistant Professor Dael Serda



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