

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Listed below are abstracts of student-faculty collaborative work presented at regional, national, and international conferences.

Jessica L. Tellier

(Nino Scarpati, Faculty Sponsor)

The Influence of Ethnic and Cultural Awareness on Prenatal Education in an Alternative High School

Presented at the 22nd National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Salisbury, MD, April 10-12, 2008

Project TEACH (Teens Education and Child Health), located in Trenton, NJ, is an alternative high school for pregnant or parenting teenagers. This study addressed the following: Do both clients and staff believe ethnic and cultural backgrounds are important factors in delivering quality prenatal care? Also, why did clients choose to receive prenatal care and were they satisfied with it? Project TEACH clients were interviewed individually about prenatal care, the cultural and ethnic sensitivity and awareness of health care providers, and clients' opinions of Project TEACH. Staff members were surveyed about adolescents' use of prenatal care services and the importance of ethnic background awareness. Findings were compared to those of studies of similar alternative schools. Only one client's prenatal care experience was deemed "inadequate." Most clients chose to receive prenatal care for themselves and their baby at a parent's or guardian's suggestion. All clients thought their health care providers were considerate of their ethnic or cultural background and were generally pleased with the program. Staff members emphasized that it is important for health care providers to be considerate of a client's ethnic and cultural background.

Bill Waters

(Lincoln Konkle, Faculty Sponsor)

Thornton Wilder's "The Warship": A Warning Against Unilateral Disengagement and Sociopolitical Entropy

Presented at the First International Thornton Wilder Conference, The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ, October 2-4, 2008

Thornton Wilder was known for his optimism, which sprang from a demonstrated belief in the incremental improvement of humankind. However, in his 1936 short story "The Warship," Wilder uncharacteristically focuses on a situation in which optimism and progress have been negated. On an imaginary island, entropy has unmistakably taken hold of the inhabitants, and their own isolation, in combination with a confrontation with the expansionism of others, destroys them.

This essay suggests that Wilder wrote "The Warship" in 1936 to express concern that sociopolitical entropy might ruin America were it to opt for unilateral disengagement in the face of Germany's National Socialist resurgence. In addition, the paper connects Wilder's dualistic evocation of the "beautiful, but terrible" warship to events that may have made a lasting impression on him as a child: the world tour of Theodore Roosevelt's Great White Fleet (1907-1909) – Big Stick Diplomacy in action – and the Agadir Crisis (1911), by which Imperial Germany brought the world closer to the First World War.

William Ball, Jennifer Bennett, Leo Muchnik, and German Rozencranc

(William Ball, Faculty Sponsor)

Changing the Climate on Climate Change: A Holistic Approach to Creating Community Around Sustainability

Presented at the Northeast Campus Sustainability Consortium Conference, Princeton, NJ, October 27-28, 2008

Our team developed a boundary-crossing project that spans the campus community at The College of New Jersey and reaches into the surrounding region; it included curricular, research,

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and community action components. The presentation addressed the project's governing principles, our successes and failures in undertaking it, and some key questions it raises. These last included: What expectations are appropriate for campus actors as political advocates within a community? When should campus-community boundaries be recognized and when ignored? What is most effective in moving people from interest to action on climate change? What conflicts are there between one's personal commitment to change and one's role in the campus community, and how do these vary by role? What are the best means of keeping different components of a campus community (including faculty and offices of community outreach, operations, and student life) communicating and collaborating with each other without feeling infringed upon? We presented some preliminary responses to these questions.

He Len Chung, Lindsay Nisbett, Cynthia Pierre, and Stephanie Probert
(He Len Chung, Faculty Sponsor)

Volunteerism and Self Esteem among Emerging Adults in an Urban Community

Presented at the Eastern Psychological Association, Pittsburgh, PA, March 6, 2009

This study examined links between volunteerism and self-esteem among 44 African-American emerging adults (ages 18-24) living in an urban community. Higher levels of volunteer behavior were associated with higher levels of self-esteem, even after controlling for important demographic factors (e.g., gender) and variables related to previous activity involvement and adaptive functioning in early adulthood. Current findings contribute to an area of research that has received limited empirical study and can inform efforts to support citizenship and psychological development in urban settings.

Carolyn Filipski

(Elizabeth Borland, Faculty Sponsor)

Persistence for Peace: Examining Antiwar Efforts and the Collective Empowerment of the Granny Peace Brigade

Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, MD, March 20, 2009

Headquartered in New York City, the Granny Peace Brigade is an antiwar grassroots organization whose members have relentlessly petitioned to stop the U.S. war in Iraq. It was founded October 17, 2005, after Joan Wile and seventeen other older women were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct at Times Square's Armed Forces Recruitment Office. Group members attempt to enlist in the army to take the place of young soldiers fighting overseas. Through examination of this grandmother activist group, one may be able to determine if and how members become liberated from age and gender identity struggles.

Madeline Patrick

(Elizabeth Borland, Faculty Sponsor)

A Case Study of the Raging Grannies

Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, MD, March 20, 2009

The Raging Grannies, a feminist activist group started in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, in 1987 now has spread throughout Canada, the United States, and the world. The group rallies against social, economic, and political injustices involving the "environment, mining, nuclear power, militarism, clear-cut logging, poverty, corporate greed, racism, [and] sexism" (Narushima 2004: 24). The Grannies, who are predominately fifty years of age or older, white, middle-class, and well educated, also challenge stereotypes of older women. There is no central organization; the Grannies divide themselves into autonomous "gaggles" and often demonstrate dressed in traditional "granny" clothing and singing humorous protest songs. This paper explores the history, structure, and types of protests of the Raging Grannies.

Meagan Terry*(Diane C. Bates, Faculty Sponsor)**New Jersey's Energy Future through a Sociological Lens*

Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Conference, Baltimore, MD, March 20, 2009

The Energy Master Plan of New Jersey addresses growing public concern with climate change and the need for behavioral changes in residential and commercial sectors. It focuses solely on electricity and heating fuels and on creating an energy infrastructure that is benign to the environment, affordable and reliable. Ambitious goals have been set to reach 20 percent reductions in energy consumption by 2020, which will require a great deal of cooperation among different sectors of society. This will occur amidst international market uncertainties, higher prices for coal, crude oil, and natural gas, as well as increasing population growth and demands for electricity and power.

To deal with the imminent U.S. energy crisis, one must recognize the connections between human consumption and environmental degradation and diminishing natural resources. A functionalist sociological framework may help one consider how climate change will alter how societies operate and create order. Ecological modernization, through innovation and technological fixes, may provide answers to some of the problems of climate change. However, only through deeper cultural changes that pursue ecological sustainability will true progress occur.

Lynn Bradley, Carleton Collins, David A. Hunt, and Erica Tabakin*(Lynn Bradley, David A. Hunt, Faculty Sponsors)**Expedient preparations of 4, 6-dihalo-3-arylisobenzofuran-1(3H)-ones from 3, 5-dihalo-N-ethylbenzamides*

Presented at American Chemical Society National Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, March 22-26, 2009

Recent studies in our research group have centered on metalation reactions of 3, 5-dihalogenated secondary and tertiary benzamides. While the 3, 5-dihalo tertiary benzamides have been observed to metalate at the ortho and /or para positions, we have found that the corresponding secondary benzamides metalate ortho via metalation mediated by complex-induced proximity effects, which upon quenching with aromatic aldehydes cyclize into lactones. To determine the versatility of this methodology, 3, 5 dichloro- and difluoro-ethylbenzamides have been metalated with sec-BuLi and quenched with a variety of aromatic aldehydes, such as benzaldehyde, 2-furaldehyde, and other heterocyclic aldehydes. The resulting lactones, prepared in fair to good yields, have been characterized by proton and carbon NMR, IR, and GC/MS.

Katherine R. Davis and David A. Hunt*(David A. Hunt, Faculty Sponsor)**Methods for the preparation of 2-arylvinyl methyl ethers*

Presented at the American Chemical Society National Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, March 22-26, 2009

A straightforward method for the synthesis of 2-arylvinyl methyl ethers has been developed which avoids the use of the Wittig reaction and the removal of the corresponding phosphorous by-products. The first reaction step converts an aryl ketone to a glycidic ester via a Darzen's condensation. The ester is then hydrolyzed to form a carboxylate salt which, upon acidification, provides the penultimate aryl alkyl-substituted acetaldehyde. Acid-catalyzed reaction with methanol with concomitant in situ removal of methanol affords the vinyl ether in good yields. These compounds are key intermediates in the preparation of biologically active compounds.

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Hossein Nouri, Daniel Pannone, and Abdus Shahid

(Hossein Nouri and Abdus Shahid, Faculty Sponsors)

IFRS Adoption in the United States and Implications for Stock Prices: A Review and Analysis of the Relevant Literature

Presented at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Accounting Association, Long Branch, NJ, April 24, 2009

This paper investigates the implications of adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in the United States on companies' earnings and stock prices. It reviews literature on accounting treatment differences and their effects on stock prices, 20-F reconciliations that show higher earnings under IFRS than U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), and a recent study of European countries that have adopted IFRS. A review of the relevant literature showed that changes in a company's earnings alone, resulting from an accounting treatment difference, did not impact the company's stock price. Consistent with the discounted cash flow (DCF) method for stock valuation, changes in cash flows resulting from an accounting treatment difference did affect a company's stock price. We conclude that the adoption of IFRS in the U.S. would affect stock prices only if companies experience changes in future cash flows resulting from the adoption and if these changes have not already been incorporated by investors. Under IFRS, companies may experience declines in cash flows from a change from the Last-In, First-Out (LIFO) to the First-in, First-Out (FIFO) inventory valuation method and from increased taxes. However, the overall effect of IFRS adoption on U.S. capital markets may be negligible when combined with a potential decline in the cost of equity.

Lynn Bradley, David Hunt, and Dominique Sauro

(Lynn Bradley and David Hunt, Faculty Sponsors)

Studies and Applications of the Rearrangement Reactions of Silyl Ketones

Presented at the American Chemical Society National Meeting, Washington DC, August 16-20, 2009

This research analyzes the mechanism for the reactions of silyl ketones to form cyclic compounds. For the systems studied, two competing reactions can occur: A simple ring closure that provides a cyclic ether, or the Brook rearrangement that forms a ring structure with a silicon-oxygen bond. We have found that the nature of the starting ketone seems to determine the stability of the resulting carbanion intermediate, which in turn determines whether the compound undergoes the rearrangement reaction. Our data show that an acetyl silane leads to an unrearranged product, while a benzoyl silane produces the rearranged product. The resulting cyclic products have been analyzed using proton and carbon NMR, IR, and GC/MS. In order better to understand the electronic nature of these mechanisms, we are currently looking at additional ketone starting materials.

Lynn Bradley, David Hunt, and Michael Nardone

(Lynn Bradley and David Hunt, Faculty Sponsors)

In Situ Preparation of N-benzyl Aziridines from Benzyl Halides

Presented at the American Chemical Society National Meeting, Washington DC, August 16-20, 2009

Recent work in our research group focuses on the heterocyclic chemistry of aziridines. Previous methods for the synthesis of benzyl aziridines went through a Schiff-based intermediate; however, this methodology yields inconsistent results in terms of the major product formed. To remedy this, we have created a new method for synthesizing these compounds. We have found that the inverse addition of a benzylbromide to a solution of excess 2-bromoethylamine hydrobromide in triethylamine produces the desired benzyl aziridine product in high purity and good yields. To test the versatility of this process, o-bromo-, p-trifluoromethyl-, o-cyano-, and 2-bromo-4-methoxy-benzylbromide were all subjected to the method. All final products were fully characterized by proton and carbon NMR, IR, and GC/MS.

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