

MLAS Alumni

Fall 2013

- Travis Brown (Applied Project) “Hitting the Target: Archery as Therapy – An Alternative Approach for Healing Individual and Societal Problems”

This project introduces the sport of archery as a means of leisure to assist with specific problems that exist on an individual basis, and U.S. society as a whole. The problems that are going to be explored can be divided into three different areas of concern as social, natural, and psychological. Through study of issues such as: civic engagement, deforestation, and depressive disorders, one will have a better understanding of the concerns that exist within society and ways in which archery can assist. By understanding the history of archery, one will see the relationship that humans hold with the bow and arrow and how archery has evolved over time. Through implementing assorted programs, community involvement, and intervention, it is possible that archery can be a step in the right direction and work to reduce social disengagement, raise deforestation awareness, and address depressive disorders.

- Kelvin Celestine (Applied Project) “Build a Better Tomorrow: Nonprofit Resource Manual”

In the nonprofit world, anticipate change, embrace your mission and prepare to build. The nonprofit world is ambiguous. It is forever changing and evolving. As a nonprofit manager, you must develop the ability to remain flexible, true to your mission and your purpose. In our world today, the cry for privatization is prevalent. There is a need for a more effective and efficient way to serve the public. Globalization is promoting geo-governance as we *muddle through trying to find the best practices* (Lindblom, 1959). We are discovering that there is no one best way. The complexity of our world dictates that not every solution is the right answer. I propose that the nonprofit world has the solution to this dilemma. In preparing this resource manual, I discovered a description of the nonprofit world I would like to share: *nonprofits have been the focus of intense controversy as legislators, the courts, and the public have struggled to come to terms with this organizational revolution. At the same time, because the nonprofit universe has been in process of emergence, those within it have had to struggle to define and legitimate it* (Hall, 2010). As we struggle to define the role of nonprofit organizations in our world and their functionality, I deem that nonprofit organizations are the pulse of the universe. Without a pulse, the universe cannot exist.

This resource manual is a tool. I hope it inspires you to develop your nonprofit organization. I will be using [bracket] to insert key points in the manual. The process of creating your nonprofit organization is part of your preparation and training as a nonprofit manager. Learning to be innovative, fluent and the art of collaborating will be valuable resources to becoming sustainable. *If you are not at the table then you are the*

main dish (Lenis, 2013). I hope that you discover some insight that will motivate you, the leader, and inspire you, the dreamer, to build a better tomorrow.

- Krystal Monique Cotton (Internship)
- Katina Marie Harmon (Internship) “Interpersonal Violence Prevention Initiative Internship: Transitions and Adaptations”

The overriding goal of my internship was initially to learn how to create and competently execute interpersonal violence prevention programming. I wanted to be able to take what I learned about successful programming and apply it to other victim’s service outreach organizations. However getting to know these new individuals and trying to build rapport with them on such short notice became the most immediate goal of my internship growth. The best way that I could think of to achieve this transition of goal priority was to show up at committee meetings and conferences that detailed the most pressing concern on the IVPI agenda, the U100 class on the topic of Interpersonal Violence.

- Sharon Hunter (Applied Project) “Portraiture: The Spiritual Journey of Women of Color”

Portraiture by basic definition is “the practice or art of making portraits.” (Dictionary.com). For artists, “Portrait painting is a genre in painting, where the intent is to depict the visual appearance of the subject. Besides human beings, animals, pets and even inanimate objects can be chosen as the subject for a portrait. In addition to portrait painting, portraits can also be made in other media such as, etching, lithography, photography, even video and digital media.” (Wikipedia). However, as a writing technique Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot suggests, that the “Portraiture has a number of additional defining attributes, some of which it shares with ethnography. First of all, Portraiture pays close attention to context as an important tool for interpreting meaning. Second, in response to what Lawrence-Lightfoot sees as a tendency in social science research to focus on “pathology and disease rather than on health and resistance” (p. 8) Portraiture actively seeks “goodness,” though with the understanding that goodness will always be laced with imperfection. Third, Portraiture not only listens to stories, but also do what Lawrence-Lightfoot calls “listening for a story,” a process of co-creating compelling narratives with participants complete with characters, metaphors, and a central narrative arc. Fourth, Portraiture explicitly insert themselves into the stories they tell in an in-depth process of reflexivity. And fifth, Portraiture seeks to speak to broad and diverse audiences; an explicit act of intervention and community building (Lawrence-Lightfoot&Davis, 1997).

In addition, as portraiture I will guide this project by creating a cohesive framework with my experience as it relates to this subject. This is the understanding that will aid me in creating different portraits of the journeys told throughout this

writing project. Lightfoot explains, “The portraitist comes to the field with an intellectual framework and set of guiding questions. The framework is usually the result of a review of the relevant literature, prior experience in similar settings, and a general knowledge of the field of inquiry. It also resonates with echoes of the researcher’s autobiographical journey – those aspects of her familial, cultural, developmental, and educational background that she can relate (either consciously or unconsciously) to the intellectual themes of the work” (p. 185).

- Anglique Thompson (Internship)

Summer 2013

- Sara Featherlin (Applied Project) “Deciding the Future of Housing for Non-Traditional Students at Western Illinois University”

Western Illinois University defines a non-traditional undergraduate student as any student over the age of 24 years, who is single, childless, and is not enrolled in graduate classes. University Housing and Dining (UHDS) has started to notice that many students are returning to school after being in the work force and/or the military for years. UHDS requires incoming students to live on-campus for four semesters or until they have completed 60 semester hours of classwork, unless they successfully petition to live off-campus. Successful petition reasons include living within 45 miles of WIU, which entitles you to be a commuter, previous active military experience, being married or a parent, or over 24 years of age.

Instead of choosing to live in off-campus apartments, which may seem like a more appealing option to most students, many of these students are opting to live on-campus. WIU used to accommodate these older, non-traditional students in on-campus apartment facilities, East Village, University Village and Lamoine Village. Due to the closing of the 232 apartments at the Lamoine Village complex, WIU now does not have suitable space to accommodate the influx of older students who would require an apartment. It is a UHDS policy to provide housing for everyone, and we attempt to make a placement as best we can, but the problem arises when these students do not want to live in a single residence hall room for budgetary reasons, and they want a roommate. Due to this, it is not always easy to place a student who is over 24 years old with a roommate who is of traditional age. Also for budgetary concerns, these students do not want a meal plan. WIU has a policy in place which requires any student residing in a residence hall to have a meal plan. In an effort to accommodate a growing number of non-traditional students at Western Illinois University, UHDS began to explore the option of using a property formerly known as the International House to possibly house older individuals who still wanted to live on-campus, and do so without a meal plan option because that building has an operational kitchen. This building will open in the fall, so this is the solution for the time being.

Non-traditional student enrollment is a hot topic at WIU, because it involves so many students. As of September 4, 2012, UHDS had 4283 students living in residence halls. Of those 4283 students, 108 of them were 24 years of age or older. This equates to three percent of our students being classified as non-traditional. This three percent may seem to be a drop in the proverbial bucket, but in terms of room and board for the school year, those 109 students comprise almost \$1 million in revenue for UHDS, so we do not want to lose them.

- Craig Nellum (Applied Project) “African American Males in Higher Education”

African American males in society are considered outcasts, they are considered to be a part of society that is looked down upon, because of the color of their skin, and their physical characteristics. The purpose of this research project is to determine why African American males decide to attend predominately white institutions instead of Historically Black Universities, and examine African American students’ college success. The project would also include personal narratives of three successful African American males on their own experiences at predominately white institutions located in the Midwest.

- Deonna Perkins (Thesis) “Submersion of Cotton Textiles in Aquatic Environments”

The contribution of clothing to death scene investigations is only beginning to be recognized. Forensic investigators have recently begun to undertake studies to document the degradation of clothing under different burial conditions; however, very few studies have examined the effects of aquatic interment. This study aims to develop a simple and inexpensive methodology to begin exploring this topic. Samples utilized deionized water or Mississippi river water in indoors and outdoors locations, and with and without an infant 100% cotton t-shirt. The levels of alkalinity, pH, water hardness, nitrates, nitrites, and water temperature of all samples were recorded in addition to atmospheric temperature and weather conditions. The study was carried out for 25 days (21 September 2012 – 15 October 2012), observations of the physical appearance were made on 16 October 2012, and a more detailed examination of the shirts was performed on 5 July 2013. Nonparametric Wilcoxon paired t-tests were used to compare differences across data.

In general, samples with river water had significantly higher pH, alkalinity, and nitrite levels. Outdoors samples had significantly higher levels of alkalinity, pH, and water hardness. Significantly lower pH was documented in most samples which contained shirts, except for outdoors river samples, but all samples had a higher alkalinity when a shirt was present. Nitrite levels were less dependent on the presence of a shirt and more dependent on water type, with river water samples generally having higher nitrite levels throughout the study, and indoors samples having the highest nitrite levels. Over the 25 day period, temperature differences among samples were not

significant, but significant differences between the atmospheric temperature and sample water temperatures were noted, with indoors samples having a significantly higher mean temperature than the air, and outdoors samples significantly lower mean temperatures than the atmospheric temperature. In future studies, alkalinity, pH, nitrites, nitrates, and temperature should all be monitored when studying textiles in aquatic environments. As the purpose of this study was to potentially identify a simplified test protocol for determining the length of time clothing has been exposed to an aquatic environment, the easily sourced and cheaper equipment utilized were generally not as sensitive as may be needed, and may have affected the results and conclusions.

- Gretchen Steil-Weiss (Applied Project) “Disability: Literature, Film, and the Changing Consciousness”

Through this class, we’re going to critically examine disability through five key dimensions. We may have experienced aspects of these dimensions ourselves, in different ways, through our interactions with societal norms. These dimensions will be enacted through stories and movies, and we will look at how they have impacted us personally and collectively.

We all harbor preconceived notions about what it means to have a disability, and that’s okay. It’s natural for our brain to categorize things that are unfamiliar to us; that categorization helps us to experience, what we read, what we watch on television, or see in movies—all of these messages help us to organize our surroundings. If we don’t take the time to think critically about the messages that we receive from society about other groups, though, sometimes it can be easy to dismiss the experiences of groups that we do not belong to. These dimensions are intended to inspire people to think critically about messages about disability.

Spring 2012

- DaReshia Chambers-Staple (Internship) “Internship with Bridgeway’s Residential Program in Macomb, IL”
- Jennifer Lenehan (Internship) “The Ability to Strengthen the Path to Higher Education”

The site for this internship was the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend (CFGRB), a non-profit agency located in Bettendorf, IA, serving an extended area along the Mississippi River spanning 17 counties. Their mission is to utilize the philanthropic goals of community members to act on community issues and to quote them directly “to better our community by connecting people who care with causes that matter.” The CFGRB collaborates with and provides support for multiple affiliate foundations located within the surrounding counties, which are typically volunteer run

foundations striving to better their community who rely on the CFGRB to assist them in reaching their communities’ philanthropic goals. The internship was supervised by Matt Mendenhall who is the Vice President of Programs for the CFGRB. Matt was looking to gain a better perspective on the impact their current scholarships were having due to the changing climate of higher education. He also wanted a clearer picture of what innovations, aside from traditional scholarships, might be available and educate potential donors about them in an effort to best serve the need of those students on the path towards higher education today.

The objective of the internship was to identify strategies for the CFGRB to utilize with their donors who wish to fund college scholarships more effectively. Innovation is occurring daily throughout all aspects of higher education, including financial aid policy and the ever-changing college culture. Philanthropy is a key component contributing to higher education that has the opportunity to transform through innovation along with the modernizing university setting. Donors have the ability to be flexible, meeting the needs of this ever changing field in an effort to strengthen a student’s path towards Higher Education with guidance from the innovations the CFGRB is exploring. Through analyzing the effectiveness of the current foundation scholarships as well as their affiliate foundation scholarships, by evaluating the monetary value and strictness of criteria, along with research on the barriers facing the college going culture of this generation, multiple alternatives to traditional scholarships emerged. Those innovative ideas have been constructed into an analysis table for future usage by the CFGRB consisting of the college barriers identified in the researched literature facing the modern college-going culture today and progressive donor options on how to fund solutions to those obstacles (Appendix Item #5). The overall goal of the CFGRB in pursuing this internship was to take the analysis of their current scholarships and uncover potential future modifications they can utilize to educate prospective scholarship donors on how to most effectively impact a college student’s pursuit of a higher education degree.

- Dustin McDonald (Internship) “Internship at St. Anthony’s Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Rock Island, IL”

The medical field requires working with the most diverse employees and patients any other field could require. Understanding individual need and working within the comfort level of a wide range of ethnic groups, age ranges, genders, and social status are key factors in health care as well as the Liberal Arts and Science program. I have taken a wide range of classes from advanced organizational communication, gender relation, and women in crime, to political sociology. This broad range of education will allow for me to become more adept to dealing with the wide range of diversity on the administrative side of health care.

Through this internship I will learn the wide range of tasks involved with administration, as well as efficiently manage my time, and others time, within the work

place. Like any field, responding and correctly handling any issues is a premium responsibility. The health care field however makes time management its top priority, as the timely reaction to issues could directly and adversely affect a person's health and comfort level. The Liberal Arts and Science program, although offering great flexibility and education range, had required dedication and effective time management. St. Anthony's will offer a real world, office setting, and practical view.

- Kelly Sheridan (Applied Project)
- Natalie Smith (Applied Project) "Happy Annie Lennox Day: An Original Screenplay"
- John Wiesch (Internship) "Creation of a Homeless Veterans Resource Manual through an Internship at the Catholic Worker House, Davenport, IA"

The purpose of the internship with the Catholic Worker House was to gain knowledge and build a rapport with community based support service centers and veterans in need that reside in the Quad Cities area. This was accomplished by engaging in homeless outreach in the community, as well as making contact with the various agencies in the community.

The majority of homeless outreach was conducted in the community on the streets of Davenport, at various locations at various times of the day throughout the week. The most common locations in which outreach was performed consisted of meal sites, homeless shelters, bus stations, and locations where homeless individuals were known to congregate or sleep. To specifically target homeless veterans, on a number of occasions appointments were attended at the VA Homeless Outreach Program in Rock Island. These appointments consisted of face to face interactions with the VA social workers as well as meetings with representatives of local community based organizations.

The main objectives and overall goals of the internship were to: Identify and establish a rapport with local veterans in need of assistance, establish a rapport with local community, state, and federal agencies that provide support to veterans, provide information that links veterans to community based organizations, and to provide personal support to veterans in need.

Fall 2012

- Amelia Hartnett (Thesis) "Interest Group Politics and Abortion Rights"

Abortion has become a defining political issue in the United States. The warring sides of the abortion debate have been claimed by the country's two main competing political parties and politicians are now expected to have a solid public stance on abortion rights. The issue has become so politically salient because of the public's response and efforts to influence government through related interest groups. Despite

successes and failures on both sides, anti-abortion rights groups have managed to restrict abortion in many ways, to the point that many women cannot feasibly enact their right to seek an abortion as protected by law. This thesis will explore what makes an interest group successful and will compare competing interest groups on both sides of the abortion debate in an attempt to discover why on side has had more success than the other.

It will give an overview of the history of abortion rights in the United States and review the current laws related to abortion. It will also explain how abortion interest groups have been able to shape these rights and restrictions. Interest groups will be defined, and what they do to influence policy and how they work within the government will also be explained. The factors that have been found to contribute to making an interest group successful, and what enables them to employ these strategies, will be described. Three of these success factors will be used to compare anti-abortion rights interest groups to abortion rights interest groups including, membership size and state affiliate numbers, the amount of money raised and spent through political action committees, and the strength of their clarity of message. Finally, it will analyze the differences between the opposing groups and their implications for the ongoing political struggle over abortion rights.

- Michael Lake (Internship) "Teaching Sociology at the College Level"
- Delores Robinson (Thesis) "Perceptions of the Food Insecure: Does Direct Authority Construct Understanding?"

Research has shown that the public generally holds a negative perception of those living in poverty, and specifically of those using emergency food assistance programs (Limbert and Bullock 2009). Most of the research has focused on the public perception and political discourse surrounding emergency food assistance recipients; very little research has been devoted to the perspectives of those working directly for food pantries (Duffy et.al 2006; Molnar et.al 2001). This lack of research is problematic considering the power held by those working and volunteering at food pantries. Pantry eligibility and participation can be changed at the discretion of the pantry director. Because of this authority, it is necessary to understand how directors, paid staff, and volunteers view the vulnerable populations that they serve. The purpose of this research project is to get a fuller understanding of how food pantry directors, personnel, and volunteers view the clients served at their pantries, and the larger issues of poverty and assistance programs. Semi-structured interviews were held with both directors and volunteers at various food pantries within both rural and urban settings. These interviews were then analyzed in an attempt to explore how pantry personnel construct their understanding of poverty and food insecurity as larger issues within the communities they serve. The findings of this analysis suggest that pantry personnel were empathetic, most frequently identified systemic causes of poverty, and discussed not only the hardships experienced by their clients, but by the pantries as well.

Summer 2012

- John McLaughlin (Applied Project) “Pyebwa Lespwa: Trees of Hope – A Small-Scale Community-Based Environmental Sustainability Initiative”

Time in Haiti introduces both the horror of a failed state and the beauty of an extraordinary population. The former needs clarification, the latter must be witnessed to be understood. Haiti, a country marginalized even in the pages of history, was isolated by the colonial powers placing obstacles in its initial days of independence that still plague the country. My desire to participate in an act of justice stems from existing time spent in the country but also through a commitment to Christian social teaching. Principles contained within this doctrine include an invitation to stewardship. An understanding of Christian ecology can motivate an individual to move from an idea to an application, regardless of how small the actual effort is. I felt confident in the ability to demonstrate the movement from theory to practice by relying on my personal convictions of service and participation in creation. This specific idea of planting trees utilizes ecological ideas set forth by those such as Engel (2006) and Edwards (2006) and the spiritual lessons set forth by Wright (2011b) ultimately addressing the social and environmental problems existing in Haiti. Planting trees is therefore an application of Christian ecology and a participation in creation that restores land and humanity alike, in the process establishing a replicable methodology. In this paper, I discuss colonial isolation, injustice, misconceptions, and political ramifications from independence to today along with my two week experience in Haiti planting trees. This project provides an example of how discipleship can be put in practice following conceptions of stewardship and a commitment to justice.

- Michael Britz (Internship) “Internship Researching the New Deal”
- Jacqueline Cunningham-walls (Applied Project) “Planning an Urban Agricultural Training Center”

Spring 2012

- Heath Anderson (Thesis) “Atrazine Entering Groundwater in the Upper Mississippi River Basin and its Effect on Submersed Aquatic Vegetation”

Atrazine (2-chloro-4-ethylamino-6-isopropylamino-s-triazine) is an herbicide that is widely used throughout the world in major crop agriculture because it is effective in blocking photosynthesis in broadleaf and grassy weeds. It is a member of the triazine family of organic compounds that have become extremely controversial due to contamination concerns in waterways and drinking supplies. A variety of studies have been conducted to evaluate the prevalence, severity, and effects of atrazine levels in various water sources and the impact this may have on human, animal, and plant life.

The Mississippi River watershed contains the region with the highest atrazine usage per acre of agricultural land in the U.S., and this chemical presumably enters the river system through runoff thus affecting the marine ecosystem, particularly submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV). The degree that aquatic plants are affected is a topic which needs to be explored further. Data for atrazine levels and the prevalence of SAV are made available by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Atrazine levels and percentage of SAV during 2007 were analyzed using ArcGIS (Geographic Information System) software and the resulting maps displayed an inconclusive visual relationship. AN examination of Mississippi River Pools 4, 8, and 13 shown to contain moderate atrazine levels were compared to the density of SAV in each pool. Results from a linear regression analysis indicate that a decreasing level of atrazine intensity between 1998 and 2007 corresponded to an increasing density of SAV.

- Christina Monson (Thesis) “The Militarization of Sex Education: Understanding the Persistent Federal Funding of Abstinence Only Until Marriage”

Militarization is noted by theorists to exist in our daily lives and within our schools. In particular, Cynthia Enloe, a feminist theorist, describes how the lives of non-military citizens can be militarized without even seeming to be. Her theory suggests that women’s lives can be controlled or militarized in any aspect of life, even beyond the military. One of these ways is through the control of women’s sexuality. The goal of this research is to examine Abstinence Only Until Marriage (AOUM) programs for militarization strategies. AOUM programs are promoted through federal funding despite evidence that they are ineffective at preventing sexual activity among teens, have no bearing on teenage pregnancy, and do not lessen the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. The literature suggests that these programs are used to deliver political messages concerning abortion, teen pregnancy, and to impact welfare. With thirteen years of data demonstrating that AOUM programs do not solve these social problems, there must be more reason to explain why these programs continue to be funded and presented within our schools. In order to explore how militarization theory might explain the objective of AOUM programs, I conducted a qualitative content analysis of curriculum samples. Research material s consisted of a convenience sample of teacher and student manual of varied publication dates, program outlines, AOUM program websites, and curriculum samples obtained online. This research contributes to the literature concerning AOUM programs by exploring through feminist theory a way of understanding the persistent federal funding and implementation of AOUM sex education programs through the militarization of women’s sexuality.

- Shannon Reed (Internship) “WIU’s Equal Opportunity and Access Administrative Internship”

The major goal of this internship was to form and grow a liberal arts and sciences community on the Macomb campus of Western Illinois University. The facets to this project included, but were not limited to: student mentoring and advising, increased marketing, recruitment of prospective students, lecture assistance, web design, and so forth. The following report will demonstrate the projects implemented the impact of each, and suggestions for future growth and stability.

Fall 2011

- Andrea Jones (Internship)
- Krisitn Bradley (Thesis) “The White, the Black, and the Mixed: A Look at the Portrayal of Biracial/Biethnic (Black and White) Characters in Children’s Picture Books and the Importance of Portrayal in Establishing a Positive Self Concept and Identity”

This study investigated the portrayal of Biracial/Biethnic, specifically Black and White mixed characters, in children’s picture books. Research results found that there is a significant lack of Biracial/Biethnic picture books available to children, there is no easy or established way to search for these titles, there are few of the titles available that portray the characters naturally. Not pointing out their “racial” differences and “trying on” different imaginative pretend identities. This study argues that Biracial/Biethnic children need to be represented without reference to “racial” differences and include themes in which Biracial/Biethnic characters are “trying on” different pretend identities such as books portraying them as pirates, princesses, knights and cowboys or cowgirls. Such portrayals are vital in helping facilitate a strong positive self-concept in Biracial/Biethnic children, because they represent opportunities for learning through “make believe” play as well as contribute a positive message, that Biracial/Biethnic children can *be* and *do* and *achieve* whatever they set their minds to do. This message is one that these children can build upon as they grow into adolescence and adulthood.

Summer 2011

- Allyson Knanishu (Internship) “River Music Experience in Davenport, IA”

For my exit option from graduate school I will be doing an internship at the River Music Experience in Davenport, Iowa. Working with Ellis Kell and Siri Mason, I will be doing a number of things incorporating music, history, education, and diversity. I explored all of these interests throughout my time at Western Illinois University. In this plan, I am including a list of activities, questions that have been raised by reading from this class, and general questions I am taking into the internship.

- Tracey Alexander (Applied Project) “Inside Out: My Journey from Inspiration to Implementation”

A mentor, according to Dictionary.com, is a wise and trusted teacher. A mentor is one who helps to pull a younger, inexperienced individual to success. Many times when we hear the term mentor we immediately apply its meaning to business. We think of the mentor and the mentee as adults, one older and one younger. Lately, however, mentoring has become a means of intervention. One used to prevent young people from failing at becoming contributing members of society. When I decided to create a program aimed at mentoring and teaching young African American girls how to become ladies with high self-esteem, and successful at all of their endeavors, it was imperative that I included a mentoring aspect. I needed to know that mentoring was going to be effective at changing the lives of my future clients. I set out to find out as much information I could on mentoring programs aimed at African American Girls.

- Diana Gremanis (Applied Project) “REAL Women as Researchers, Educators, Activists and Leaders: Development and Implementation of a Presentation Series and Luncheon”

My goals for the REAL Women as researchers, Educators, Activists, and Leaders Presentation Series were: to have at least 6 presenters from February to April, and have a presenter for the Luncheon. I also had hoped to get four presenters for the International Women’s luncheon and three presenters for Equal Pay Day. I also hoped to attract larger audiences; when I started the project, I was told the audience is usually small (5-10 people). My was to get at least ten people for each presentation, in hopes of attracting more than 15. I also hoped to have a larger attendance than last year for the REAL women luncheon. Last year they only had about 25 people attend. My goal was also to get a diverse group of individuals to speak: some professors (from different departments), some graduate students, and some faculty. I also hoped that I would get to co-present. Overall, I wished for better audience turn out than previous years and to get about two speakers each month.

- Renee Simpson (Applied Project) “Trio Upward Bound: A Comprehensive Study of the Program and its Significance in Advancing Educational Achievement for at Risk Students”

Upward Bound is part of the Federal TRiO Programs, which includes Upward bound, Veteran’s Upward bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services. These programs are implemented and monitored by the United States Department of Education. The goal of Upward Bound is to generate in participants (under-represented groups of high school student’s) skills and motivation necessary for successfully attending college. The categories representing these under-represented groups include those with low income; first generational college bound students; and those living in rural areas. The program works through individual grants, each of which covers a specific geographic area and provides services to approximately 50 to 100 students annually, (U.S. Dept of Education: 2006).

In this project, I will look specifically at TRiO Upward bound Talent Search programs. The TRiO Upward bound talent search is a program that provides instruction, tutoring, academic and career guidance, personal counseling, and an opportunity for residential life experience prior to college entrance to high school students recruited in the 9th, 10th and 11th grades. These students are typically first-generation, college-bound and currently enrolled in a high school. The program provides a Summer Instructional/Residential Program where students can participate in an intensive six-week academic program on a college campus. TRiO Upward Bound Talent Search offers tutorial and counseling program for students who would like to go to college, but may have trouble attending due to lack of financial aid, academic guidance and/or inadequate high school preparation. One of the essential goals of this program is to prepare students for high school graduation and college enrollment; (<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/TRiOupbound/index.html>).

Spring 2011

- Elizabeth Humes (Internship) “McDonough County United Way Internship”

When I started this internship I had a couple other personal goals in mind. I wanted to challenge myself to do something that I didn't know much about. I was interested in this field of nonprofit organizations but I didn't have a lot of information about it. It was important to me that I tried to network with people in the community. I was interested in being involved with the board meetings because I believe there are certain things you can't really learn in the classroom. I thought That I had proved to myself that I could achieve good grades and it was time to prove myself in a professional setting.

- Bria Miller (Internship)
- Jesus Delgado (Internship) “Internship with the Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce”

This paper reports on my goal and objectives, in addition to competencies gained through an internship with the Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GQCHCC). The GQCHCC is a non-profit organization in its second year of existence. Its mission is to support, promote and enhance the growth and success of local businesses and to leverage the community's assets. This organization supports all cultural background. As an intern with the GQCHCC, I worked a minimum of 15 hours a week for the duration of the semester. This report provides detailed information concerning all tasks completed and competencies gained.

- Carla Oliver (Internship) “Internship with Athletic Academic Services”

- Gregory Sheil (Applied Project) “Students with Disabilities in Higher Education: The Promotion of Universal Design on College and University Campuses”

This applied project investigates the process of gaining advantages in the world of higher education for students and adults with disabilities. A presentation given in Macomb, IL at Western Illinois University on March 23, 2011, approached a Sociological and Psychological perception to the advancements in different tools, resources, etc., that increased students and faculty interactions to students with disabilities. Approaching disability studies and the key people in the disability civil rights movement, the presentation also investigates the negative stereotypes of gaining resources in higher education by changing the use of medical model to Universal Design.

- Jaymie Schuldt (Thesis) “Examining the “Triple Shift”: How do Non-Traditional Female Students Successfully Balance the Roles of Work, Family, and College?”

Over the past several decades, the number of non-traditional female students has increased significantly on college campuses across the United States. Many female non-traditional students also have jobs and/or family responsibilities. Despite the prevalence of female non-traditional students in the college student population, the literature concerning their experiences is limited. A review of the literature suggests that the demands of a job and family responsibilities can pose barriers to degree completion, yet the role of college student can also have a positive influence on their self-perception. Building on Arlie Hochschild’s findings concerning the “second shift,” this study explores the barriers, challenges, and other factors non-traditional female students encounter balancing multiple roles. Ten non-traditional female students were interviewed for this study. Four prominent themes were identified during analysis of the qualitative data: mother guilt, time management, campus climate, and the “second shift.” The findings from this study suggest that non-traditional female students who are balancing multiple roles could benefit from the support of their family, faculty, and college administration to help them achieve their academic goals.

Fall 2010

- Christopher S. Treadway (Thesis) “Tigers and Lions: the Civil War in Sri Lanka”

The island nation of Sri Lanka witnessed a bloody civil war that lasted over two decades, killing many civilians, causing large scale diasporas, and disrupting the social and economic life of the nation. On May 16th, 2009 the Sri Lankan Government Commander of the Army, General Sarath Fonseka, declared victory over the LTTE after aggressive attacks on the last remaining Tamil Tiger strongholds in the northern part of the country. The Tamil insurgency in Sri Lanka was one of the most powerful and longest lasting insurgencies in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. The apparent defeat of this insurgency by governmental forces of Sri Lanka is hailed by many as a model on how to win the “global war on terror.” In an age when the war on terror is being waged on many fronts by various countries and actors, what lessons can be gleaned from the experience of Sri Lanka? Is the war on terror in Sri Lanka really over? What lessons can the United States and its’ allies learn from this war? These broad questions inform the context of this thesis.