The Celebration of Excellence

Abstracts from the 5th Annual Celebration of Excellence
Student Presentations & Poster Sessions

May 1, 2015
Presentations

Zipporea Abdulmalik  
Faculty Sponsor: Nancy Taylor Porter  
Theatre Senior Showcase

With this presentation I will exhibit what I have learned throughout these four years of my college experience as a theatre major. In my first monologue I am performing as Rose Maxson from the well-known play, August Wilson's *Fences*. The main character has suffered abuse from her husband and finally fights back. This powerful monologue showcases my dramatic acting abilities. In my second monologue, I am playing Connie from the play *Bad Dates*. This piece is on the opposite side of the spectrum and demonstrates my comic abilities. The first scene I am performing involves the skills and knowledge I have obtained from my Advanced Acting class: stage combat. The scene is from *King Lear*, and another student and I developed the fight choreography to complement this battle scene. Lastly, I will perform a scene from Lynn Nottage's play *Mud, River, Stone*. I connect strongly to the intense subject matter, and the scene also demonstrates the connection I achieve with my partner.

Art Department  
Faculty Sponsor: Jessica Anderson  
The Creative Process: A Student Art Exhibition

The Creative Process is an exhibition to highlight the artistic achievements of students at Illinois College. Featuring works from across the curriculum, the exhibition will celebrate the diversity of artistic expression on our campus. Because the Creative Process is a journey, with many achievements along the way, this exhibit will approach artistic excellence as a constantly shifting force. Every work of art that is made is informed by the art that came before it. The students selected for this exhibition have worked hard to grow their portfolios and have engaged in the creative process to produce articulate works of art that testify to a much larger story of accomplishment. In addition to the visual art displayed in this exhibition, individual students will present about their creative process. These presentations will allow audience members to see the exhibit on a deeper level and to hear about the research and discoveries conducted by our most advanced art students. These presentations will be held within the gallery and will open conversation between artists and audience. Because art is far more involved than a singular final product on display, these conversations are a vital part of the professional practice of our students and the Illinois College Celebration of Excellence.

Ashley Bailey  
Faculty Sponsor: Elizabeth Rellinger Zettler  
College Students’ Attitudes towards Males in the Criminal Justice System

One goal of this study was to determine levels of “modern” or implicit racism as they relate to attitudes towards black males. A second goal was to assess a brief informational intervention. During the pre-test session, subjects were asked to evaluate 4 cases involving males arrested for a crime. These cases were counterbalanced so that each participant read one case of a black victim and black suspect, one case of a black victim and white subject, one case of a white victim and black suspect and one case of a white victim and white suspect. Subjects then filled out surveys including the Modern Racism Scale. During the intervention stage, subjects were randomly assigned to either the experimental condition (a video explaining perceived racial biases within the justice system that make it more likely for black males to be stopped, arrested, and convicted of crimes) or the control (a videotaped lecture on the criminal justice system). Two weeks later, subjects were given a number of surveys including the Modern Racism Scale. Subjects were recruited from a variety of classes across campus and extra credit was offered for participation. The results of each aspect of this study will be presented.
Alec Bartz  
**Faculty Sponsor: Steven Gardner**  
Castro, Alboroz, and Spanish Identity

This research examines the discourse on Spanish identity formation as revealed through the Spanish scholars Américo Castro and Claudio Sánchez-Albornoz in the middle part of the twentieth century. The topic of Spanish identity has long been disputed and discussed amongst scholars. However, this particular quarrel between two of the most important Spanish intellectuals prompted a larger discussion that still continues today. In his work *España en su historia* (1948), Américo Castro argued that modern Spaniards originated during a time in Iberian history known as al-Andalus when Muslims, Jews, and Christians lived and worked together to create a blended culture. In response, Sánchez-Albornoz wrote *España: un enigma histórico* (1956) and maintained that Castro had omitted a large period of time in Spanish history, and thereby the true origin of the modern Spaniard, which was the Visigothic period that immediately preceded al-Andalus in Iberian history. This research looks to place each scholar within a social and political context, exploring the intellectual trends of their time and examining how each one revealed this in their various writings. This discussion will conclude with considering how Castro’s and Sanchez-Albornoz’s visions of Spanish identity can be seen in attempts to define Spanish identity today.

Lauren Bernier  
**Faculty Sponsor: Steven Gardner**  
La Alhambra: More than a Palace

While La Alhambra in Granada, Spain has been described in tourist brochures as a magical Arab palace and fortress where the Muslim Nasrid rulers lived (1238-1492), my research on the uses of space on the expansive palace grounds and how these uses have changed over time indicates that the Alhambra was more than just a palace and a fortress: it was an entire city in itself. Through an examination of the city within La Alhambra, we gain an insight into life in the Muslim Nasrid Kingdom, which was the last Muslim kingdom to be conquered by the Catholic Kings Isabel and Ferdinand. My research is important to the preservation of this World Heritage site. It documents a more detailed and accurate role that La Alhambra played and continues to play than tourists normally learn about. Studying the function of the Alhambra as a city within itself and how the structure and use of the complex have changed over time allows us to better understand Spanish history and culture.

Ashley Brown, Jessica Brown, Brandon Coniglio, Patricia Davis, Clare Frachey, Freeman Fulwiley, Erica Kemple, Aric Salyer, Kayshon Sanders, Shannon Wise  
**Faculty Sponsor: Jeff Garland**  
Currents in Contemporary Art

The Contemporary Art Class will be representing and presenting ten contemporary artists during the Celebration of Excellence. They will be utilizing the technology in the digital learning center to create a unique experience which will combine a traditional art opening with a digital platform. The students will create this art opening representing the three currents in contemporary art that they have been studying this semester. The first current is name brand contemporary art that deals with styles and practices. The second current is transnational and concerns itself with ideologies and issues. The third current is about contemporaneity and is produced with questions arising from challenges with time, place, media, and mood. The contemporary art class will be showing that contemporary artists are working in different ways to accomplish a common goal. Each student had to research contemporary artists and contact them in order to represent their work in this show. We hope to take the traditional art opening and utilize the digital learning center in an interactive and engaging way. This will bring the Illinois College campus closer to the contemporary art world and the artists that exist in it. The digital learning center is a great opportunity for students to brainstorm on projects in a collaborative way. The class hopes to extend this collaboration to a larger community of the Illinois College campus through the online component and the digital art opening.
Caitlin Buchanan  
**Faculty Sponsor: Nancy Taylor Porter**  
Behind the Scenes of Theatre: Stage Management

This showcase demonstrates the skills and knowledge I have learned as a theatre major here at Illinois College. I am presenting on Stage Management and what that job requires along with the evolution of my stage management style and how I have come to do it presently. Using both videos from past Illinois College shows and scans of correlating promptbook pages, I also show how what I have learned has influenced the changes in my approach to stage management.

Guus Duindam  
**Faculty Sponsor: Paul Fuller**  
America and Israel: Towards a Rawlsian Foreign Policy

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a struggle in which the U.S. has been intimately involved, is often viewed from the angle of realist politics. This paper, however, will maintain that a U.S. policy grounded instead upon the principles of moral theory is vital to success in the region. Using frameworks of justice formulated by Immanuel Kant and John Rawls, this paper will first examine Israeli policies and argue that they are in violation not only of international law, but also of the principles of moral politics as defined in Rawls' *The Law of Peoples*. Israel, this paper will maintain, must therefore be seen as an “outlaw state,” and the U.S. should adjust its policies towards this nation significantly. Conversely, the Palestinian people, being actively prevented both by internal poverty and external force from forming an independently governed state, must be seen as a “burdened people,” and assisted accordingly. Finally, the importance of a morally exemplary U.S. foreign policy, in the light of the Israel-Palestine negotiations specifically and of the restoration of international credibility generally, will be emphasized.

Korrie Edwards  
**Faculty Sponsor: Bryan Arnold**  
Soundscape Ecology as a Measure of Biodiversity

Soundscape ecology refers to the study of sound in landscapes, which can be from weather, humans, or animals. While it is a relatively new field, it has become a useful tool for assessing biodiversity and determining which sites need to be protected because it is non-invasive, it can be done at all hours of the day, and it can record species not easily seen or heard by human observers. In this study, the principles of soundscape ecology were used to assess biodiversity in two different contexts, both important from a conservation perspective. To measure the diversity of the area, several different computer software programs were used: R, Raven, and Avisoft. In Costa Rica the remoteness of the location had a direct impact on how many different species were present. The goal of the Florida research was to identify the areas of highest activity of a specific endangered bat. Being able to locate where the bat eats and roosts will determine which locations need to be protected and managed. Both studies show the value in using acoustic recordings to assess biodiversity and thus is an important technique for preservation and conservation of wildlife.

Aniefiok Ekong  
**Faculty Sponsor: Nancy Taylor Porter**  
Theatre Senior Showcase

In my four years as a theatre major here at Illinois College, I have been given tools and learned skills that have prepared me for the world I am about to face. With this presentation, I will demonstrate these proficiencies. I am presenting a monologue by Troy Maxson from the August Wilson’s play *Fences*. I will be both performing and directing a scene from Walter Wykes’s *Bush Dreams*. One of my most fascinating classes was Advanced Acting because of its inclusion of stage combat. For my last piece, I will present a combat scene a classmate and I choreographed from Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, where Macbeth and Macduff engage in their final battle.
Ana Flores  
**Faculty Sponsor: Steven Gardner**  
Gender and Politics: Spain before and after the Quota System

For much of the 20th century in Spain, the representation of women in politics lagged behind the rest of the Western Europe, especially during Francisco Franco’s 36-year dictatorship. During that time, traditional Catholic values dominated society, limiting women’s participation in politics; however, with the end of the dictatorship in 1975, more women entered the political sphere, and quotas guaranteeing a certain level of female participants in a political party were first introduced in 1982 when the Catalan Socialist Party (PSC) determined that 12% of the seats on the party’s committees and its candidates lists would be set aside for women. The percentage gradually increased until it reached 40% in 2000. Other political parties in Spain soon instituted their own quotas, and in 1997 the Socialist Workers party (PSOE) and the United Left (IU) had instituted that women would fill a minimum of 40% on candidate lists. In addition, in 2007, a national law instituting quotas was passed. This research focuses on politics, society, and political parties in Spain, examining whether changes in society are driving the use of quotas or whether the quotas are creating change in society.

Jacob Franke, Alex Potter, and Emmanuel Tshimoa  
**Faculty Sponsor: Julie Gunderson**  
Newtonian Reflector Telescope

A telescope functions by taking light from a distant object and focusing it through a series of lenses and/or mirrors in order to produce a magnified image of the object. Telescopes are extremely important because they allow scientists to observe details of the universe that are not possible by the human eye alone. Telescopes have enabled discoveries of deep sky objects such as star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies. They have even revealed new planets and asteroids. This presentation outlines a novel process for the construction of the reflecting telescope. The reflecting telescope utilizes a series of mirrors to focus light. Light enters through the open end of the telescope and travels the length of the telescope’s tube to the primary mirror, situated at the end of the tube. The light is then reflected back towards the mounted secondary mirror. From the secondary mirror, the light rays travel to an eyepiece to be viewed by the viewer. This presentation will outline the novel process for the design and construction of a Newtonian reflector telescope with a magnification of approximately 80x.

Emily Hawkins  
**Faculty Sponsor: Beth Capo**  
Emotions and the Medical World

The medical world is typically seen as a physical place, as doctors healing many different ailments to the body. But the stress of trying to help patients day after day can cause doctors to throw up a wall, often making them seem cold and withdrawn from their patients. While looking at four doctors who also write true accounts about their experiences (doctor-writers), the aim of this presentation is to reveal the hidden emotions a doctor can experience that can help build or tarnish relationships between themselves and their patients. The negative emotions are presented by the accounts to warn a doctor or patient about the consequences of acting in response to them. These novels are not only effective in forming better relationships in the medical world, but are also used by the doctor-writers to come to terms with any patients they have lost or mistreated during the course of their profession.
Taylor Herald
Faculty Sponsor: Jeremy Alm
2-Free Fibonacci Sequences

The Fibonacci sequence is a recursively defined sequence in which each term is the sum of the previous two. A 2-Free Fibonacci sequence is one in which each term is the result of adding the previous two and then dividing by 2 until you get an odd number. All 2-Free Fibonacci sequences were shown to be eventually constant in a 2014 paper. We investigate order-4 2-Free Fibonacci sequences, where each term is the result of adding the previous four terms and then dividing by 2 until you get an odd number. We study possible periods of periodic sequences and investigate the growth rate of sequences; in particular, every sequence is either periodic or unbounded.

Josue Hernandez
Faculty Sponsor: Jose Arce
Mexican American Identity in 2015

The persistent question for many Americans is, “Where are you from?” Mexican Americans are forced to consider their responses. At first glance most people would categorize Mexican Americans as ‘Hispanics’. However, many refuse to allow their placement into a broad, government-orchestrated grouping. Instead, we proudly respond to being America’s Mexicans. I will discuss what it means to be a Mexican-American living in the United States. As the child of Mexican immigrants, I was born into the culture and lifestyle shared with those south of the border. By means of the educational system provided in this country I have integrated into the dominant Anglo core that constitutes ‘America’. Beginning with language, I quickly began adopting the prerequisites necessary for advancement in a society built for those who can best mirror the men and women in power. As a self-proclaimed ‘Chicano’, my goal is to investigate the different aspects of Mexican culture that have intermingled with American ideals in order to form a ‘happy’ medium that connects the two. The investigation, although seen through the personal lens of my own experience, is a consequence of the Mexican American community and my understanding of identity with its implications for social advancement.

Josue Hernandez, Miranda McCafferty, Jonathan VanOrdstrand, and Alex Worrell
Faculty Sponsor: Jan Buhrmann
Impact of Internships through Career Services: A Look at Recent Graduates

Internships are commonly perceived as an advantage to students, but it is unknown how Illinois College undergraduates benefit from their internship(s) post graduation. The goal of this study is to gauge the benefits of an internship on admission and performance in graduate studies, and to gauge the benefits of an internship on career progression and performance. To gather information and data, a survey was sent to over 400 Illinois College alumni, and focused interviews were conducted with the individuals who agreed to participate. From the respondents, it was found that an overwhelming majority considered their internship(s) helpful in their graduate and professional careers. Our goal is to provide Career Services at Illinois College with useful quantitative and qualitative data. Further study of this subject could provide information on the effect of internships for Illinois College undergraduates relative to other college undergraduates.
Ashley Ketcham, Erin Satterlee, Robert Smalls  
Faculty Sponsor: Jan Buhrmann  
Exploring Effective Marketing Strategies for Promoting the 4-2 Nursing Program at Illinois College

The research presented explored effective marketing strategies for the 4-2 nursing program here at Illinois College. It was important to explore this topic because neither current nor prospective students have been provided with enough information and advertisement for this program to take the initiative to explore it and potentially enroll. The research sought to determine ways that Illinois College can better advertise the 4-2 Nursing program through Rush University in Chicago, and other university nursing programs that will soon become affiliates with Illinois College. Methods for the research included phone interviews with alumni and prospective students as well as focus groups with current students here at IC. Results are still currently pending. The research and its results allowed for students to gain greater knowledge about the nursing field and Illinois College’s 4-2 Nursing program and its affiliates. This research also allowed students to acquire enhanced knowledge regarding where to locate information about the 4-2 Nursing program here at Illinois College.

Sarah Klebe  
Faculty Sponsor: Beth Capo  
From the Sickbed to the Marriage Bed in Nineteenth-Century British Literature

Nineteenth-century British novelists, specifically Emily Bronte, Charlotte Bronte, and Jane Austen, utilize common illnesses, injuries, and death as the main method of character and relationship development. The end goal of each illness varies between the novelists and seems to focus specifically on a character’s personal maturation and in overcoming the restrictions of social class and gender in romantic relationships. In this paper I argue that illness, injury, and death serve to influence the plot and character development both directly and indirectly through their influence on time, bringing to light one’s past mistakes, romance, and inheritance. This analysis is based in Joanne Blum’s argument in “The Myth and Reality in Wuthering Heights and Jane Eyre,” that “at the center of each novel is a male/female double, a gender and class-transcendent relationship which defies social norms.” This “class-transcendent relationship” is only accomplished in a romance through the influences of illness, injuries, and death. My analysis utilizes support from secondary literary criticism and historical research alongside original analysis of Wuthering Heights, Jane Eyre, Pride and Prejudice, and Sense and Sensibility. Understanding the role of illness, injury and death in these novels provides a deeper understanding of nineteenth-century British literature and illuminates the physical, social, and financial constraints on romance in this period.

Joe LaFata  
Faculty Sponsor: Beth Capo  
The Silent Era: Trauma and the Post WWII German Novel

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has been discussed in literature ever since Vietnam. One area that has managed to escape large-scale discussion, however, is the literature of the post-WWII German realist authors. This topic is of great importance to us now in aiding our studies of the effects of literature on trauma victims, because it allows us to analyze how the absence of catharsis affects the trauma victim. By contrasting one realist novel that survived and now prospers with the novels that failed and were triggering for the trauma-ridden German civilians, we are able to aid our understanding of how literature helps PTSD victims and which literature can make the trauma worse. Analysis of the scholarship on this topic reveals the failure of coarse realism of this era and consequently why it failed with the German citizens. However, Heinrich Böll’s posthumously published novel The Silent Angel is a cathartic work that most artfully depicts postwar Germany. The Silent Angel offers a healing quality for the PTSD victim of the fire bombings as opposed to much of the realism that was being produced because it avoids triggering elements, yet also allows the victim to assimilate their experience into their memory.
Leadership Program
Faculty Sponsor: Karen Dean
Leadership Across the College

Join Illinois College Leadership students as they share a wide range of projects, experiences, and activities that have been featured this year in the Al Habtoor Leadership Program.

Matt Murphy
Faculty Sponsor: Laura Corey
Measuring Genetic Diversity in a Tropical Fruit Tree Crop: *Artocarpus odoratissimus*

The growing human population and climate change are constantly putting new pressures on our current crop system, and the small variety of crops in the current system puts it at great risk of disease. To help address these problems, researchers are putting more focus on underutilized crops. The genus *Artocarpus* (70 spp., Moraceae), which contains the valuable Southeastern Asian tree crops of breadfruit (*A. altilis*) and jackfruit (*A. heterophyllus*), contains many underutilized species of interest. One of these is *Artocarpus odoratissimus* (terap, marang), which is native to Borneo. *A. odoratissimus* also contains a wild, putative form called *Barbatus*. In this study, Nuclear and chloroplast DNA microsatellite data from 107 samples were collected from Sabah, Malaysia (Borneo) to study the relationship between cultivated *A. odoratissimus* and *barbatus*. The *odoratissimus* form displayed the greatest diversity in the nuclear data, but the chloroplast data showed that the genetic diversity was not significantly different between the two forms. This study is the first to look into the relationship between the two forms, but more sampling from the rest of Borneo and the Philippines, along with an increased sample size of *barbatus*, will likely reveal more on these issues.

Quinton Paiva
Faculty Sponsor: Nancy Taylor Porter
Theatre Senior Showcase

As a theatre major at Illinois College, I have been an apprentice lighting designer. I am using some of the work that I have done in *Mud, River, Stone* and *Bonnie and Clyde* to demonstrate what I have learned. The primary artifacts I am exhibiting are the plots that I built for each show, which are lighting blueprints for where and how all the instruments are placed, focused, and gelled. I will also use the lighting instruments in the ICEBOX to illustrate some of the basic concepts I have utilized when designing mainstage shows. I will discuss the importance of lighting angles in various stage areas, showing how the wrong lighting angle can cause actors to have shadowed faces. I will also demonstrate how important the right color is for a particular moment, and how hue and even saturation level change the mood of a scene. In addition, timing also significantly affects the emotional impact of a cue. Lastly, I discuss the added effect of placing a textured pattern in a scene. These patterns distort the way the light falls on the stage, producing images that can add more depth to a scene. Taken altogether, such techniques support the director’s concept, the actor’s work, and communicate the play’s story to the audience.
**Samuel Porter**  
**Faculty Sponsor: Lawrence Zettler**  
Preliminary evidence for fungal specificity among terrestrial and epiphytic orchids in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge

The Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge (FPNWR) harbors a mixture of natural communities that collectively harbor 27 orchid species, including epiphytic and terrestrials alike. These orchids often grow in close proximity to one another but on different substrates (e.g., host trees and soil, respectively). During the past decade, Illinois College students have isolated fungi from orchids in the FPNWR and some (Tulasnella, Ceratobasidium) have facilitated seed germination confirming their physiological significance. In previous studies, roots of the terrestrial, Spiranthes vernalis, and the epiphyte, Encyclia tampensis, both yielded Tulasnella and both of their respective strains initiated seed germination in laboratory trials. We report the outcome of two separate experiments aimed at determining whether or not these Tulasnella strains can be used interchangeably by orchids inhabiting different habitats. Seeds of S. vernalis developed to the leaf-bearing stage when inoculated with its own Tulasnella isolate, but were incompatible with a nearly identical Tulasnella strain acquired from the epiphyte, E. tampensis. Similarly, epiphytic orchid seeds responded favorably to the E. tampensis fungus, but not the Tulasnella strain from S. vernalis. These results seem to suggest that some degree of fungal specificity may be at play amongst orchids inhabiting different habitats in the FPNWR.

**Miriam Quezada**  
**Faculty Sponsor: Caitlin Vasquez-O’Brien**  
Shifting Narratives: Fostering Intercultural Communication for Israeli-Palestinian Peace

A nation’s ideological narrative is the foundation by which citizens and government define their existence. Narratives permeate history, knowledge, and beliefs that can prevent people from achieving avenues of communication. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is made up of countless narratives that prevent the peace process from advancing. Moving away from the recognized “two-state solution,” this pathway for peace focuses on the importance of identifying the most pervasive narratives that prevent peace negotiations from occurring and those that promote intercultural communication. Intercultural communication is communication that takes place between cultures in a way that is ethical and culturally-sensitive. This proposed intercultural communication pathway to peace will address a long-term solution that incorporates and fosters existing grass-roots and governmental initiatives. Utilizing a historical analysis of past conflicts and their successful resolutions, including intermarriage in the United States, the case of religion in Northern Ireland, and the regime change that took place in Latin America and South Africa, this presentation analyzes the importance of intercultural communication. These analyses will argue the importance of creating communication and deep intercultural ties for a long-term commitment to peace and the creation of a new joint Israeli-Palestinian narrative: one that fosters peace rather than divides Israelis and Palestinians.

**Ellen Radcliffe**  
**Faculty Sponsor: Steven Gardner**  
Balancing Conservation and Economic Development: Creating Conservation Strategies through the Study of Orchids in the Natural Environment in Ecuador

Ecuador is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, but like many other developing world nations, the need to develop land for economic growth creates priority over expanding the national system of protected areas, which leads to destruction of important ecosystems that provide vital services to humans. This project focuses on developing guidelines for a sustainable conservation and economic development policy that utilizes Ecuador’s native and endemic orchids to determine which areas should be targeted for conservation and how they should be protected. The presence of orchids in an ecosystem indicates the high ecological value that the land has for conservation due to the important services these ecosystems provide, an overall elevated biodiversity in the ecosystem, and a forewarning about a changing environment due to climate change and pollution. Furthermore, the attractive nature of orchids to the international community provides developmental economic opportunities to Ecuadorian communities surrounding protected areas via sustainable programs of ecotourism and *in vitro* propagation. The use of orchids in the development of conservation guidelines and sustainable economic development has the potential of providing guidance to other countries caught in the paradox of conservation and development.
Ellen Radcliffe  
**Faculty Sponsor: Lawrence Zettler**  
Mycorrhizal fungi from mature epiphytic orchids and seedlings native to south Florida, and a technique for pinpointing pelotons in roots

Recent studies have been published worldwide that describe mycorrhizal fungi in tropical epiphytic orchids. It now appears that mature epiphytic orchids utilize fungi to a greater extent than previously assumed, not just early seedling stages. Research by Illinois College students in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge has contributed to this greater understanding, but gaps of knowledge persist that must be filled if conservation measures are to succeed. The aim of this study was to recover and identify fungi from orchids native to south Florida. In particular, we wanted to pinpoint where fungal coils (pelotons) were located within roots, and to identify these fungi using molecular techniques. Six epiphytic species (*Encyclia tampensis*, *Epidendrum amphistomum*, *E. nocturnum*, *E. rigidum*, *Polystachya concreta*, *Prosthechea cochleata*), one terrestrial (*Bletia purpurea*), two leafless orchids (*Dendrophylax lindenii*, *Campylocentrum pachyrrhizum*), and one invasive (*Oeceoclades maculata*), were studied. Pelotons were located in all epiphytic seedling roots sampled, primarily in the second centimeter region beyond the tip of younger roots affixed to the host tree substrate. These roots harbored fungi identified as *Ceratobasidium* and *Tulasnella*. Roots of the leafless orchids yielded *Ceratobasidium* strains, and ribbon orchids (*C. pachyrrhizum*) in different habitats appeared to utilize the same fungal strain.

Morgan Rush  
**Faculty Sponsor: Steven Hochstadt**  
An Analysis of the Soviet Union as an Unnecessary Evil

The Russian Soviet Union was never necessary and its formation was not inevitable. The Russian political revolutions in 1917 occurred because the Russian monarchy had become stale and out-of-touch with its citizens. The separation between the workers and the Tsar had become so great that a political reformation was the only thing that could save Mother Russia. By studying and analyzing government publications, documents, and first-hand accounts, it is conclusive to report that indeed, the monarchy needed to collapse. However, it was not inevitable that the rebellious Bolshevik socialists would be able to assume complete control. Russia’s temporary yet flimsy Provisional Government’s leaders played a major role in weakening Russia and unintentionally allowing the socialists to take over, and it was the events in the summer of 1917 that changed Russia’s future forever.

Wesley Sampias  
**Faculty Sponsor: Robert Kunath**  
The Modernization of Japan: The Bakumatsu

The modernization of Japan would have a profound effect on the world, but it is difficult to find exactly when this modernization happened. Many historians identify the Meiji Restoration, the restoration of Imperial rule, to be the key to modernization. This is of course true, as many of the physical aspects of modernization happened during this time period, but the preceding time period, the Bakumatsu, the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate, is also important in understanding the modernization of Japan. This can be seen through the actions of three men; Katsu Kaishu, Saigo Takamori, and Sakamoto Ryoma. These men would influence one another, and also protect Japan from internal and external threats. Primary sources, in Japanese and English, were used to form the argument, that these three men, especially Katsu, who is neglected in many historical works, were incredibly important in laying the foundations for the modern state of Japan. Understanding how a nation modernizes successfully is important, especially now as more countries are beginning to modernize. It also shows the beginning of a dangerous path that is open to countries as they gain power, the path of Imperialism.
Dave Sexton  
**Faculty Sponsor: Jeremy Alm**  
Computer-Assisted Constructions of Partitions of Powers of $\mathbb{Z}_2$

Partitions of finite Abelian groups can be used to construct edge-coloring of graphs with many nice properties. Edge-colorings constructed in this way are particularly easy to describe. We are interested in constructing colorings that satisfy strong constraints, and these constraints can be translated into arithmetical conditions on the part sets of the group. We use a combination of direct construction and computer-assisted randomization to find colorings that improve some results from a 2008 paper; in particular, we reduce an upper bound from about 7 trillion to 8192.

Shannon Skarha  
**Faculty Sponsor: Lawrence Zettler**  
Mycorrhizal fungi from diverse orchids in the Central Highlands of Madagascar: preliminary findings

Few regions harbor more endemic species than Madagascar. Among the island’s 1,000 orchid species, 90% are endemic to this biodiversity hotspot. The Itremo Massif in the Central Highlands encompasses montane grassland, igneous and metamorphic rock outcrops, and gallery and tapia forests. This study focuses on identifying culturable mycorrhizal fungi from epiphytic, lithophytic and terrestrial orchid taxa to understand their diversity and density in a spatial matrix within protected areas. Roots from juvenile and mature orchids spanning 41 taxa were collected under CITES permit and yielded fungi that were identified and stored in liquid nitrogen for future studies. Twelve operational taxonomic units (OTUs) of three known orchid mycorrhizal genera were recognized by internal transcribed spacer (ITS) sequences of 85 isolates and, by comparing with GenBank database entries, each OTU was shown to have closely related fungi that were also found as orchid associates. Orchid and fungal diversity were greater in gallery forests and open grasslands which is very significant with future studies and orchid conservation in mind. This may be the first ever report of detailed identification of orchid mycorrhizal fungi from Madagascar.

Bennett Smith  
**Faculty Sponsor: Mary Marshall**  
Zero-Divisor Graphs

The zero-divisor graph of a ring $R$, denoted $\Gamma(R)$, is a graph in which the vertices are all of the zero-divisors of $R$. In $\Gamma(R)$, vertices $a$ and $b$ are connected if and only if $ab = 0_R$. Over the past decade, zero-divisor graphs have gained a considerable amount of attention. One specific question about zero-divisor graphs is the following: for which $n$ is $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}_n)$ perfect? In their 2007 paper, Endean, Henry and Manlove developed a way to answer this question. While their technique would be useful, their logic was flawed. In finding a counterexample of their technique, we have found a different way of looking at the zero-divisor graphs. This new way generates a much simpler graph that is representative of the zero-divisor graph. Using this method, we have determined whether $\Gamma(\mathbb{Z}_n)$ is perfect for several values of $n$. Hence, we have developed a new way of looking at zero-divisor graphs that makes analyzing them much simpler.
Shafer Soars  
**Faculty Sponsor: Brent Chandler**  
Ongoing Work Toward a Preparation of the Anti-Cancer Compound Xenitorin A

Xenitorin A is a compound that selectively kills lung cancer cells. Unfortunately, its only known source provides the material in very limited quantity in a non-renewable manner. As such, a successful de novo synthesis of the compound will address a significant and currently unmet need that would allow for thorough studies of its biological activity. Our main focus and ongoing work is to prepare xenitorin A in an enantiomerically pure form. Through the course of this talk I will describe two approaches toward the preparation of this compound. First, I will describe our unsuccessful efforts to utilize an intramolecular Diels-Alder reaction to build the xenitorin framework, where in we proposed the formation of four of five stereogenic carbon centers by remote stereo-induction. Second, I will discuss our current, ongoing efforts to develop a cysteine-based catalytic system to achieve an asymmetric Rauhut-Currier reaction. The intermediate compound formed by this reaction would provide an advanced intermediate from which we might be able to achieve our overarching goal of preparing meaningful amounts of xenitorin A as a single isomer.

Hana Thixton  
**Faculty Sponsor: Lawrence Zettler**  
Initial efficacy testing of mycorrhizal fungi acquired from orchids native to the Central Highlands of Madagascar, though symbiotic seed germination

In 2012, a collaborative 5-year research project was initiated between the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Illinois College. One goal has been to recover, identify, and safeguard the mycorrhizal fungi utilized by rare orchids in Madagascar. In 2013, roots of terrestrial, lithophytic, and epiphytic species were collected under CITES permit by both teams (Illinois College, Kew), followed by fungal isolations carried out simultaneously in the United States and United Kingdom. Our combined efforts yielded mycorrhizal fungi assignable to Ceratobasidium (Ceratorhiza), Tulasnella (Epulorhiza), and Sebacina. A total of 40 fungus strains were isolated at Illinois College from eight different orchid genera (Aerangis, Angraecum, Cyorkis, Graphorkis, Habenaria, Polystachya, Tylostigma), and these were sent to Kew for cryopreservation. Seed germination experiments were then carried out using some of these fungi. Seeds of several orchid species germinated, in particular Tylostigma nigrescens inoculated with a fungus initially acquired from the same species. Roots from selected leaf-bearing seedlings of T. nigrescens were detached, macerated, and immersed in agar. Resulting fungal colonies arising from pelotons in the agar matched the original isolate, confirming the mycorrhizal significance of the fungus. Efforts are continuing in both countries to use additional fungal strains to facilitate seed germination in vitro.

Aaron Traum  
**Faculty Sponsor: Jeremy Turner**  
Are People Happier After Talking About Religion?

Research has demonstrated that religious beliefs are associated with greater reports of happiness (Stavrova et al., 2013). On a liberal arts campus, discussion about a broad range of topics is encouraged in order to mold a better-rounded individual. However, very little research has been devoted to how communication about religious topics in a small group setting affects the happiness of the individual participants. The current experiment was conducted to examine the causal relationship between communication about religious topics in a small group setting and reported happiness. Participants were separated into control and experimental groups, which discussed neutral topics or religious topics, respectively. Both participant groups completed a modified Oxford Happiness Inventory survey and a religiosity scale following the discussion periods. It was hypothesized that the religious discussion group would report a lower level of happiness, but results were not significantly different between the groups. This study will help shed light on how communication about religious topics can impact happiness in a small group setting.
Alex Turpin  
Faculty Sponsor: Robert Kunath  
An American Atrocity: Comparing the Prisoner Abuse at Abu Ghraib to the My Lai Massacre in Vietnam

This project delves into two regrettable moments in American history, both of which were committed by American soldiers: the torture and abuse of detainees at Abu Ghraib Prison during the Iraq War and the massacre at the village of My Lai during Vietnam. By exploring the primary sources to compare and contrast the two events, this project endeavors to understand why these types of events happen. Ultimately, the research shows that a combination of hellish conditions and poor group dynamics leads to dehumanization and elements of irresponsible government leadership help explain these events.

Victoria Wynecoop  
Faculty Sponsor: Lisa Udel  
An Examination of a Case Study Within Palestinian And Spokane Tribe of Indians Education: Decolonizing the Colonized Territories Through Education

Paulo Freire explains that education can be used in two different ways within a society: to produce conformity or to produce freedom. To put into perspective, Palestine’s education has been controlled by the governments of Jordan, Egypt, and Israel. As of 1994, Palestine has been able to control their own education where they have managed to create their own Palestinian Ministry of Education to look over the West Bank and Gaza. The goal of the project will compare an examination of a public school in Palestine in order to understand the pressures of the Israeli occupation on Palestinian educational curriculum with comparison of a public school on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Washington State. This is an understandable comparison since Native American tribes have experienced harsh educational curricula beginning with boarding schools to assimilate them to the dominant society. A case study of comparison of both Palestinian and Spokane educational curricula within secondary education will show what colonization looks like, and how decolonization could be achieved through cultural identity and autonomy. Consulted materials include the Palestinian Ministry of Education, Palestine in Israeli School Books: Ideology and Propaganda on Education, Spokane Indians Educational history, and Critical and Indigenous Methodologies.
Kelley Bishop
Faculty Sponsor: Laura Corey
The Role of ITS Sequencing in Orchid Conservation

The critically endangered orchid species of Madagascar, South Florida, and other hot-spots of biodiversity rely on mycorrhizal fungi for nutrition throughout development. To promote germination and reintroduction efforts, these mycorrhizal fungi must be cataloged and identified. In addition to information obtained from classical methods, mycorrhizal fungi can be identified by analyzing the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region of their DNA and comparing the results with known fungal DNA sequences. DNA was isolated from pure fungal cultures. The ITS region of the DNA was then amplified via polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using ITS1-OF-T and ITS4-OF primers. Amplification products were confirmed by gel electrophoresis. Positive PCR products were sent to the UIUC Core Sequencing Facility for sequencing. The resulting forward and reverse sequences and chromatograms were analyzed for accuracy and consensus and compared to database sequences using BLAST. Several fungi have been identified after detecting a 97-100% match with sequences that have been previously published. One particular fungus that corresponds with Dendrophylax lindenii, the illustrious ghost orchid, was successfully analyzed but did not match any published sequences. The results for this orchid are being repeated as it may be a previously unidentified species.

Jacob Dander, Preston Hills-Rieck, Dakota Lammy, Zachary Rambo, Amber Riley, Ashley Riley, and Dominique Saffore
Faculty Sponsor: Zvi Pasman
Large scale preparation of pmoA standards for qPCR applications

Methanotrophs are a diverse class of bacteria that utilize the single carbon compound methane as their sole carbon source. Aerobic methanotrophs catalyze the oxidation of methane to methanol by the enzyme particulate methane monooxygenase (PmoA) and subsequently to formaldehyde, which ultimately plays an essential role in all cellular catabolic and anabolic processes. Environmental microbiologists are particularly interested in the symbiotic relationships that may take place between methanotrophs and other microbes in arable soils. Due to their near universal presence, quantification of methanotrophs provides a ready means for estimating methane utilization in soil samples. Quantitative PCR (qPCR) is a method that permits measurements of genetic abundance, contingent upon the availability of DNA standards. Because culturing methanotrophs is difficult, it is useful to synthesize pmoA DNA sequences that will be used as qPCR standards. Here we describe the amplification, cloning, and convenient large-scale preparation of pmoA-containing plasmids. These reagents will be useful standards for qPCR experiments aimed at estimating methane utilization in soil samples.
Jacob Dander and Shafer Soars  
**Faculty Sponsor: Brent Chandler**  
Synthetic Efforts to Prepare the Anti-Cancer Agent xenitorin A and the Concurrent Development of a Proposed, Asymmetric, Stereoselective Rauhut-Currier Reaction/Aldol Condensation

Xenitorins A-F were isolated in 2002 from the Formosan soft coral *Xenia puerto-galerae*. Xenitorin A demonstrated potent cytotoxicity against A549 (lung) cancer cells with an ED50 of 0.79 µg/mL in initial biological testing. Despite its potency as an anticancer agent and relative scarcity, a successful synthesis of this valuable compound has not been reported. We hope to provide synthetic access to this molecule and its relatives in order to understand and improve its potency. Embedded in our proposed synthesis of xenitorin A is the opportunity to develop new reaction methodology. We believe through the use of a cysteine-derived catalyst we can develop a novel, asymmetric, intramolecular, Rauhut-Currier reaction followed by an Aldol condensation. If our proposed transformation is sufficiently selective, this methodology would both expand current understanding of the Rauhut-Currier reaction and provide the chemical community with a new route to access enantioenriched bicyclic compounds. Work thus far has focused on providing synthetic access to precursors necessary to conduct methodological testing. Initial studies of our hypothesized variant of the Rauhut-Currier reaction as well as future directions for the project will be described.

Kara Evans  
**Faculty Sponsor: Christopher Oldenburg**  
The ‘Hand’ and the Visual Rhetoric of 9/11’s Memory

In September 2011, *American Photo Magazine* published a series of 9/11 photographs titled “The Sky is Falling” as a visual tribute for the ten-year anniversary of 9/11. One photo in this array was Todd Maisel’s “The Hand,” a photograph of a severed human hand that Maisel captured as the twin towers fell. The purpose of this paper is to evaluate the rhetorical functions that such a graphic and grotesque image effectuates in visual epideictic discourse. Maisel’s photograph is an important artifact to analyze because normative sites of 9/11 commemoration often elide graphic violence and brutal images from the public memory of 9/11. Yet, 9/11 was a day full of barbarous scenes and horrific images. I argue Maisel’s photograph engenders a productive discomfort in viewers; its ultimate goal is to invite American unity in both our public memory of 9/11 and how such memories, even monstrous ones, shape our political identity. I employ the rhetorical concepts of visual synecdoche and Mikhail Bakhtin’s grotesque realism to support these aforementioned claims.

Kyle Evans  
**Faculty Sponsor: Christopher Oldenburg**  
Dropping Tracks and Unfading Heroin Tracks: Burke’s Cycle of Terms in Hip-Hop Songs of Addiction and Redemption

The music genre of hip-hop undeniably disseminates many social and cultural messages. Josh Eppard, a.k.a. “Weerd Science,” is a rap artist who produces songs about drug addiction and scenes from the life and mind of an addict. This essay employs Kenneth Burke’s Guilt-Purification-Redemption cycle to closely analyze the rhetorical features of several hip-hop tracks from Weerd Science’s albums *Sick Kids* and *Red Light Juliet*. I argue Eppard’s songs function as anti-drug cautionary tales that demythologize the glorification of drug use prevalent in most mainstream hip-hop. Studying hip-hop lyrics about addiction as rhetorical forms reveals how several tropes such as repetition, metaphor, prosopopoeia, and the personal narratives of Eppard not only engender a catharsis for the artist but also function as real methods of rehabilitation and redemption. Finally, Eppard’s hip-hop serves as a representative anecdote that could be employed at the larger societal and public health levels as anti-drug and addiction awareness campaigns.
Jacob Franke  
Faculty Sponsor: William Gunderson  
Characterizing the Electronic Structure and Reaction Mechanism of Toxoflavin Lyase (TflA)

Toxoflavin is a toxin that is secreted from several bacteria and is responsible for a number of diseases in plants, fungi, and animals. Toxoflavin has been shown to be particularly toxic to rice plants and plays a key role in rice grain rot. Infection of rice crops by toxoflavin producing bacteria has had significant economic impact due to substantial losses of rice crops in Asia and the United States. Rice plants that express the toxoflavin lyase gene (TflA) of Paenibacillus polyxma JH2 are resistant to disease and degrade toxoflavin to a non-toxic product, thus, allowing for the survival of the plant. It has been shown that the activity of TflA is dependent on the presence of Mn(II), dithiothreitol (DTT), and oxygen. The proposed mechanism of degradation for toxoflavin is the Baeyer-Villiger oxidation. However, the intermediates of the reaction have not been isolated. Furthermore, the suggested mechanism of degradation doesn’t change the oxidation state of manganese during the reaction. In our research, presented here, we have expressed and purified the metalloenzyme, TflA. We have also measured reaction kinetics of the degradation of toxoflavin by that support an alternative reaction mechanism for TflA.

Brendhan Garland  
Faculty Sponsor: Mioko Webster  
Elderly Suicide - Japan and the United States

Elderly suicide has become one of the highest rates of overall suicide in both Japan and the U.S. Two possible solutions to the problem of elderly suicide are increasing family/therapist awareness for elderly depression and offering more retirement activities. In Japan and the U.S., there are a low number of physicians who are trained to diagnose depression. Also, many suicide awareness campaigns showcase the suicidal tendencies of teens and young adults, not the warning signs for the elderly. Another solution could be providing more community activities for people who have just retired from work. A high percentage of elderly suicides are caused by post-work loneliness. The cultural differences and how each country views the issue will also be discussed according to research and interviews with Ritsumeikan students. This research could help save the lives of family members across the world and put an end to this epidemic.

Nickolas Grapperhaus  
Faculty Sponsor: Julie Gunderson  
Single-Molecule Capable Microscope

Single-molecule fluorescence microscopy has grown over the past 20 years into a powerful technique for exploring the nanoscale behavior of individual molecules in complex local environments. Learning how individual molecules behave and interact is the key to unlocking many biological unknowns. Unfortunately, research-grade, single-molecule capable fluorescent microscopes are very expensive and are only available to scientists at large research institutions. In efforts to make single-molecule fluorescence spectroscopy available to all, progress toward the design and construction of a low-cost, single-molecule fluorescence microscope will be presented.

Preston Hills-Rieck  
Faculty Sponsor: Brent Chandler  
Ongoing Work to Prepare the Anti-fungal Agent Orchinol

Orchids, plants renowned and well-studied at Illinois College, naturally produce an antifungal agent known as orchinol. Due to the limited supply of drugs that treat fungal infections in humans, and in conjunction with the growing concern of resistance to currently available drugs, the antifungal properties of orchinol make it a compound of interest. As such we are currently working on a de novo synthesis of orchinol. To date we have successfully achieved four of eight synthetic steps that we have proposed as a means to prepare this valuable compound. This poster describes our successful synthetic transformations, our ongoing efforts to develop a 3-step / 1-pot annulation reaction, and our future plans.
Michael Howard  
**Faculty Sponsor:** Julie Gunderson  
**Astronomical Spectroscopy**

Astronomical spectroscopy is the process of using spectroscopy, which is the study of the electromagnetic radiation (light) that is emitted from an object, to study astronomical objects (stars, planets, and nebulas). Astronomical spectroscopy can be used to tell scientists what a celestial object is made of, the temperature of the object, and distance the object is from the earth. Unfortunately, research-grade astronomical spectrometers are very expensive and only available to scientists at research institutions. In efforts to make astronomical spectroscopy accessible to all, an astronomical spectrometer has been designed and built using a DVD-R disk and a webcam. Designs of the spectrometer as well as preliminary, proof-of-principle results will be presented. In addition, improvements that will be made to the design will be discussed.

IS 204 Class  
**Faculty Sponsor:** Steven Gardner & Almut Spalding  
**Understanding a “Foreign Perspective”: Experiencing the Lens of the “Other” through Study Abroad**

In this poster session, students in IS 204, Returned from Study Abroad, engage in the political act of presenting perspectives on important global issues found in other countries, which are often different from but equally valid to our own. The students, who had studied in six different countries on three different continents, chose five topics to examine: 1) political participation/democracy; 2) perspectives on immigration; 3) the memory of war, with a focus on WWII; 4) the use of resources and sustainability; and 5) education and student life. Students have prepared one poster for each of these topics, whereby each contributes to at least three of the posters/topics, such that the same topic is examined from the perspective of several countries. Based on personal experiences and interactions abroad, as well as on research, students present these topics through the lens of the other. Students have discerned how people who live in the countries where they studied perceive these issues themselves, and also how they perceive U.S. perspectives on these issues. As they present their posters, students engage with their audience and thereby help viewers understand how we can learn from perspectives of people outside the U.S.

Allison Kjellander  
**Faculty Sponsor:** Jeremy Turner  
**Head Impact Sensors in College Football Players: Effects on Tackling Performance and Results of Crash Tests**

In Part I of this study, the effects of wearing a head impact sensor on tackling form and aggression levels in Division III College football players were examined. Players took part in a videotaped routine tackling drill during a regular practice. Some players’ helmets (n=29) were fitted with a head impact sensor housing unit on the back of their helmets and told they were taking part in a study on concussion sensors. Tackling form and aggression levels were compared to control players taking part in the same drills on the same days but not fitted with an impact sensor. The levels were scored using videotaped footage of the drills by two observers blinded to the experimental condition using a likert-scale rating systems. The results showed that the presence of the head impact sensor unit had no measurable effect on aggression levels in tacklers and only a trend (though, not statistically significant) for better tackling form. These results suggest wearing a head impact sensor might not significantly change the behavior of the athlete, which would help alleviate the fears of some coaches and players that head impact sensors would cause players to be less aggressive or somehow alter their form in a negative manner. In Part II of the study, two Reebok CheckLight impact sensing devices were used to complete crash tests using a model head and football helmet and determined that both the yellow caution light and the red warning lights were triggered at reasonable levels of force. Our results suggest that head impact sensing systems could be a valuable technological step forward for the game of football that might help promote a culture of head safety.
Tuan Le Anh  
**Faculty Sponsor:** Brent Chandler  
**Ongoing Work to Prepare Muscone**

Muscone is a pleasant smelling pheromone that is used widely in numerous traditional remedies and in the fragrance industry especially in Western Asia including China, Vietnam, as well as North and South Korea. Moschus moschiferus, the musk deer that produce this pheromone, are now listed as an endangered species. The number of wild musk deer has been decreasing rapidly due to illegal hunting. In order to save this species, the muscone project aims to provide an environmentally kind and cost efficient synthesis of muscone. This poster outlines our ongoing work to identify low cost and non-toxic oxidation conditions to generate a key intermediate.

Charlotte Michels  
**Faculty Sponsor:** Reiko Itoh  
**An Integration of Cultures: Japanese Music and Instruments Through Time**

The topic of this poster is Japanese music and instruments throughout history and how Western music has been integrated into Japanese music and culture today. The Japanese people are very well known for taking other cultures and integrating them into their own, thus creating something uniquely Japanese. For example, in the fifth century, the Japanese were given Chinese to use as their own writing system, but the Japanese people took it and made it into their own written language. Japanese music is the same way. In America, only Western music and music history are primarily studied, which is why this presentation is especially important for an academic community that wishes to be more culturally rounded. Not only does study of Japanese music give insight into a musical culture that is very different from what many scholars are knowledgeable of, but also through Japanese music, one can better understand the people of Japan and their history.

Mallory Pierson  
**Faculty Sponsor:** William Gunderson  
**NO Binding to Toxoflavin Lyase: Relationship to Oxygen Activity**

The United States and Asia have been facing problems of detriment to rice crops for many years due to a phytotoxin, toxoflavin. Toxoflavin lyase (TflA) is an enzyme that is of particular interest, as TflA is able to degrade toxoflavin in the presence of both manganese (Mn), and oxygen. It has been suggested that the degradation of toxoflavin occurs via a Baeyer-Villiger oxidation; this mechanism, however, does not propose a role for the Mn ion present in TflA. In this work, we have begun to analyze the importance of oxygen binding to Mn as it relates to a newly proposed degradation pathway for toxoflavin. The alternative pathway accounts for an the expected oxidation state change from +II to +III in Mn due to the binding of oxygen. In the research presented here we use nitric oxide to mimic the binding of oxygen to Mn, allowing the initial binding step to be characterized. This binding event is characterized using a variety of spectroscopic techniques and provides important insights into the reaction pathway of TflA.
Campus Pride, a national non-profit organization for student leaders working to create safer and more LGBT-friendly campuses, created the LGBT-Friendly Campus Pride Index as a tool for assisting campuses as they learn ways to improve their campus for LGBT students. This index includes over 50 self-assessment questions related to 8 factors: LGBT Policy Inclusion, LGBT Support and Institutional Commitment, LGBT Academic Life, LGBT Student Life, LGBT Housing, LGBT Campus Safety, LGBT Counseling and Health, and LGBT Recruitment and Retention Efforts. According to the most recent public assessment on this index, Illinois College is relatively unfriendly to members of the LGBT community, receiving 2 of 5 possible stars. IC scored highest (4 stars) in LGB Student Life and lowest in housing and residence life (1 star) and campus safety (1 star). Whether or not Illinois College students agree with these ratings was assessed via a version of the LGBT-Friendly Campus Pride Index that was modified for administration to a wide variety of students. Using multiple methods, this survey was administered to students across the Illinois College campus. The results of this study and implications for change at Illinois College will be presented.