

BRYANT **RED**ay

RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

BRYANT UNIVERSITY
SMITHFIELD, RHODE ISLAND



WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 12TH, 2023

9:00 A.M - 5:45 P.M

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 11th Annual Research and Engagement Day at Bryant University. Today, we come together to celebrate the innovative research projects and works of creative expression undertaken by our students, faculty, and staff.

As an institution of higher education, Bryant takes great pride in our commitment to fostering a culture of inquiry and discovery, and today's event is a testament to that dedication. Research and engagement are essential components of a comprehensive education and it is a delight to showcase the incredible work that has been accomplished across a variety of disciplines.

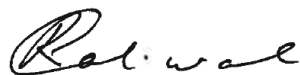
Exposing students to research and creativity – and getting them involved in the process – produces long-lasting value. Supporting such applied learning experiences is central to our mission as it develops students' creative thinking, hones their ability to communicate effectively, teaches them how to thoughtfully analyze information, and allows them to connect with people from diverse cultures, disciplines, and ideologies. Thus, it is my fervent hope that faculty and staff will continue to provide opportunities for our students to engage in mentored projects that, through creative thought and focused inquiry, lead them to discover their passion and instill in them the skills they will take forward as future leaders.

This year's REDay promises to be a particularly exciting one, with a diverse array of presentations, workshops, and exhibitions that highlight the breadth and depth of our academic community's expertise. From groundbreaking scientific research, to cutting edge business innovation, to inspiring art installations, I am confident that you will be impressed by the creativity and ingenuity on display.

Thank you to those who have graciously agreed to participate in today's events and to those who will be attending the many, varied activities scheduled throughout the day in support of their students and their colleagues. In addition, I am deeply appreciative of the REDay Committee whose efforts throughout the year have made today possible: Ali Beaudette, Kristen Berkos, Stephanie Carter, Vincent Emery, Maryella Gainor, Qin Leng, Laura McNulty, Allison Papini, Judi Rix and Wendy Samter.

Once again, I extend my warmest welcome to everyone in attendance. I hope you enjoy the day's events and leave inspired by the outstanding work of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rupendra Paliwal".

Rupendra Paliwal, PhD
Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Special Thanks to the REDay 2023 Committee

Ali Beaudette, Research and Instruction Library Assistant
Kristen Berkos, Associate Professor, Communication Department
Stephanie Carter, Director, Academic Center for Excellence and the Writing Center
Vincent Emery, Class of 26
Maryella Gainor, Senior Lecturer, Accounting Department
Qin Leng, Professor, Biological and Biomedical Sciences Department
Laura McNulty, Associate Director for AIC and Academic Events
Allison Papini, Assistant Director and Manager of Research and Instruction Services
Judi Rix, Administrative Assistant to the Provost
Wendy Samter, Associate Provost

And to the Student Volunteers

Sydney Barnett
Emily Blondin
Lyndsey Boyd
Griffin Collins
Renee Delos
Erin Doruska
Paige Edwards
Ramsha Gul
Sam Hazen
Natalia Kuipers
Charlee LeGallais
Leonardo Luna
Emma McGovern
Emily Masera
Sydney Mendonca
Chi Phi
Payton Quill
Abigail Rae
Darnel Shillingford
Jillian Stevens
Chloe Stone
Ali Weisheit

At-a-Glance REDAY 2023 Schedule

Detailed descriptions for regular sessions appear on pages 5 through 22.

Descriptions of extended time sessions are on pages 23 through 32.

9:00 – 9:45	Sessions 1A through 1E	AIC Classrooms
9:00 – 10:30	Poster Session I Posters 1 through 14	Rotunda
9:00 – 11:00	Data Collection and Visualization Drop-In	Rotunda
9:00 – 2:00	16 th Annual Empirical Economics Symposium	AIC Forum
9:00 – 4:00	Student Pop-Up Arts Gallery	AIC Café
10:00 – 11:00	Honors Distinguished Speaker Series: Dr. Leen Kawas (Session 2A)	Janikies
10:00 – 11:00	Sessions 2B through 2F	AIC Classrooms
10:00 – 2:00	A Creative Conversation with AI: Artistic Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence	Art Barn
10:00 – 4:00	Reemergence of the Sun: Showcase of Creative Expression	Rotunda
11:00 – 12:30	Poster Session II Posters 15 through 29	Rotunda
11:00 – 1:00	A Gathering of Honors Theses: Studies by Dave Poretsky, Katherine D’Ordine, and Katherine Slide**	AIC 235
11:00 – 2:00	CEO’s Annual App-a-Thon	AIC 131
11:15 – 12:15	Sessions 3B through 3G	AIC Classrooms
11:15 – 1:15	Undergraduate Experiences of Black Women at PWI Campuses: A Focus Group Nilsa Laine (Honors Thesis)	AIC 237

11:15 – 1:15	Behavioral Economics Symposium	AIC 236
12:30 – 1:15	Sessions 4A through 4F	AIC Classrooms
1:00 – 3:00	Poster Session III: The Rise in Fast Fashion: What Happens When the Thrill Is Gone? SCIL 355 Energy Management Strategies	Rotunda
1:00 – 3:00	Data Collection and Visualization Drop-In	Rotunda
1:30 – 2:30	College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Spotlight Panel on Research (Session 5A)	Janikies
1:30 – 2:30	Sessions 5B through 5G	AIC Classrooms
1:30 – 3:30	Sociology and Sport Studies Capstones	AIC 236
2:45 – 3:45	School of Health and Behavioral Sciences Faculty Spotlight Panel on Research (Session 6A)	Janikies
2:45 – 3:45	Sessions 6B through 6F	AIC Classrooms
4:15 – 5:45	Awards Ceremony and Reception	Bello

****Other students presenting their honors thesis work include Samantha Eastman (Session 4D), Caitlin McGrath (Session 5E) and Jason Michaud (3B).**

Session 1

9:00 – 9:45

Session 1A

AIC 118

Title: Safe Injection Sites: An Ethical Analysis

Student Presenter: Joseph Leszczynski

Chair: Dr. Jennifer Hurrell

Abstract: This presentation will define injection sites, discuss the ongoing epidemic of drug abuse, their respective legislation and function, and provide an analysis based on theories of ethics. By combining these theories, a possible solution will be proposed with the hopes of mitigating drug abuse.

Session 1B

AIC 119

Title: Jumping into the Void: A Journey of Antimicrobial Discovery

Student Presenter: Jett DuVal

Chair: Dr. Christopher Reid

Abstract: Have you ever taken penicillin? Have you seen the reports of the rise of antibiotic resistance and the dwindling arsenal of effective antibiotics? Did you know that between 1962-2000, there were no new major classes of antibiotics introduced to the market? In the Reid lab, we may have found a new way to halt deadly bacterial growth. We have been investigating a broad class of enzymes called bacterial autolysins, which break down bacterial cell walls. Using *Bacillus subtilis*, a Gram-positive rod-shaped bacterium, as a model organism, we have been able to better study cell wall metabolism. We have developed an antibiotic called masarimycin which halts the degradation of the cell wall, and thus cell growth. Using chemical biology methods, we have begun to understand how masarimycin interferes with bacterial growth.

Session 1C

AIC 130

Title: The International Business Experiential Experience

Student Presenters: Holly Chadwick, Alex Palermo, Emma Jasper, Patrick Roth, Lindsey Valeri, Emilia Wojciechowska, and Julian Serrano

Chair: Jacqueline Saslawski, JD, MA

Abstract: The International Business Experience Rapid Roundtable discussion will allow students to interact in brief conversations with multiple members of IB and better understand the International Business Program as a whole. More specifically, it will enable students to learn more about the experiential learning opportunities that the IB program offers through their unique courses and simulations, study abroad experiences, and International Business Association. This is a fun opportunity to connect with fellow students and gain insight into the opportunities that Bryant offers.

Session 1D

AIC 222

Title: The Green Talent Shortage

Student Presenter: Taylor Vahey

Chair: Dr. Hong Yang, PhD

Abstract: Green talent, employees holding knowledge or skills needed to support environmental sustainability, is in high demand with large growth projections. From 2015 to 2022, there was a 38.5% growth rate of green talent career opportunities. Based on these projections, by 2026 there will be a skills gap in the workforce, with more green talent opportunities than workers holding these skills. This talk will present skills students need to work in sustainability-based jobs.

Session 1E

AIC 223

Title: Technology and Universal Design for Learning

Presenter: Dr. Tony Houston, PhD

Chair: Dr. Ryan Marnane

Abstract: Universal Design for Learning (UDL) removes unnecessary barriers to learning by providing alternatives for students with differing abilities. Professor Tony Houston will present two applications, VoiceThread and Perusall, that integrate with Canvas and provide flexible curricular materials and activities.

Session 2

10:00 – 11:00

Session 2A

Janikies

Title: Honors Distinguished Speaker Series

Presenter: Dr. Leen Kawas

Chair: Dr. Laura Beaudin

Abstract: Dr. Kawas serves on multiple boards, including the Life Science Washington Board, the Scientific Review Board for the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation, and the Alzheimer's Association's Washington Chapter Board. She also served as the co-chair of the International Alzheimer's Association Business Consortium and was on the Washington Governor's Life Science Advisory Board. She is also part of the Springboard Network and is a passionate supporter of scientist entrepreneurs, in particular women. Dr. Kawas will speak about her research in neurodegenerative diseases, neurological diseases, epigenetics, and gut microbiome.

Session 2B

AIC 119

Title: It's Not Only About the Food: What Dining Halls Can Tell Us about Humans and Robots

Chair: Dr. Kristen Berkos

Student Presenter: Youyoung Lee

Title: How Are Serving Robots Used in Dining Places?

Abstract: Utilizing the case of "Servi," this study examines the birth of serving robots, their current positions, and how they affect the dining industry and user experience.

Student Presenter: Marissa Stern

Title: Seating Arrangements in College Dining Halls: Looking at Gender Differences

Abstract: This study will explore how seating arrangements in a dining hall vary as a function of gender composition.

Student Presenter: Laurel Carey

Presentation: The Many Faces of Salmanson

Abstract: Observing the Bryant University dining hall provides a rich environment where a variety of nonverbal behaviors can be observed in a real-life setting. In the dining hall, individuals engage in various social interactions such as eating, talking, and waiting in line, all of which involve the use of nonverbal communication. Through observation, researchers can identify patterns and trends in nonverbal behavior, such as the use of eye contact, facial expressions, body language, and personal space. Additionally, the diversity of individuals present in the dining hall allows for the study of cultural differences in nonverbal communication, providing valuable insights into how nonverbal behavior varies across different cultures and backgrounds. Overall, the Bryant University dining hall serves as a unique opportunity to study nonverbal communication in a natural and dynamic setting.

Session 2C

AIC 130

Title: Supply Chain Capstone Presentations

Chair: Dr. Christopher Roethlein

Student Team: Veronica Cruz Torresola, Justine Fritz, Sophie Glassman, Maikou Kue, and Lucy Smith

Title: Developing a Baseline for the Corporate Social Responsibility Department at JF Moran

Abstract: Students are working with the sustainability team at JF Moran to identify areas of improvement. Projects have included conducting an energy audit and analyzing trucking data to recommend how to decrease fuel consumption and costs, in addition to creating an emissions calculation baseline to be used to present to clients about sustainability at JF Moran. Students also plan to present grants to facilitate pursuing sustainability investments/implementation. Research has been conducted to guide and inform the company about how they can improve their sustainability efforts, within both their office and warehouse spaces.

Student Team: Megan Freedholm, Cole Mazzaferro, Aimee Parenteau, David Stafford, and Jay Zhang

Project Title: Optimizing Inventory Management at SynQor through Data Analytics using Power BI

Abstract: Our project goal is to help SynQor gain better visibility into their inventory as they switch to a new scheduled order system for component procurement. Using the company's Inventory Value reports, forecasts, and purchase order history, we are formulating a Power BI dashboard that highlights key performance indicators (KPIs). Some of these KPIs will include Economic Order Quantity, Inventory Turnover, and Expected Total Inventory Levels and Value. This dashboard will allow the team to understand their current and projected inventory levels through real time data visualizations which will help SynQor make more informed decisions going forward.

Student Team: Jonny Colon, Alex Fluegel, Lauren Lehoullier, Raquel Perez, Isaiah Stephens, and Zack Tucci

Title: Identifying Sourcing Alternatives and Developing a Process to Match Shipping Costs to Sales Orders for WOW Sports and BigMouth Inc.

Abstract: The WOW Sports and BigMouth Inc. project involves two parts. Part one is sourcing various materials outside of China as the company sees a potential threat to its business in the future with the majority of its products currently sourced in China. The suppliers needed include PVC resin and sheet, nylon, screen printing, radio-frequency welding, sewing, and packaging for the company's inflatables and towables. It is important to understand what the alternative supply chain will look like, including expenses and the expected time it would take to switch suppliers. Part two of the project includes matching freight out, or shipping cost, to sales orders. This is done by manipulating data from FedEx and NetSuite, allowing NetSuite to portray accurate profitability numbers for each customer. A key aspect of this task is to document the process in order to develop a template for the client's employees to use every day. It must be user-friendly and allow for changes to be made easily.

Session 2D

AIC 212

Title: Virtual Resources in the Classroom

Chair: Chuck LoCurto, MBA

Presenter: Allison Papini, BA, MBA (in process)

Title: Uses of the Data Visualization Lab at Bryant

Abstract: Research suggests that virtual experiences in the classroom have myriad positive outcomes for students. For example, studies have shown that learning through experience can boost knowledge retention by up to 75% as well as improve student success, increasing performance on exams by as much as 20%. This presentation will overview how the Data Visualization Lab has been used in classes at Bryant and suggest additional ways in which faculty and staff might benefit from incorporating virtual experiences into their pedagogical repertoires.

Presenter: Dr. Robert Patalano

Title: Data Visualization, Virtual Resources, and the Environmental Sciences

Abstract: A recent survey conducted at Bryant University found that 71% of student participants become anxious by the thought of taking any science course, while 42% do not feel that the sciences are relevant to their academic or professional career goals. Nevertheless, many of the respondents (62%) are familiar with ESG (Environment, Social, and Governance) as many businesses are now implementing strategies for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions or creating sustainable products. Additionally, many respondents (76%) are interested in learning more about how businesses are impacting the climate and environment.

One major issue encountered when trying to engage non-science-major undergraduate students with climate and environmental science is the development of course content that successfully meets the demand of student desire to learn about business impacts on the environment while also limiting anxiety caused by taking science courses. In-class activities, relating science course topics to everyday life, implementing new teaching technologies like virtual reality (VR) and other data visualization tools, and focusing on exam- or essay-alternatives like group projects and presentations or science communication outreach through social media, are just some approaches to increased student engagement.

In this presentation, we discuss available knowledge mobilization and engagement opportunities of Bryant's Data Visualization Lab (DVL), specifically as it relates to VR and Ecology. We highlight using the DVL for virtual field trips to places like Yosemite National Park and the Great Barrier Reef, mainly to demonstrate to students Earth's variety of global ecosystems and biodiversity, core concepts that can be difficult to address within a classroom. Moreover, we promote ways in which faculty can incorporate VR/XR tools into their courses to provide immersive experiences for students.

Session 2E

AIC 222

Title: Cultural Factors Influencing Experiences at School and Work

Chair: Rebecca Senna, MEd

Student Presenter: Alexis Suprono

Title: The Challenges of Being a First-Generation College Student

Abstract: This presentation presents data about the first-generation college student experience on Bryant's campus. The project highlights obstacles that first-generation students face compared to their fellow classmates who have parents or legal guardians who have received a bachelor's degree or higher. In sharing her story and findings, the presenter hopes to inspire the Bryant community to provide more resources to assist first-generation students through their college careers.

Student Presenter: Alex Millar

Title: Cultural Intelligence for the Culturally Unintelligent

Abstract: Cultural intelligence is best defined as one's ability to relate and work effectively across cultures, but what defines culture? Most people view culture from a national lens defined by one's language, cuisine, art and architecture, customs, etc. And they are not wrong – that is culture; it just happens to be one form of it. Culture is everywhere, from a Bill Burr comedy tour, to the Boston Celtics' locker room, to the headquarters of Google, to each and every one of our families. Each fosters a culture unique from one another, yet all find a way to be successful. Success is derived from one's cultural intelligence. In the modern world, culture is rapidly changing, forcing many to keep up and leaving those behind who cannot. Blockbuster may have been profitable and fostered a welcoming environment for their customers and employees, but their lack of intelligence of the industry culture inhibited them from adapting in the modern world. Only by accepting our own cultural "unintelligence" can we begin to succeed at understanding others.

Session 2F

AIC 223

Title: Funded Research: The Fruits of Summer Stipend and Sabbatical Awards

Chair: Dr. Christopher Morse

Presenter: Dr. Brad Martin, PhD

Title: This Country is Done: Fair Housing Discourse in Suburban America

Abstract: This presentation examines discourse regarding property, government, access to housing, integration, and community identity, surveying several of the seminal struggles over fair housing and residential segregation since the 1968 Fair Housing Act with a focus on the 2009 consent decree in Westchester County, New York. Building on the "new suburban history," and integrating insights from sociology, and land use policy and planning experts, this paper argues that opposition to fair housing drew on long-term conservative trends in the national political culture after 1968. The article highlights how reaction to the 2009 Westchester consent decree reflected the specific dynamics of the early Obama years. Fair housing opponents contended that housing "choices," rooted in the values of "hard work," meritocracy, private property, and the free market, exemplify the patriotic tradition of American individualism at its core. Though their arguments ignore decades of state-sponsored housing discrimination that contradicted free market principles, these ideas constitute an important starting point for understanding the crippling resistance to fair housing initiatives, since they have proven remarkably durable and politically galvanizing. This article was recently accepted for publication by the peer-reviewed *Journal of Contemporary History*, and so next steps for this line of research will be explored.

Presenter: Dr. Qin Leng (Co-Authors: Elin Svärd, Dr. Hong Yang)

Title: Ancient Climate Reconstruction for High versus Lower Latitudes

Abstract: As the current polar areas are covered with ice “blankets,” the rate of polar climate change generally amplifies global climate change. As a result, the polar areas play an essential but more unpredicted role in the future global climate. Various models have predicted that if the current warming trend continues without effective control of the emission of green house gases, the polar areas will be ice-free within this century. To visualize what an ice-free Arctic will look like and understand how it will affect the global climate, Arctic fossils, particularly plant fossils deposited during the global warming periods such as the Paleocene–Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) and the Miocene Climate Optimum (MCO) have provided critical data.

By using modern samples growing naturally in low latitudes and samples growing in a green house mimicking high latitude continuous light condition, we discovered that light plays a much more important role in controlling the morphological and physiological features than people thought, likely due to its strong influence on the photosynthesis process. As a result, paleoclimate reconstructed from fossil plants’ features based upon the relationship generally established between low latitude climate parameters and low latitude plants’ features may not be accurate, and needs to be re-estimated.

Session 2G

AIC 237

Title: Hidden Conversations Focus Group

Student Presenter: Nilsa Laine, Yen Lee, Gianni Coelho, Sokhna Ndoeye

Chair: Dr. Eileen Kwesiga

Abstract: Participate in our research focus group looking at Hidden Conversations on the Bryant University campus! Our team for "MGT357: Diversity in a Global Environment" is conducting this focus group discussion where we will be presenting our research and having an open discussion where participants can share their experiences and provide feedback on the research topic. For the research, hidden conversations are the unspoken and implicit biases, prejudices, and microaggressions that exist in social interactions between individuals of different races in university spaces. We invite faculty, staff, and students to discuss their experiences and see what our research has found so far. The focus group includes a presentation of research conducted to date, discussion, a poster to share personal experiences; we will also share our survey for research!

Session 3

11:15 – 12:15

Session 3A

Janikies

Title: College of Business Faculty Spotlight Panel on Research

Chair/Moderator: Maryella Gainor, MBA

Panelists:

Dr. Sukki Yoon, Professor of Marketing. An advertising psychologist, research interests include diverse topics such as the fundamental questions of consumer/audience behavior, and why and how people react to marketing communications as they do in various circumstances. Other research includes issues that enhance marketing managerial decisions.

Dr. Cathy Zheng, Assistant Professor of Finance. Research interests include corporate capital structure and product market interactions, product market competition and shocks such as import penetration. Other interests: International debt contract design such as covenants of Yankee bonds, corporate social responsibility (CSR) or environment, society, and governance (ESG).

Dr. ML Tlachac, Assistant Professor of Information Systems and Analytics. Current research: Mental illness screening falls within the domains of mobile/digital health and health informatics/analytics; it involves machine learning, natural language processing, and human-computer interaction. Previous research: Asexual citizenship, image accessibility, longitudinal antibiogram modeling, medical named entity recognition, environmental sustainability (from the economics perspective), and combinatorics research projects.

Dr. Gene Kovacs, Visiting Professor of Accounting-Lecturer. Research interests include financial statement analysis to show the economic effects of certain provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Other interests: Share repurchases, and financial statement distortions that result from the certain expenditures requiring expense recognition (like R & D expenditures) even though they result in future benefits.

Dr. E. Jin Lee, Assistant Professor of Accounting. Research interests include machine learning analysis, data analytics, audit (going concern audit opinion), individual investors, and social media.

Session 3B

AIC 118

Title: Covid-19 Communication and University Responses

Chair: Dr. Joseph Trunzo

Student Presenter: Jason Michaud (Honors Thesis)

Title: Detecting Covid-19 Misinformation on Social Media

Abstract: There have been many studies conducted over the last few years that have attempted to uncover the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the largest areas of concern with COVID-19 is misinformation, as it is a novel virus that many report on, even if unqualified to do so. This study will aim to predict whether a Tweet can be classified as misinformation, and then analyze the differences between Tweets that are labeled as either fake or real by this model. The dataset of choice is COVID-19 Tweets that have been being collected by Dr. Suhong Li since March 2020, and there are currently more than 1 billion Tweets in total to be analyzed. Specifically, this study will have a focus on The United States, India, and The United Kingdom. Through various analysis techniques performed on the Tweets (emotional analysis, text analysis, and topic modeling), the goal of this study will be to uncover the impact on these three countries.

Presenter: Dr. Jana Valentine

Title: Covid Response Plan Successes and Challenges at a University in the Northeastern United States

Abstract: Examining the successes and challenges of creating, implementing, and managing a COVID-19 response plan is essential for higher education institutions. Reflecting on the lessons learned from this global pandemic can assist institutions in advancing their preparedness for future biological crises and emergencies. A qualitative program evaluation was conducted at a university in the northeastern United States to determine the successes and challenges of creating, implementing, and managing the response plan for COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 academic year. The program evaluation sought to identify the successes in creating, implementing, and managing such a plan and to identify challenges for future emergency planning. The goal of this presentation is to provide specific actionable and achievable recommendations to enhance preparedness for future biological crisis planning and emergency planning.

Session 3C

AIC 119

Title: Gender, Cultural, and Relational Influences on Proxemic Behavior

Chair: Dr. Kristen Berkos

Student Presenter: Margaret Adams

Title: Proxemics and Gender: A Study of Nonverbal Communication

Abstract: This panel explores the relationship between gender and proxemics. Over the last month, the walking distances of different gender groups were observed along the Byrant Alumni Walk. Results regarding how much space individuals occupy in groups with various gender compositions will be discussed.

Student Presenter: Louise Offersen

Title: Tactile Behavior: Culture and Gender

Abstract: Interpersonal touch has significant importance for how we connect with others and is often thought to be more meaningful than words. Tactile behavior can be very significant for child development as well as for interpersonal relationships. Having grown up in Denmark and traveled a great deal, the presenter has experienced differences in how tactile behavior such as hugging differs across cultures. This presentation will explore how culture and gender impact tactile behaviors in interpersonal relationships.

Student Presenter: Dominic Porcaro

Title: The Door Holding Threshold

Abstract: Many different factors influence the decision of whether or not to hold the door open for someone walking behind us, with the most important being distance. This study will explore the nonverbal messages and distance threshold that influences an individual's decision to hold the door for a person or group of people behind them. Approximate physical distance and time delay will be measured, as will gender, number of people, and eye contact. It is hoped that the data obtained in this study will yield a better understanding of what affects the decision to hold the door open for someone.

Student Presenter: Carter Santos

Title: Observational Study on Gender and Proxemics

Abstract: This presentation explores how gender affects proxemics. More specifically, it examines whether there is a difference in the distance students sit from each other based on gender. This research question will be addressed through observation of how far apart students sit in the study rooms on campus as well as in Salmanson Dining Hall.

Session 3D

AIC 130

Title: The Experience and Effects of Athletic Involvement

Chair: Dr. Ron Deluga

Student Presenter: Grace Yost

Title: *The Relationship between College Athletics and Body Image: Effects on College Athletes' Self-Esteem*

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to compare the effects of body image on self-esteem between college athletes and non-athletes. After conducting extensive research, two hypotheses were crafted. The hypothesis are as follows: (H1) Women college athletes will have lower self-esteem due to body image issues compared to those of men; and (H2). College athletes will have lower self-esteem due to body image issues compared to college non-athletes. These hypotheses will be examined via a questionnaire based on items drawn from the Social Physique Anxiety Scale and the Eating Attitudes Test.

Student Presenter: Megan Skousen

Title: *Student-Athlete Mental Health*

Abstract: This presentation is based on a Senior Psychology Capstone this semester on the mental health of student-athletes. The project explores the hypothesis that student-athletes are more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression than are other college students.

Student Presenter: Nickolas Capela

Title: Facial Expressions of Emotions Before and After Gym Workouts

Abstract: Individuals' facial expressions were recorded before and after their workouts at different points throughout the day to determine whether physical activity relieves facial signs of stress and anxiety.

Session 3E

AIC 212

Title: Studies in Supplier Satisfaction and the History of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Analysis)

Chair: Dr. John Visich

Student Presenters: Mia Cergol, Brennan Hart, and Drew Arnold

Title: *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Analysis*

Abstract: This research will introduce the history of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) initiative and why LEED is important in today's society. We will then describe Local law 97 in both technical and social contexts. Local Law 97 was included in the Climate Mobilization Act, passed by the New York City Council in April 2019 as part of the Mayor's New York City Green New Deal. Local Law 97 is one of the most ambitious plans for reducing emissions in the nation. We will identify and discuss the precedent laws regarding building energy efficiencies throughout the country and present a feasibility analysis of Local Law 97 and the projected outcomes from implementing Local Law 97.

Presenter: Dr. John Visich

Title: *Assessing Supplier Satisfaction in Canada, Mexico and the United States*

Abstract: While there has been a significant amount of research on customer satisfaction in B2B supply chain transactions, there is little research on how the customers can create supplier satisfaction. In this research, survey data was collected from Canada, Mexico and the United States to investigate the performance requirements the customer should meet to create supplier satisfaction. We focus on three primary categories of supplier satisfaction - communication, financial and process - and their impact on supply chain integration.

Session 3F

AIC 222

Title: Financial Leverage, Women and Income, and Game and Contract Theory

Chair: Dr. Allison Kaminaga

Student Presenter: Alexis Klein

Title: *Historical Relationship of Women and Income*

Abstract: The Google Ngram viewer can be used to analyze and understand the historical significance of certain events over time. The two words “women” and “income” were analyzed over time to gain an understanding of the correlation of these words. Using intersecting regression lines, the point of intersection can describe a significant year for these two words. The intersection point can be used to start research and understand the correlations between the words. After examining “women” and “income,” the word “education” was added and then analyzed to understand the correlation between all three. In addition to exploring the historical context of all of the words, research on the present context of these words was conducted to further understand how these words and their significance has changed or evolved over time in society.

Student Presenter: Vincent Emery

Title: *The Intersection of Game Theory and Contract Theory: A Review of Historical Applications*

Abstract: This review paper examines the historical integration of information asymmetry into contract theory and its collective contributions to the understanding of economic decision-making and contractual relationships. By analyzing various papers by past academics utilizing concepts such as adverse selection, the principal-agent problem, moral hazard, and mechanism design, this review offers an overview of the collaborative research at the intersection of these fields. The paper identifies key findings, common themes, potential gaps, and future research opportunities based on the historical literature. Ultimately, this review seeks to enhance our understanding of the complex interplay between asymmetric information and contract theory, and their impact on contractual arrangements across various economic settings in the past and into the future.

Presenter: Dr. Sonal Kumar

Title: The Zero-Leverage Policy and Family Firms

Abstract: The purpose of the study is to examine the zero-leverage phenomenon in family and non-family firms. Using a sample of the top 2,000 largest U.S. firms over the 2001-2016 period, we find that, on average, 19.20% of family firms have zero debt vs. 10.42% for non-family firms. We also find that family firms strategically choose to be zero-leverage to maintain financial flexibility for future investments and exercise control over the decision-making process, consistent with the hypotheses of financial flexibility and control considerations. However, non-family firms are more likely to have zero debt if they have financial constraints and if the credit market does not lend them money at affordable credit rates, consistent with the financial constraint hypothesis.

Session 3G

AIC 223

Title: *The Impact of Effective Portfolio Assessment on Student Growth*

Presenter: Dr. Tony Houston

Chair: Constanza Bartholamae, MA, MBA

Abstract: Effective portfolio assessment is tailored to individual student growth, incorporates peer and self-evaluation and student ownership, and strengthens the relationship between instruction and assessment. However, it can be time consuming and scoring can be unreliable and inconsistent. Professor Tony Houston will demonstrate the process of predetermining portfolio contents, collecting and storing student work, selecting evaluation criteria, involving students in peer and self-evaluation and conducting portfolio conferences.

Session 4

12:30 – 1:15

Session 4A

AIC 118

Title: *The Impact of Covid-19 on Student Engagement*

Presenter: Dr. Inge-Lise Ameer

Chair: Jessica Raffaele, MS

Abstract: As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which began in early 2020, college campuses have been impacted by enrollment numbers, student engagement, and motivation levels. There is still a long road ahead before confidently saying we have moved past the pandemic times. One impact that was seen was due to a sudden change in students' motivation levels and their overall desire to get involved in organizations and other opportunities on their college campus. In the early months of the pandemic, as reported by UNESCO, over 1.2 billion students at the most were affected in some type of capacity. This resulted in a loss of education, engagement, and development. This study looks at the impact of the pandemic on student engagement at Bryant University. It summarizes a Directed Study Project that Dr. Michael Gravier conducted with Ian Whitehead.

Session 4B

AIC 119

Title: Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO) 101

Student Presenter: Elizabeth Hall

Abstract: Attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about the business world along with personal branding for what is needed when entering the workforce or starting their out business.

Session 4C

AIC 130

Title: *Corporations: Devils or Angels*

Student Presenters: Jared Beatman, Matt Bedard, Kelly Clougherty, Ashley Fafard, Grace Greenaway, Gavin Hames, Emma Lacey, Nilsa Laine, Matt Maciel, and Sophie Russo

Chair: Ilisabeth Bornstein, JD

Abstract: How can corporations serve as a source of good in the community? How can corporate actions harm societal goals, including the development and achievement of UN SDGs? Join students for a discussion to explore the ethical and legal nuances and complexities of this topic.

Session 4D

AIC 212

Title: Global Experiences, Global Learning, Social Impact

Student Presenters: Holly Chadwick, Emma Jasper, Patrick Roth, Lindsey Valeri, and Julian Serrano

Chair/Moderator: Jacqueline Saslawski, JD, MA

Abstract: This is an interactive panel with International Business majors who will discuss their global experiences. During this event, the audience will also have the opportunity to contribute to relief efforts in Turkey.

Session 4E

AIC 222

Title: Women in Literature and Law

Chair: Mary Anne Clarke, MA

Student Presenter: Morgan Marckres

Title: *Women and the Law, State vs. Federal: An Examination of Fetal Homicide Laws*

Abstract: Even before the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, federal and state governments in America passed laws that criminalize pregnant women for actions they took during their pregnancies. These laws were never intended to criminalize women, as their original purpose was to protect them. After examining these laws, it is obvious that the broad implication of criminalization of women must be contended with and now with the Dobbs decision, the future of women's rights is threatened.

Student Presenter: Samantha Eastman (Honors Thesis)

Title: How Historical Fiction Improves Gender Relations: A Book Reading

Abstract: How can history change the present? Studying history allows us to understand seemingly impossible issues. It is easier to believe you can create change as an individual knowing it has been done before. This honors thesis, "How Understanding History Through Historical Fiction Affects Gender Relations," could only be completed with historical fiction.

A woman disguised herself as a man to practice medicine in ancient Athens. A courtesan born in the 1500s was given two options at the age of ten that would decide her entire life: prostitute or nun. A fifteen-year-old girl born in 1900s Ireland was sent to a laundry to work for the rest of her life for becoming pregnant. How can these stories help an eighteen-year-old girl in the present day who has experienced sexual assault on a college campus? How could experiencing life through another lens change your perspective?

Session 4F

AIC 223

Title: The Effect on Physical Strength of a 6-Week Progressive Strength Training Program

Presenter: Nancy Beausoleil, MS

Chair: Dr. Rick Gorvett

Abstract: This 6-Week Progressive Resistance Training (Strength Training) Program trained a cohort of GET STRONG members. There were a total of 18 sessions with the first and 18th session being baseline days. We examine the effects that Progressive Resistance Training (Strength Training) has on individuals.

Session 5

1:30 – 2:30

Session 5A

Janikies

Title: College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Spotlight Panel on Research

Chair/Moderator: Dr. Kristen Berkos

Panelists:

Dr. Julie Volkman, Associate Professor of Communication and Language Studies. Dr. Volkman researches and teaches health communication. She's interested in women's health issues, vaccine risk communication and anxiety among college age students.

Dr. Rich Holtzman, Associate Professor of Political Science. Dr. Holtzman's research focuses on American politics, and he has published on presidential rhetoric, narratives and discourses in American politics, and scholarship of teaching and learning.

Dr. Gao Niu, Assistant Professor in Actuarial Science. Dr. Niu's research interests include actuarial science, insurance risk, climate change impact, and data analytics.

Dr. Martha Kuhlman, Professor of Comparative Literature in the Department of History, Literature and the Arts. Dr. Kuhlman's scholarship focuses on comics studies, and she currently teaches a course on graphic narrative.

Session 5B

AIC 118

Title: Studies in Biology

Chair: Dr. Qin Leng

Student Presenter: Josh Turner

Title: The Cleared Leaf Epidermis (CLE) Technique: An Improved Method for Botanical and Paleobotanical Studies

Abstract: A leaf epidermis is comprised of cells with a thickened cell wall and also covered with a cuticular membrane. Cuticles are composed mainly of a very stable chemical known as cutin, which is why they are most commonly found in the fossil record. To prepare a clean cuticle (CC) is the most conventional technique for botany and paleobotany to obtain leaf epidermal characteristics for the purposes of identification, classification, physiological studies, and ecological reconstruction, etc. (Dilcher 1974). However, as a cuticle only reveals the surface structure of the epidermis, its usage is constrained to two-dimensional (2D) applications. The cleared leaf (CL) technique involving the use of chemicals to de-color the whole leaf and turn it transparent (cleared) was thus invented to observe three-dimensional (3D) structures of the leaf. However, as a leaf has many layers of cells between the two epidermises, this method is inadequate for the recently established ancient CO₂ reconstruction models, which require the understanding and precise measurements of the epidermal structures because the CL samples under the microscope is obscured by layers of cells. To circumvent these issues, we developed a cleared leaf epidermis (CLE) technique in our Laboratory for Terrestrial Environments at Bryant University based upon the CL technique (Liang et al. 2022a and 2022b).

As leaf epidermal cells are more persistent than mesophyll cells due to their thickened cell wall and cuticle, we can carefully choose chemicals and their appropriate concentration to treat the leaf, not only to de-color the leaf but also to partly decay the mesophyll cells. Then we can take one step further to "open" the leaf like a book to be read under microscope. With careful treatment, most mesophyll tissue can be removed chemically and mechanically, leaving the upper and lower epidermises almost completely prepared with all 3D cellular structures intact. The resulting microscopic slides thus can show complete micromorphological and anatomical characteristics of stomatal complexes and epidermal cells, rendering information for various botanical and paleobotanical studies. For example, cuticular types in both modern and fossil samples can be clearly identified and stomatal parameters necessary for leaf-gas exchange models (such as the Franks Model) to estimate atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ can all be accurately measured. In addition, this technique uses more economical chemicals and allows for the technician to obtain larger pieces of leaf samples for necessary statistical analysis. In the past couple of years, our lab

has used this technique to reconstruct early and middle Miocene atmospheric CO₂ from fossils collected from China and the US. In this presentation, we demonstrate the effectiveness of the technique using *Metasequoia* leaf samples as examples and explain its applications to (paleo)botanical and climate change research.

Presenter: Dr. Tingting Zhao

Title: Identification of Significant Gene Expression Changes in Multiple Perturbation Experiments using Knockoffs

Abstract: Large-scale multiple perturbation experiments have the potential to reveal a more detailed understanding of the molecular pathways that respond to genetic and environmental changes. A key question in these studies is which gene expression changes are important for the response to the perturbation. This problem is challenging because (i) the functional form of the nonlinear relationship between gene expression and the perturbation is unknown, and (ii) identification of the most important genes is a high-dimensional variable selection problem. To deal with these challenges, we present here a method based on the model-X knockoffs framework and Deep Neural Networks (DNNs) to identify significant gene expression changes in multiple perturbation experiments. This approach makes no assumptions on the functional form of the dependence between the responses and the perturbations, and it enjoys finite sample false discovery rate control for the selected set of important gene expression responses. We apply this approach to the Library of Integrated Network-Based Cellular Signature (LINCS) data sets, which is an NIH Common Fund program that catalogs how human cells globally respond to chemical, genetic and disease perturbations. We identified important genes whose expression is directly modulated in response to perturbation with anthracycline, vorinostat, trichostatin-a, geldanamycin, and sirolimus. We compare the set of important genes that respond to these small molecules to identify co-responsive pathways. Identification of which genes respond to specific perturbation stressors can provide better understanding of the underlying mechanisms of disease and advance the identification of new drug targets.

Session 5C

AIC 119

Title: Studies in Supply Chain Ethics and Communication

Chair: Dr. Madan Annavarjula

Presenter: Dr. A. Can Inci

Title: Do Insiders Exploit Supply Chain Disruptions?

Abstract: This study examines insider trading around the announcement of supply chain disruptions. It classifies supply chain disruptions into different categories and shows that insiders act on the majority of these disruptions, take trading positions, and generate abnormal profits. These findings are especially strong statistically for insider sales prior to disruption announcements, for large sized trades, and for top executives and officers. There is no evidence of abnormal insider profits prior to weather, climate, or environmental related supply chain disruptions. In other words, the insiders cannot exploit external supply chain disruptions not originating within the insiders' firms. There is no evidence of abnormal profits for trades executed after the announcement of supply chain disruptions. These conclusions are robust to different types of empirical models, and to different combinations of risk premium factors. Evidence of opportunistic insider selling prior to the announcement of supply chain disruptions suggests that insiders are likely delaying the announcement of supply chain disruptions in order to exploit the stock price drops on announcement. As a policy implication, the study suggests that regulators should require prompt disclosure of potential supply chain disruptions.

Presenter: Dr. Suhong Li

Title: Understanding Covid-19 Impact on Supply Chain through Social Media Discussion

Abstract: This study aims to investigate the impact of Covid-19 on the supply chain using 545,125 supply chain tweets collected between March 2020 and May 2022 from 347,593 unique users globally. The results show that most of the people's sentiment toward the supply chain is neutral in the years 2020 and 2021, and negative sentiment became dominant starting in January 2022. Emotion analysis shows a high level of sadness and optimism, a moderate level of anger at the start of pandemic, and the level of anger has increased steadily since June 2021. In addition, topic modeling shows different topics that were discussed in each year. In 2020, the major topics discussed were the government's response to Covid-19, the food supply chain crisis, and the medical supply chain crisis. In 2021, the topics moved to inflation/gas price, government handling of the supply chain crisis, and vaccination/recovery. In the first half year of 2022, the dominant topics are inflation and war in Ukraine, inflation and human rights, and US election

discussion, and border crossing issues. In addition, a retweet network was generated to understand how Twitter users interact with each other and how messages travel on social media.

Student Presenter: Christopher Dupuis

Title: [Import Penetration and Corporate Misconduct: A Natural Experiment](#)

Abstract: Import penetration from China is largely exogenous to the U.S. product market. Using this natural experiment, we find that heightened China import penetration curbs corporate misconduct of U.S. firms. The effect is more pronounced for firms with weaker corporate governance and firms that could better withstand product market competition. The findings suggest that when import penetration increases, firms may improve corporate governance, and differentiate themselves through product innovation or corporate social responsibility to cope with the competition. In addition, we address the exogeneity concern derived from the influence of China value penetration. Furthermore, we find that competition related policies such as tariff reduction and U.S. granting China Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status also lower corporate misconduct. Our work adds to the debates on competition and corporate misconduct at a cross-country competitive landscape.

Session 5D

AIC 130

Title: Entrepreneurship in the Digital Age

Student Presenter: Kevin Tucker

Chair: Robert Massoud, MBA

Abstract: The creation of the internet has opened up countless opportunities for entrepreneurship and startups. In 2019, the presenter discovered how blockchain technology has the ability to revolutionize supply chain, finance, and information systems. In early 2022, he was offered the chance to work as a founding business developer on WenMint, an engineering driven blockchain solutions launchpad that in less than 1 year has provided solutions for over 150 projects. Through continued patience and persistence, he joined a crypto mining digital asset fractionalization startup in July 2022 as a marketing/strategic advisor which completed \$2.5 million in sales in the first quarter of operation. Shortly after the initial success, the startup was approached by Bitmain, one of the world's largest crypto miner manufacturers to form a strategic partnership because of the innovation in leveraging blockchain technology to improve a current business model. The presentation will highlight the challenges of startups, invaluable lessons in entrepreneurship and the endless opportunities on the internet.

Session 5E

AIC 212

Title: Studies in Auditing and Accounting

Chair: Dr. Daniel Ames

Student Presenter: Caitlin McGrath (Honors Thesis)

Title: CPA Exam Evolution 2024: How Accounting Students are Impacted in the University Curriculum and in the Industry

Abstract: With the updated CPA exam coming out in 2024, the accounting profession needs to make changes in a variety of areas to account for this switch. This study questions how current accounting students can be prepared, how the new exam will impact undergraduate and graduate accounting curriculum models, and how the workplace is currently adjusting to this change in the accounting industry. This research is going to provide perspective and deeper insight into the effects of the CPA exam to come out in 2024. The goal of my research is to gain more knowledge about the new exam and help to provide recommendations for other accounting students, accounting professors, and accounting professionals about clearer expectations and the impacts the CPA exam has in all different areas throughout the accounting industry.

Presenter: Dr. E. Jin Lee

Title: Auditors' Decision-making Process Measured Through Machine Learning Analysis: Empirical Application to Going Concern Audit Opinions

Abstract: Prior going concern studies often use regression that cannot discover the intertwined relationships between factors. However, this study overcomes this limitation by employing a hierarchical machine learning method, a decision tree model, to discover potential interaction and cutoff variables. This research explores the complex interactions between many factors that hold information about the auditor decision process. The findings suggest that an indicator variable for a low return on equity (ROE) contained the most relevant information about the going concern decision, as well as indicator variables for low and high current ratio and low stock price, along with several interaction variables. Through a "white box" machine learning method, this study discovers economically and statistically significant cutoff lines and interaction variables to improve the understanding of external audit decisions. The approach and results can be used to improve future going concern research. Moreover, the simplicity and informative "white box" nature of decision trees makes this method a good approach both in future research and in practice.

Session 5F

AIC 222

Title: Reimagining Diversity Leadership

Student Presenter: Paris Flynn, MBA (in process)

Chair: Dr. Terri Hasseler

Abstract: This presentation will discuss how emerging leaders in the DEI space can leverage cognitive and surface-level diversity, empathy, connection and community to create lasting, positive transformation in their communities. Though the positive impacts of effective DEI strategies are proven, recent studies show that many of these efforts within organizations have failed to engage employees and achieve lasting, structural and cultural change. This presentation dives into the root causes of this disparity and provides tangible solutions for more effective strategies.

Session 5G

AIC 223

Title: The Fed Challenge: Monetary Policy in a Time of Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity

Student Presenters: John Henry Dyroff, Aidan Wilkinson, Amanda Spielman, Alexander Seymour, and Odette Mansour

Chair: Dr. Allison Kaminaga

Abstract: Bryant University's 2022 Fed Challenge team will present their research on the state of the U.S. economy and monetary policy recommendations. The team will discuss and answer questions about the Fed Challenge experience and the U.S. economy.

Session 6

2:45 – 3:45

Session 6A

Janikies

Title: School of Health and Behavioral Sciences Faculty Spotlight Panel on Research

Chair/Moderator: Dr. Kristen Hokeness

Panelists

Dr. Jennifer Hurrell, Faculty Clinical Associate Professor of Biology and Biomed Sciences. Research interests center on mechanisms to alter the knowledge and beliefs of healthcare providers to promote improved access to high-quality affordable healthcare.

Dr. Kristin Scaplen, Assistant Professor of Psychology. Research interests include developing an understanding how connections in the brain that are important for learning and memory can be disrupted by drugs of abuse or other conditions.

Dr. Joseph Trunzo, Psychology, Associate Director of School for Health and Behavioral Sciences. Research interests include the use of Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT) for Lyme disease, psychosocial aspects of cancer, and ACT-based approaches to health and management of chronic illness.

Dr. Steven E. Weicksel, Assistant Professor of Biology and Biomed Sciences. Research interest includes how genome organization regulates gene expression.

Session 6B

AIC Forum

Title: Unconscious Bias in Sales

Student Presenter: Melissa Bowler

Chair: Dr. Stefanie Boyer, PhD

Abstract: Unconscious bias lives in all of us, but we can work together to identify that bias and create a more inclusive environment for those around us. Join our exciting workshop to work through these challenges to discover how we can do better together.

Session 6C

AIC 118

Title: Startups and Exit Strategies Research Using

Crunchbase **Presenter:** Dr. Leila Zbib

Chair: Dr. Cathy Zheng

Abstract: We examine the life cycle of startup firms using the Crunchbase database. First, we will give an overview of Crunchbase. Second, we will discuss our current and upcoming research projects. In our research, we study whether the gender or the ethnicity of startup founders affect the company's exit status. Specifically, we analyze three different exit status: Acquired, IPO, or Fail, where Acquired and IPO are considered as success exit status.

Session 6D

AIC 119

Title: Factors Shaping the Classroom Learning Environment

Chair: Dr. Heather Lacey

Student Presenter: Anthony Cunha

Title: Clothing Color and Its Relation to Participation in the Classroom

Abstract: Physical characteristics are one of the fundamentals of nonverbal behavior. Physical characteristics can include the color of one's clothing. This presentation will describe the relationship between people's clothing and their willingness to participate in class.

Student Presenter: Gabriella Federico

Title: School Disruptions During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Lasting Impacts on College Students

Abstract: This study is aimed to help learn about how COVID-19 impacted students. The focus is to understand how students learned during the pandemic and ultimately how they adjusted to post-pandemic schooling. We hypothesize that students who were in college during the 2019-2020 school year experience more distress in school currently. Additionally, we hypothesize that students who experienced several different learning styles (i.e., hybrid/remote/flex) during the pandemic experience more distress. Overall, the purpose of this study is to help educators and students understand how Covid has impacted student learning in different ways.

Student Presenter: Vaishnavi Velagapudi

Title: Nonverbal Communication: The Use of Proxemics in the Instructional Environment

Abstract: This study will assess the relationship between instructors' use of proxemics and students' contribution and retention of material (i.e., measures of student success and instructional efficiency). In particular, the study will examine how instructors' choice of spatial design, their subsequent positioning within the space, and their proximity to the students impacts student outcomes.

Session 6E

AIC 131

Title: US History and Politics

Chair: Dr. Brad Martin, PhD

Student Presenter: Nicholas Brancato

Title: Operation Paperclip: The US Recruitment of Nazi Scientists

Abstract: This capstone presentation will investigate the secretive American intelligence program codenamed "Operation Paperclip" that sought to bring Nazi scientists to America in the aftermath of WWII in order to aid US efforts in the Cold War against the USSR. Using a range of primary and secondary sources including recently declassified documents and the work of investigative journalists, this capstone will explore America's reasoning for bringing war criminals sanctuary, and what their contributions were. After using sources to shed light on the crimes of these Nazi scientists this capstone will aim to answer or explain whether or not accomplishments cancel out past crimes.

Student Presenter: Zachary Zambarano

Title: The 2018 Farm Bill: Where are Farmers' Voices?

Abstract: The 2018 Farm Bill (Agricultural Improvement Act) is the latest installment of legislation that deals directly with agriculture and food policies within the United States. The bill has permanent laws regarding how food is grown, what foods are acceptable to produce, and how farmers' livelihoods are impacted both in business and in their standard of living. While this bill is a permanent law for the next five years, many parts of the legislature have a negative impact on farmers. The Farm Bill includes many new advances in the agricultural business and provides significant research to support their reasoning for the new proposals. However, there seems to be a lack of farmer involvement with the bill, with many farming nonprofit organizations speaking out against parts of the bill. The paper begins with a brief overview of the purpose of the Farm Bill and the impact it has on agricultural businesses economically and politically. Then, the 2018 Farm Bill is explained and explicitly analyzed in conjunction with farmers' livelihoods, including the economy, mental health, and new policies regarding equal opportunities for African American, Hispanic, and women farmers. The paper proceeds with how farmers are impacted directly by these new policies from the 2018 Farm Bill. In order to fully understand the impact this bill will have, the author will interview different nonprofits in the Northeast region of the United States, with many of these nonprofits helping smaller, family-owned farms. Finally, the paper addresses the future of farmers in the United States with recommendations for the Farm Bill of 2023 and the need for farmers' voices when creating these industry-changing policies.

Title: LCS480: Culture, History and Gastronomy of Italy: From the Immersive Study Abroad Experience to Classroom Research

Co-Chairs: Dr. Cedric Oliva and Jessica Raffaele, MS

Abstract: In this interactive panel, each group will discuss elements of their travel experiences, including sharing photos of experiences that allowed them to pick their research topics.

Student Presenters: Enidia Xhokaxhiu, Samantha Bauer, Renee Delos, and Elizabeth Mares

Title: Life's Like Gelato... Eat it Before it Melts!

Student Presenters: Ben Andrade, Sean Melanson, Michael James, and Kylie Truong

Title: From Home to Factory: the Historical Evolution of Pasta Making

Student Presenters: Halle Ross, Ashley Brown, Skylar Hodgkinson, and Britney Fernandez

Title: What Does it Take to Understand the Italian Coffee Experience?

Extended Time Session A

Rotunda, 9:00 – 10:30

Poster Session I

Poster #1	Student Presenter: Title:	Katelyn Caldarone Distinct Dopamine Microcircuits Underlying Alcohol-Induced Locomotor Activity and Alcohol Associated Memories in <i>Drosophila Melanogaster</i>
Poster #2	Presenter: Title:	Ashley Hughes, MSPAS, PA-C STOP THE BLEED: Train the Trainers Course
Poster #3	Student Presenter: Title:	Angela Baack The Importance of Wealth Management in High School Curriculums
Poster #4	Student Presenter: Title:	David Bryce MBA Playoff Prediction via Bayesian Optimization and XGBoost
Poster #5	Student Presenter: Title:	Valeria Ortiz Are Students Afraid of Science?
Poster #6	Student Presenter: Title:	Mia Calegari A Potential Cure for Rheumatoid Arthritis
Poster #7	Student Presenter: Title:	Mia Skowron Crowd Size and Crowd Engagement Effects on Athletes' Confidence and Anxiety Levels
Poster #8	Student Presenter: Title:	Chloe Raesly The Use of Remote Wearable Heart Rate Sensors in Bryant Swim Athletes
Poster #9	Student Presenter: Title:	Nicholas Lorenz Using Chemical Genomics to Bridge the Gap in Antibiotic Discovery
Poster #10	Student Presenter: Title:	Christina Capozzi Student Experiences: The Results of a Semester-Long Study of the Experiences of Underrepresented Students in STEM
Poster #11	Student Presenter: Title:	Josh Turner What Can Leaf Epidermal Cell Size Tell Us? A Comparison of Fossil and Living Leaves of <i>Metasequoia</i> as an Example
Poster #12	Student Presenter: Title:	Jillian Sylvia Characterizing Climate Change in Past and Present Environments of Earth and Mars
Poster #13	Presenter: Title:	Adriana Minacapilli Joining the Fellowship, Ringing in 160 Years at Bryant!
Poster #14	Student Presenter	Marshall Spender Hydrating the Campus

Extended Time Session B

Rotunda, 9:00 – 11:00

Data Collection and Visualization Drop-In

Co- Chairs: Dymond Bush, MLIS and Laura Kohl, MLIS

Abstract: Conducting original research and presenting one's findings is always a challenge. How does one entice participants for surveys or focus groups? What is the best way to showcase one's data and findings after the analysis of results has been completed? In this drop-in session, we hope to engage the university community to become active participants in various research efforts being conducted across campus. We invite students, staff, and faculty to share their current surveys to allow a place and space for the campus community to take part in the original research. With this effort, we hope to grow the participation rate of data collection on campus. Additionally, we will be offering tips and tools to help students decide how they wish to conduct their original research and what tools exist to visualize and showcase their results (Canva, PowerBI, etc.).

Extended Time Session C

AIC Forum, 9:00 – 2:00

16th Annual Empirical Economics Symposium

Chair: Dr. Ramesh Mohan, PhD

Abstract: The Bryant Economic Undergraduate Symposium's focal point is on training undergraduate students in the art of writing, presenting and publishing empirical research papers on a wide range of economic topics, with a primary emphasis on data analysis with policy relevance. Students publish their empirical papers in the Empirical Economics Bulletin (EEB), <https://digitalcommons.bryant.edu/eeb/>, the undergraduate journal of the Department of Mathematics and Economics. The symposium and the journal are consistent with the department's objectives: to train students to do consulting and conduct economic data analysis.

9:00 – 9:10	Welcome	
9:10 – 9:20	Student Presenter:	Jake Barlow
	Title:	The Effects of Cultural Values on Economic Growth: An Empirical Investigation
9:20 – 9:30	Student Presenter:	Dominick DaCruz
	Title:	Empirical Analysis of Firearm Related Deaths in the United States Based on Sex, Race, and Age
9:30 – 9:40	Student Presenter:	Nicholas Garbarino
	Title:	Educational Effect on Income Inequality: A Panel Data Analysis
9:40 – 9:50	Student Presenter:	Wenyi Gu
	Title:	An Empirical Analysis of the Impact of Higher Education on Income Inequality in Germany

9:50 – 10:00	Student Presenter: Title:	Erika Hauser A Panel Data Analysis of the Determinants of Carbon Emission in Asia and Europe
10:00 – 10:10	Student Presenter: Title:	Ruixi Huang An Empirical Analysis of Foreign Trade and Institutional Quality on Economic Growth in MENA Countries
10:10 – 10:20	Student Presenter: Title:	Ari Maduka An Empirical Exploration of US Healthcare Discrimination and Obesity Prevalence
10:20 – 10:30	Student Presenter: Title:	Odette Mansour Empirical Analysis of Institutional Quality and Financial Develop on Income Inequality in Middle Income Central America
10:30 – 10:40	Break	
10:40 – 10:50	Student Presenter: Title:	Michael McNeil Empirical Analysis of NBA Ticket Prices' Correlation to NBA All Stars
10:50 – 11:00	Student Presenter: Title:	Kenneth Page Empirical Analysis of NFL Ticket Price Determinants
11:00 – 11:10	Student Presenter: Title:	Cole McGovern Fenway and Crime: Spatial Patterns and Team Rivalry at Boston Red Sox Games
11:10 – 11:20	Student Presenter: Title:	Anthony Salameh An Empirical Analysis of Prime Performing Age of NBA Players: When Do They Reach Their Prime?
11:20 – 11:30	Student Presenter: Title:	Derek Smith Empirical Analysis of NBA Player Payroll and Team Success through 2011 CBA Changes
11:30 – 11:40	Student Presenter: Title:	Francine Roberge An Empirical Analysis of the Effects of Government Influence on Deforestation in Latin America
11:40 – 11:50	Student Presenter: Title:	Samantha Sczepanski Empirical Analysis of the Effect Income, Education, and GDP Has on Overall Happiness in a Country
11:50 – 12:00	Student Presenter: Title:	Joshua Soares Granger Causality Test for Agricultural Production to Economic Growth in Thailand

12:00 – 12:30	Lunch Break	
12:30 – 12:40	Student Presenter:	Yixin Wan
	Title:	How International Trade and Government Integrity Affect the Structural Transformation of Laos and Cambodia
12:40 – 12:50	Student Presenter:	Talia Vicente
	Title:	An Empirical Analysis on the Midery Index Effects on Domestic Violence
12:50 – 1:00	Student Presenter:	Nicholas Umbro
	Title:	How Household Income Affects a Child's Educational Attainment
1:00 – 1:10	Student Presenter:	Daxin Zhou
	Title:	Exploring the Relationship between Exchange Rate Pass-Through and CPI Inflation in China
1:10 – 1:20	Student Presenter:	Marley Hines
	Title:	An Empirical Analysis of Expected Inflation and Its Effect on the Stock Market
1:20 – 1:30	Student Presenter:	John Scott
	Title:	Empirical Analysis of the Impact of Different Types of Crime on Real Estate Values in America

Extended Time Session D

AIC Café, 9:00 – 4:00

Student Pop-Up Arts Gallery

Co-Chairs: Dr. Joan Zaretti and Valerie Carrigan, MFA, MEd

Abstract: Stop by the AIC Café and check out creative work by students in LCS 220: Creativity and the Arts (Zaretti) and LCS 325: Studies of the Book (Carrigan).

Extended Time Session E

Art Barn, 10:00 – 2:00

A Creative Conversation with AI: Artistic Intelligence and Artificial Intelligence

Chair: Dr. Joan Zaretti

Student Presenters: Lily Davidson, Emily Davis, Patrick Duffy, Thomas Hill, Ray Howard, Audrey Jones, Grace O'Donnell, Ean Patry, Charles Payne, Carley Pearson, Taylor Rothwell, Olivia Sales, Maggie Salmon, Cooper Silverman, Danyelle Sydnor, Tori Uzzell, Brady Waitze, and Patrick Wilcox

Abstract: This exhibit features visual and literary works by students in the LCS 491: Workshop in Critical and Creative Process class. Framed as an artistic dialogue between human creativity and artificial intelligence, the creative works will respond to ideas and pieces within artificial intelligence platforms (DALL-E, ChatGPT, chatbots, etc.) by exploring human artistic intelligence (perception, emotion, and knowledge, for example) in student creations.

Extended Time Session F

Rotunda, 10:00 – 4:00

Reemergence of the Sun: Showcase of Creative Expression

Student Presenter: Paris Flynn, MBA (in process)

Abstract: "Reemergence of the Sun" is a meditation on modern day's departure from nature. This collection of acrylic paintings showcases the simple beauty of life to be found in our natural surroundings, with the sun and sea as its main subjects. It seeks to spark a "reemergence of the sun," a return to focus on the more primitive and organic sources of pleasure and joy in life.

Extended Time Session G

Rotunda, 11:00 – 12:30

Poster Session II

Poster #15	Student Presenter:	Jingmei Zeng
	Title:	Z as in...Zika?
Poster #16	Presenter:	Kun Xie
	Title:	Community Resource for Global Education
Poster #17	Presenter:	Dr. Robert Patalano, PhD
	Title:	Organic Material from the Ancient Great Wall of China as a Climate Archive: Environmental Change and Archaeological Conservation
Poster #18	Student Presenter:	Mia Calegari
	Title:	PSC Differentiation and Applied Deep Learning.

Poster #19	Student Presenter: Title:	Ramsha Gul Neural Mechanisms Underlying Maladaptive Reward Memories in Drosophila
Poster #20	Student Presenter: Title:	Ethan Sussman Creating Environmentally Sustainable Businesses
Poster #21	Student Presenter: Title:	Katelyn Caldarone Parenting Style Related to Childhood Adversity as a Possible Predictor of Adulthood Anxiety
Poster #22	Student Presenter: Title:	Ethan Hall Analysis of Bacillus Subtilis Cell Wall Provides Insight into Masarimycin's Mode of Action
Poster #23	Student Presenter: Title:	Alex Spitznagle Metabolic Labeling of Zebrafish Embryonic Cell N-glycens Using Azido-Sugars
Poster #24	Presenter: Title:	Cindi Lewis, MA Cultural Intelligence in the Workplace
Poster #2	Student Presenter: Title:	Jillian Sylvia (Co-Author, Dr. Steven Weicksel, PhD) The Effects of Pollutants on Developing Vertebrates
Poster #26	Student Presenter: Title:	Joseph Leszczynski (Co-Author, Dr. Steven Weicksel, PhD) Understanding Chromatin Organization and Gene Expression with Circular Chromosome Conformation Capture
Poster #27	Student Presenter: Title:	Sokhna Ndoeye (Co-Author, Dr. Steven Weicksel, PhD) The Chromatin Organization Role in Gene Regulation
Poster #28	Presenter: Title:	Jennifer Hurrell, PT, MS, DHSc A Multifactorial Analysis of Physical Therapists Ordering Radiographs
Poster #29	Student Presenter: Title:	Giancarlo Coelho Bridging Worlds: The Kardashev Scale and The Synergistic Future of Human-AI Collaboration.

Extended Time Session H

AIC 235, 11:00 – 1:00

A Gathering of Honors Theses

Chair: Dr. Suhong Li, PhD

Student Presenter: Dave Poretsky

Title: Understanding Non-Fungible Tokens through Social Media Discussion

Abstract: Non-fungible tokens (NFTs) are a peer-to-peer type of blockchain technology which is a unique digital asset transferred completely over the internet (Sarmah, 2018). NFTs have become an integral component of many financial and art communities in recent years, boasting millions of consumers (Regner, 2019). Along with the non-fungible token technology, social media has become a crucial aspect of communication in society, with many consumers of the NFT industry communicating and expressing opinions of the industry on different social media platforms. Considering the rise in popularity of NFTs in recent years, this study aims to gain a deeper understanding of the non-fungible token community and industry through an in-depth analysis through social media discussion.

Student Presenter: Katherine D'Ordine

Title: HIPAA vs. Medical Research: Can Data Privacy and Data Access Work Together to Improve Patient Care?

Abstract: The purpose of this research is to understand the current relationship between data access and data privacy in the health care industry and attempt to find a way that important health care research can still be conducted with HIPAA regulations. There is a lack of extensive research on the impacts of data privacy on health care research due to access regulations, so a survey was created regarding current data processes and recommendations for creating a healthier relationship between privacy and access for research. It was distributed to anyone in health care, analytics, or research to get a variety of perspectives. Tweets were also collected based on medical research and privacy regulation key words and analyzed to further understand the sentiment of these topics within the public. Through this study, trends were found among the experiences of professionals, and recommendations were formed to create a much-needed harmonious relationship between health care privacy regulations and data access for medical research.

Student Presenter: Jacob Slide

Title: Actual vs Perceived Generational Differences in the Workplace

Abstract: Recognizing the various expectations of each generation in terms of what leadership behaviors they value the most in their managers is increasingly relevant as four different generations currently occupy the workforce. As the only true digital natives enter the workforce, employers will need to be able to appoint managers whose skill sets reflect the expectations of their new workers if they can understand what they desire early on. The present study, grounded in Generational Cohort Theory, seeks to determine whether participants' preferences align with typical generational stereotypes with the central objective to determine whether generations truly differ in terms of what work-related concepts are most valued in the workplace.

Extended Time Session I

AIC 131, 11:00 – 2:00

CEO'S Annual App-a-Thon

Co-Chairs: Nicholas Davi, Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization
Chuck LoCurto, MBA, and Dave Gannon, MS

Abstract: The Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (Bryant CEO) will be hosting its annual App-a-Thon competition on REDay! Students who sign up for this event will have the opportunity to brainstorm and present new ideas for an app that will help Bryant students. The winner will have their idea implemented in the Bryant Mobile app and win an amazing prize.

Extended Time Session J

AIC 237, 11:15 – 1:15

Undergraduate Experiences of Black Women at PWI Campuses: A Focus Group

Student Presenter: Nilsa Laine (Honors Thesis)
Chair: Laura Kohl, MLIS

Abstract: This presentation will involve a focus group discussing the experiences of undergraduate Black women at PWI campuses for honors thesis research! The focus group is to gather data for the presenter's honors thesis, and its purpose is to explore their experiences to further research with the aim of understanding and identity development. There will be posters of the findings of the literature review for the thesis research, a presentation, and an open discussion on the topic. We welcome all to discuss and engage in the research findings. The overall intent of this panel is to better understand what it means for Black women students attending PWIs as undergraduates, especially with the intersection of race and identity coming into play. It will be a combination of discussion, a showcase of creative expression, and posters.

Extended Time Session K

AIC 236, 11:15 – 1:15

Behavioral Economics Symposium

Chair: Dr. Xiaofei Pan, PhD

Abstract: Students apply the economic and behavioral theories they learned in this course, including game theory, social preference theory, prospect theory (loss aversion), ambiguity aversion into examining economic decisions in a variety of domains: including investment, willingness to exert effort in labor market, bargaining, betting in sports, giving to charitable organizations, exploration of the equity premium puzzles, and consumer preferences for established brands. In particular, students raise their research question and apply the theory to make theoretical predictions. They then design their own experiments, program their experiments onto Qualtrics, collect the data on the online labor market Prolific, and analyze the data with STATA program (the last two parts to be completed after REDay). The following presentations are drawn from Econ 464: Behavioral Economics and Applications.

Student Presenters:	Clara Cole, Anxhela Elezaj, and Lucy Smith
Title:	Group 1: Effect of News on Investment Coordination
Student Presenters:	Holli DePina, Madison Henry, and ChanBoremey Teng
Title:	Group 2: Influence of Communication on Bargaining Behavior
Student Presenters:	Nate Farnsworth, Owen Manning and Stephen O’Leary
Title:	Group 3: Does Loss Aversion Make People Hold on Too Long for Losing Stocks and Sell Too Soon for Gaining Stocks?
Student Presenters:	Grant Alix, Nick Basley, Aidan Costello, and Sam Grigevich
Title:	Group 4: The Role of Ambiguity Aversion on Consumers’ Preference for Established Brand
Student Presenters:	Tyler Amato, Justine Fritz, Aidan Hickey, and Nick Lorenz
Title:	Group 5: To Give or Not to Give: A Comparative Study of UNICEF vs Planned Parenthood
Student Presenters:	Barney Brandon, Manuel Ferro, Stephen Marano, and Nick Umbro
Title:	Group 6: Would Communication Promote Effort Provision in Minimum Effort Game?
Student Presenters:	Miguel Betances, Robert Fraser, Francine Roberge, and Gabbi Weiner
Title:	The Role of Ambiguity Aversion on Sports Betting Behaviors
Student Presenters:	Tyler Chwalek, Jack Gawreluk, Jonathan Lamarone, and Michael Morrissey
Title:	Group 8: An Exploration into the Equity Premium Puzzle and Investment Decisions

Extended Time Session L

Rotunda, 1:00 – 3:00

Poster Session III: The Rise in Fast Fashion: What Happens When the Thrill Is Gone?

Chair: Paul Roselli, MA

Student Presenters: Aileen Charron, Pedro Cid, Evan Clements, Aidan Cook, Alex Corey, Colin Drake, Derek Edmiston, Sean Emmons, Ashley Fafard, Alex Favazza, Connor Garab, Robbie Hayward, Brett Healy, Ava Horlink, Calvin Krieger, Sam Louback, Matthew Lusak, Delaney MacKay, John Mancuso, Clay McAlpine, Jacksonx, T. McDonough, Jill McNeil, Arianna Miranda, Adam Newhall, Tristan Novakowski, Jared O’Connor, Misha Ocheretyanny, Andrea Ortiz Miseses, Prem Patelm Carolyn Pinchiaroli, Danny Rapoza, David Roundy, Tyler Rozmus, Trevor Smith, Adam Solari, Mike Starkey, Jake Trimble, John Vaughan, Reed Watson, Kyle Wiggins, and Patrick Wilcox

Abstract: Students from the SCIL 355 - Energy Management Strategies explore the sharp increase in the use of polyester for clothing and the resulting dark side of cheap fashion. Students from the SCIL355 - Energy Management Strategies class select and rate the best and worst fashion companies in an attempt to change buying habits. How does your clothing company rate? Come find out as students and attendees will read clothing labels and help identify ways to change the way we think about fashion and buying clothes. Fashion companies that will be on display include: Zara, H&M, Hike, SHEIN, Lululemon, LL Bean, Forever 21, Supreme, North Face, Victoria’s Secret, TOMS and more.

Extended Time Session M

Rotunda, 1:00 – 3:00

Data Collection and Visualization Drop-In

Co- Chairs: Dymond Bush, MLIS and Laura Kohl, MLIS

Abstract: Conducting original research and presenting one's findings is always a challenge. How does one entice participants for surveys or focus groups? What is the best way to showcase one's data and findings after the analysis of results has been completed? In this drop-in session, we hope to engage the university community to become active participants in various research efforts being conducted across campus. We invite students, staff, and faculty to share their current surveys to allow a place and space for the campus community to take part in the original research. With this effort, we hope to grow the participation rate of data collection on campus. Additionally, we will be offering tips and tools to help students decide how they wish to conduct their original research and what tools exist to visualize and showcase their results (Canva, PowerBI, etc.).

Extended Time Session N

AIC 236, 1:30 – 3:30

Sociology and Sport Studies Capstones

Chair: Dr. Judith McDonnell, PhD

Student Presenters: Jake Gallant, Emily Gustus, Lucy Kinkade, Caroline James, Jordyn Ferraro, Andrew LeBlanc, and Rebecca Kaminskis

Abstract: In this, students from a variety of disciplines within the College of Arts and Sciences will present their SOC491/SPS91 Capstones. Topics range from the sociology of tattoos to the effects of economic stratification on youth sport participation.
