

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATIONS (SPRING 2011)

Paul A. Lizotte, Ph.D.*

Professor, Department of English and Communications, Rivier College

James Hussey Wednesday, April 27, 2011 12:30-1:30pm STH 208

Title: "Statements of Mission: Relevancy in Modern Corporate Society"

Director: Prof. Kevin Wayne

This thesis evaluates the relevancy of the corporate mission statement through extensive research and a survey distributed to approximately 50 young adults in college. It examines mission statements in terms of social responsibility, sustainability, and stewardship to see whether or not a company is guided by its mission.

Stacey Laine Thursday, April 28, 2011 12:30-1:30pm ED 301

Title: "Standardized Testing: Helping or Hindering Students' Education"

Director: Prof. Paul Lizotte

This thesis pulls back examines the effects standardized testing can have, and has had, on schools, educators, administrators, and especially children throughout America.

Michael Amaral Friday, April 29, 2011 11:30am-12:30pm STH 235

Title: "The Cure for Credulity: On Skepticism and the Wonder of Science"

Director: Prof. Jeremiah Dolan

This thesis is a look into why we believe what we believe, why and how we are wrong so much of the time, and how scientific skepticism is the answer to our propensity to believe the unjustified. It is an examination into the scientific method, the origin and nature of superstitious belief, the characteristics and problems associated with pseudoscience, and why a skeptical and rational mindset is something everybody should champion.

Kelly Russell Monday, May 2, 2011 12:30-1:30pm STH 208

Title: "Materialism among Young American Adults: An Exploratory Study"

Director: Prof. Lucille Thibodeau

This thesis examines the phenomenon of consumerism among young American adults 18 to 27 years old by means of an exploratory study conducted through a written convenience survey distributed to approximately 80 individuals. The survey returns constitute the primary source for this study.

* **PAUL A. LIZOTTE**, Ph.D., is Professor of the Department of English and Communications at Rivier College. He received a Ph.D. (English) from Pennsylvania State University, M.A. (English) from the University of Virginia, and A.B. (English, Minor in Philosophy) from Boston College. Dr. Lizotte specializes in British Romantic and Victorian Poetry, 19th Century British Novel, Modern American Poetry, Literature of the Environment, and Literary Theory and Criticism. He is a Member of the Rivier Faculty since 1980 serving as Chair of the English and Communications Department for nine years (1983-1992). Currently, Dr. Lizotte is the Director of the College's Honors Program, and Director of the Freshman Writing Seminar program.