

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATIONS (SPRING 2008)

Paul A. Lizotte, Ph.D.*

Professor, Department of English and Communication, Rivier College

Bernadette Conticchio

Friday, April 4, 2008 7:00 pm STH235

TITLE: "The Progression of Public Fear as Seen Through Horror Movies: 1950s and Current"

Description: A presentation exploring the topics and monsters of horror films from the 1950s and current and their representation to current events and fears held by the public.

Jason Andrukaitis

Friday, April 18, 2008 11:30am ED301

TITLE: "Digital Narratives: The Construction and Significance of Video Game Narratives"

Description: This paper will explore the narrative structure of video games and the medium's relation to traditional narrative storytelling. The analysis of several video games will illustrate the medium's inherent narrative value despite the negative academic and social views associated with gaming culture and the medium itself. Analysis will include discussion on the effects of active participation within video games, character development, and plot, paying particular attention to video games' connection to orality and how that connection affects their narrative development and capacity for advancing the modern day narrative.

Ashley Snell

Monday, April 21, 2008 12:30pm MEM104

TITLE: "State Farm Bank: A Microfinance Solution for Venezuela"

Description: A presentation about the current status of oil dependency in Venezuela and a proposed microfinance solution to close the economic gap: main focus on the barrios in Caracas. The business plan is spearheaded by the financial stability of an industry giant leading the way in the United States, and uses current State Farm ideology "Like a Good Neighbor" as its platform.

Michael Gorvin

Tuesday, April 22, 2008 1:00pm Reception Room

Title: "Magic Through History: From Pre-historic Times to American Pop Culture"

Description: A presentation on the significance and perception of magic through history. Multiple cultural perspectives will be explored, from the earliest pre-historic cave dweller to current American pop culture (where the idea of "pop magic" will be explored). From ancient rituals and religious convictions to the Harry Potter phenomenon, the changing role of magic (both what it means and what it's used for) will be discussed.

Nichole Ferguson

Friday, April 25, 2008 2:30 pm MEM 301

Title: "The Affects of Disgust on Memory"

Description: Although the basic emotion of disgust is commonly associated with other emotions, little research has been done on the affects of disgust on memory. This presentation will explore both the neurological activations of disgust, as well as the body's physiological response to the emotion. Based on these findings, it is hypothesized that disgusting images will be better remembered than similar but neutral images to a certain extent, the extent of which will be dependent on a person's sensitivity to disgust.

Amber Mayville

Wednesday, April 30, 2008 11:30 am ED310

Title: "Autism: Early Intervention is Key"

Description: An in-depth look into the world of Autism through the story of Jacob, a four year old boy, to provide a better understanding of Autism and how crucial it is for parents, doctors, and educators to be aware of the benefits of early intervention.

* **PAUL A. LIZOTTE**, Ph.D., is Professor of the Department of English and Communication 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.