

SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATIONS (SPRING 2010)

Paul A. Lizotte, Ph.D.*

Professor, Department of English and Communication, Rivier College

Cassidy Swanson, "A Growing Problem: Addressing and Finding Solutions to the Childhood Obesity Epidemic in America's Lower Class"

Director: Sr. Lucille Thibodeau, Ph.D.

Friday, April 16, 2010, 10:00am, STH 301

After conducting research on the causes of childhood obesity in this country, and why it is so prevalent in children from low-income families, I have pinpointed several main causes for this problem, as well as the three things that I feel impact eating and health habits in low-income children the most--schools, major food corporations, and parents--and what must be done to improve how these three aspects promote a healthy lifestyle for kids, namely curbing the obesity epidemic amongst poor children.

Laurie Piantagini, "Generation Y's Challenges in the New Economy"

Director: Prof. Karen Spohn

Thursday, April 22, 2010, 11:00am, STH 235

Generation Y is a confident and skilled generation, born between the years of 1980-1994, filled with young adults who have set high goals for themselves. As this generation graduates college and enters the real world, they will be facing issues that reach further than working towards personal achievements. The objective to the thesis is to find Generation Y's views on world issues due to the financial crisis and green movements through current employment trends, debt, housing, and environmental views. As part of my thesis, I have collected and analyzed data at the national and state level with respect to this generation and these pressing issues. As a second part to this thesis, I surveyed the students here at River College and compared the results to national trends to see if the issues and behaviors here are similar to those across the country.

Alicia LaDouceur, "The Response to Intervention Initiative and Its Impact on School Change"

Director: Prof. Justyn Thoren

Monday, April 26, 2010, 1:00pm, STH 301

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a relatively new initiative in schools, which has lead to school change. The RTI initiative utilizes data collection results from consistent standardized assessments to create individualized education for all students. This study focuses on changes that three area schools have made in curriculum and pedagogy following the implementation of RTI.

Amanda Molloy, "Body Image and the Media"

Director: Prof. Alan Goodman

Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 12:00 noon, STH 301

This paper analyzes and explains how the media has begun to include men in their campaign for a "perfect body image." It will explain how women were the main target in the past, and how media has begun to include and suggest that men, and young boys, should strive for a "perfect body ideal."

Sabrina Carvalho, "Salsa: A Melting Pot of Afro-Cuban and Puerto Rican Culture"

Director: Prof. Barry Jackson

Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 2:00pm, STH 301

Salsa dancing emerged from the mixing of cultures, songs, and dances. The roots of salsa lie in the Cuban son, a style of music which was influenced by African percussion instruments and rhythms. The Cuban performers made their way to the United States bringing with them their artistic styles including son. During the 1950's and 1960's salsa music slowly began to culminate with the Latin American and jazz influence in the barrios of New York. The large population of Puerto Ricans living in New York accepted these rhythms. As a result salsa music became the voice of the barrio. In the 1970's salsa dancing began to mature into an artistic expression. Although it is a partner dance with basic steps it allows room for creativity and national flavor. Salsa is a spicy form of dance that's style is unique to each dancer or culture. Salsa became a new craze with salsa clubs opening in the United States and abroad. This music and dance has made its way into mainstream entertainment and has become popularized. It can be found in clubs, gyms, and on televisions.

Jessica Meier, "Teacher Viewpoints on the Effectiveness of Different Models of English Language Learning"

Director: Prof. Sue Gately

Friday, April 30, 2010, 11:00am, STH 301

Despite the differences between various models of English language learning, seldom are the implications of each model considered. This report studies the strengths and weaknesses of these models as they try to provide English language learners with the educations they deserve.

Jessica Mellen, "Individual Disgust Sensitivity Predicts Beliefs Regarding Sexual Orientation but not Weight"

Director: Prof. Jerry Rekart

Thursday, April 29, 2010, 1:00pm, STH 235

This study examined the relationship between individual disgust sensitivity and labels related to weight and sexual orientation. It was found that labels relating to obesity and sexual orientation were associated with higher disgust ratings, but only labels relating to sexual orientation significantly correlated with individual disgust sensitivity. Possible explanations for this finding as well as its impact on inter-group relations are discussed.

* **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.